



SISTERS in CRIME
CROAK & DAGGER
ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER



THE NOOSELETTER

Volume XI, Number 3 — May 2015

†Expert Testimony†

I hope you are all enjoying the milder, spring-like weather. It's nice to put away the woolen clothing and get out doors to bask in the sun. While you're out there, sunbathing, walking, or working in the garden, I'd like you to think about something—service. I know, I'm sure most of you have pet projects where you volunteer to help out, but this is a slightly different type of service.

I'm talking about taking a turn at helping to run an organization like Croak & Dagger. We currently have eight board members, but we actually have a need for more. We have committees which have been unfilled, both this year and in past years. We don't see many people offering to become a board member and committee chairperson, and we really need that to come about. I'm going to ask Rob Kresge if he would be willing to publish our By-Laws in the *Nooseletter* so you can all have the opportunity to become familiar with the role the officers and committees play in keeping our organization running.

For example, by September, according to our by-laws, I'm supposed to have a nominating committee report that would offer up a slate of proposed officers for next year. I know, you're probably thinking elections aren't until November, why is she talking about this in May, for crying out loud? Well, I know a secret that perhaps many of you don't know (unless you're past 50 years of age.) And here it is: Time goes

by really fast the older you get, and for me, it's now going at breakneck speed.

So I urge all of you to think about stepping up and offering to serve a year in some capacity. Some of our current officers aren't eligible to be officers again next year, or are unable to do so. We need new blood, and we need people who will take on a job that will help the chapter run better, and be an organization that mystery writers and readers will want to join and support. If a lot of people step up and volunteer, it won't be left up to a tiny handful of people to do it all.

So if you're interested in answering this call, please contact me at pwood73@comcast.net so we can discuss how you might help the Croak & Dagger chapter of Sisters in Crime. And if you read this article all the way to this point, I love you to pieces!

--Patricia Wood, Croak & Dagger Chapter President, 2015

Don't Miss It!
Tuesday, May 26, at 7 p.m.

Our May speaker will be Chapter President Patricia Wood, author of *The Easter Egg Murders* and *Murder on Sagebrush Lane*, both set in contemporary Albuquerque. Don't miss her take on choosing settings and crafting interesting characters.

Joint RMMWA-C&D ABQ Chapter of Sisters in Crime Joint Meeting Announced

Dates: August 21, 22, 23

Location: Marriott Pyramid Hotel, Albuquerque

Cost to attend: \$20, \$25, or \$30, depending on when payment made

Tentative Agenda:

Aug 21 (Friday) Meet & Greet Dinner (on our own) at hotel 5-7 p.m.

Aug 22 (Saturday) Addresses by authors David Morrell and Anne Hillerman

Aug 22 Morning panels. Moderators, panelists, topics to be determined

Aug 22 Lunch on our own in hotel

Aug 22 Afternoon panels. Moderators, panelists, topics to be determined

Aug 22 Author book signings at times to be determined

Aug 22 Dinner on our own at the hotel

Aug 22 Old Town Ghost Tour for those who would like to go

Aug 23 (Sunday) Departure of out-of town guests

2015 Edgar Award Winners

Mystery Writers of America is proud to announce the winners of the 2015 Edgar Allan Poe Awards, honoring the best in mystery fiction, non-fiction and television published or produced in 2014. The Edgar Awards were presented to the winners at our 69th Gala Banquet, April 29, 2015 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, New York City.

BEST NOVEL—*Mr. Mercedes* by Stephen King (Simon & Schuster–Scribner)

BEST FIRST NOVEL BY AN AMERICAN AUTHOR—*Dry Bones in the Valley* by Tom Bouman (W.W. Norton)

BEST PAPERBACK ORIGINAL—*The Secret History of Las Vegas* by Chris Abani (Penguin Random House–Penguin Books)

BEST FACT CRIME—*Tinseltown: Murder, Morphine, and Madness at the Dawn of Hollywood* by William J. Mann (HarperCollins Publishers–Harper)

BEST CRITICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL—*Poe-Land: The Hallowed Haunts of Edgar Allan Poe* by J.W. Ocker (W.W. Norton–Countryman Press)

BEST SHORT STORY—“What Do You Do?” in *Rogues* by Gillian Flynn (Penguin Random House Publishing–Bantam Books)

BEST JUVENILE—*Greenglass House* by Kate Milford (Clarion Books–Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers)

BEST YOUNG ADULT—*The Art of Secrets* by James Klise (Algonquin Young Readers)

BEST TELEVISION EPISODE TELEPLAY—“Episode 1” of *Happy Valley*, teleplay by Sally Wainwright (Netflix)

ROBERT L. FISH MEMORIAL AWARD—“Getaway Girl” – *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* by Zoë Z. Dean (Dell Magazines)

THE SIMON & SCHUSTER - MARY HIGGINS CLARK AWARD (Presented at MWA’s Agents & Editors Party on Tuesday, April 28, 2015): *The Stranger You Know* by Jane Casey (Minotaur Books)

Best Children's/Young Adult

Andi Under Pressure by Amanda Flower (ZonderKidz)

Greenglass House by Kate Milford (Clarion Books)

Uncertain Glory by Lea Wait (Islandport Press)

The Code Buster's Club, Case #4, The Mummy's Curse by Penny Warner (Egmont USA)

Found by Harlen Coben (Putnam Juvenile)

Agatha Awards Presented

The Agatha Awards, named in honor of Agatha Christie, are nominated and voted on by Malice Domestic fans. The Agatha Awards honor the traditional mystery—books best typified by the works of Agatha Christie. The 2014 Awards (**given in 2015 for books published in 2014**) were presented on May 2, 2015, in Bethesda, Maryland. Our congratulations to the winners (listed first in each category) and to all of the nominees.

Best Contemporary Novel

- * *Truth Be Told* by Hank Phillippi Ryan
- *The Good, the Bad, and the Emus* by Donna Andrews
- *A Demon Summer* by G.M. Malliet
- *Designated Daughters* by Margaret Maron
- *The Long Way Home* by Louise Penny

Best Historical Novel

- * *Queen of Hearts* by Rhys Bowen
- *Wouldn't it Be Deadly* by D. E. Ireland
- *Murder in Murray Hill* by Victoria Thompson
- *Hunting Shadows* by Charles Todd
- *An Unwilling Accomplice* by Charles Todd

Best First Novel

- * *Well Read, Then Dead* by Terrie Farley Moran
- *Circle of Influence* by Annette Dashofy
- *Tagged for Death* by Sherry Harris
- *Finding Sky* by Susan O'Brien
- *Murder Strikes a Pose* by Tracy Weber

Best Short Story

- * "The Odds Are Against Us" by Art Taylor
Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, November 2014
- "The Blessing Witch" by Kathy Lynn Emerson
Best New England Crime Stories 2015: Rogue Wave
- "The Shadow Knows" by Barb Goffman
Chesapeake Crimes: Homicidal Holidays
- "Just Desserts for Johnny" by Edith Maxwell
- "Premonition" by Art Taylor
Chesapeake Crimes: Homicidal Holidays

Best Non-fiction

- * *Writes of Passage: Adventures on the Writer's Journey* edited by Hank Phillippi Ryan
- *The Poisoner: The Life and Crimes of Victorian England's Most Notorious Doctor* by Stephen Bates
- *Death Dealer: How Cops and Cadaver Dogs Brought a Killer to Justice* by Kate Flora
- *400 Things Cops Know: Street Smart Lessons from a Veteran Patrolman* by Adam Plantinga

- *The Art of the English Murder: From Jack the Ripper and Sherlock Holmes to Agatha Christie and Alfred Hitchcock* by Lucy Worsley

Best Children's/Young Adult

- * *The Code Busters Club, Case #4: The Mummy's Curse* by Penny Warner
- *Found* by Harlan Coben
- *Andi Under Pressure* by Amanda Flower
- *Greenglass House* by Kate Milford
- *Uncertain Glory* by Lea Wait

2015 Anthony Award Nominees Announced

The Anthony Awards are given at each annual Bouchercon World Mystery Convention with the winners selected by attendees. The award is named for the late Anthony Boucher (William Anthony Parker White), well-known writer and critic from the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *New York Times*, who helped found the Mystery Writers of America. The awards will be presented at Bouchercon Raleigh: Murder Under the Oaks on October 10, 2015.

Best Mystery Novel

- *Lamentation* by Joe Clifford
- *The Secret Place* by Tana French
- *After I'm Gone* by Laura Lippman
- *The Long Way Home* by Louise Penny
- *Truth Be Told* by Hank Phillippi Ryan

Best First Mystery

- *Blessed Are the Dead* by Kristi Belcamino
- *Ice Shear* by M.P. Cooley
- *Invisible City* by Julia Dahl
- *The Life We Bury* by Allen Eskens
- *The Black Hour* by Lori Rader-Day

Best Paperback Original

- *Stay With Me* by Alison Gaylin
- *The Killer Next Door* by Alex Marwood
- *The Day She Died* by Catriona McPherson
- *World of Trouble* by Ben H. Winters
- *No Stone Unturned* by James W. Ziskin

Best Short Story

- "Honeymoon Sweet" by Craig Faustus Buck
Murder at the Beach: The Bouchercon Anthology 2014
- "The Shadow Knows" by Barb Goffman
Chesapeake Crimes: Homicidal Holidays
- "Howling at the Moon" by Paul D. Marks
Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, November 2014

- “Of Dogs & Deceit” by John Shepphird
Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine, November 2014
- “The Odds Are Against Us” by Art Taylor
Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, November 2014

Best Critical or Non-Fiction Work

- *The Figure of the Detective: A Literary History and Analysis* by Charles Brownson
- *Death Dealer: How Cops and Cadaver Dogs Brought a Killer to Justice* by Kate Clark Flora
- *Dru’s Book Musings* by Dru Ann Love
- *Poe-Land: The Hallowed Haunts of Edgar Allan Poe* by J.W. Ocker
- *Writes of Passage: Adventures on the Writers Journey* edited by Hank Phillippi Ryan

Best Anthology or Collection

- *The Figure of the Detective: A Literary History and Analysis* edited by Charles Brownson
- *Murder at the Beach: The Bouchercon Anthology 2014* edited by Dana Cameron
- *Trouble in the Heartland: Crime Fiction Inspired by the Songs of Bruce Springsteen* edited by Joe Clifford
- *In the Company of Sherlock Holmes: Stories Inspired by the Holmes Canon* edited by Laurie R. King & Leslie S. Klinger
- *Carolina Crimes: 19 Tales of Love, Lust, and Longing* edited by Karen Pullen
- *Writes of Passage: Adventures on the Writer’s Journey* edited by Hank Phillippi Ryan

Malice Domestic 2015

SinC Chapter Presidents/Officers Meeting Minutes

Saturday, May 2, 2015

9:00 a.m., immediately following the SinC breakfast, one of two SinC presidents meetings each year

SinC chapter presidents, officers, and representatives gathered after the SinC breakfast at Malice Domestic on Saturday, 5/2/15, to share chapter news and ideas, and to brainstorm ways to make communication between the SinC chapters more effective.

Attendees included: Martha Reed, Chapter Liaison, Mary Roberts Rinehart (Pittsburgh), Julie Hennrikus (New England), Diane Vallere (LA), Kendel Lynn (North Dallas), Irma Baker, (Northeast Ohio), Lesley Mang (Toronto), Molly Weston, Triangle (North Carolina), *InSinC Quarterly*, Teresa Inge, *Mysteries by the Sea* (Virginia Beach), Kaye George for Michelle Drier, *Guppies*, and Sandy Cody, (Delaware Valley).

Martha opened the meeting with the news that the national SinC organization is working to develop a Speakers Bureau. The idea is that SinC will develop a slate of nationally known member-author speakers and cover the expenses for these speakers to travel to individual local chapters to host workshops or support membership drive events.

The suggestion was met with an enthusiastic response. Irma Baker offered NE Ohio SinC as the first test subject, if possible; the Cleveland chapter needs a speaker for a September 16, 2015 event. However, it was noted that the Speakers Bureau is still in development, and the final plans need to be approved by the Board. It is unknown if the Speakers Bureau will be up and running by the Fall 2015 date.

Martha asked everyone to remember to update their chapter contact information using the interactive form on the Chapters page of the website, and to double-check their web page URLs to keep meeting information current. She also mentioned that the Chapter Presidents Yahoo listserv has proven to be an effective means of communication. Sandy Cody asked to be sent a Yahoo invite to join; Martha promised to send an invitation ASAP.

We continue to see a steady rise in the number of chapter anthology requests. Anthology guidelines are available on the Chapters page of SinC's website. Additionally, Karen Pullen's *InSinC* article "Awesome Anthology: 10 Not-So-Easy Steps" has been linked as an additional resource.

Molly Weston reminded everyone that the *InSinC Quarterly* is always on the lookout for chapter news items and high-quality photographs.

The Indie Authors' Guide to Book Titles

May 11, 2015

By **Betty Kelly Sargent** (reprinted from the MWA newsletter)

Self-publishers should consider these six tried-and-true tips for creating successful book titles.

Why are strong, attention-getting titles so important for indie authors? Because there's a lot of competition out there—and next to an arresting, professional-looking cover design, it's the title of your book that's most likely to grab a reader's attention and convince her to pick it up and buy it.

The questions become: what *is* a "good" title, and how do you come up with one? Author Walker Percy once said, "a good title should be like a good metaphor; it should intrigue without being too obvious." True to his conviction, some of his best known titles are *The Moviegoer*, *The Last Gentleman*, *Love in the Ruins*, *The Second Coming*, and *Lost in the Cosmos: The Last Self-Help Book*. Intriguing but not too obvious, are they not?

Perhaps you've had a title for your book in mind right from the start, but if you haven't, you might want to consider these six tried-and-true tips for creating successful book titles.

1. Identify Your Target Market: Who is your ideal reader? Where is he or she likely to live? Why is he or she interested in this subject? What would you like the reader to feel after reading your book—entertained, enlightened, informed, moved? How is your book different from all the others in its category? Asking these questions will help you better understand your ideal reader and what he or she is apt to want from your book. And that will make it easier for you to come up with a title that hits the spot for your target audience.

2. Check the Competition: Stop by your local bookstore and do an online search of books in your category. Let's say you've written a novel about a not-so-sweet young woman from Atlanta who

sweeps into New York and scratches her way to the top of Park Avenue society in the '90s, only to discover that she'll never be as happy as she was with the boy she left behind. Cover all the bases in your search. Look at fiction, romance, New York society, Park Avenue, Atlanta. Or maybe your book is a guide to the best wines in Southern California. Check out wine, wine guides, wine making, wine memoirs, California wine, and Southern California. Jot down the titles you like, and see if you can come up with a title that appeals to you for the same reasons.

3. Keep It Short: Of course there are exceptions to this rule, but often the best titles are the short ones. Think of *Gone Girl*, for example, or *The Goldfinch*, *Divergent*, *The Book Thief*, *The Target*, *The Liar*, *The Stranger*, *Beautiful Secret*, *Hot Pursuit*, *Leaving Berlin*, *Deep*, *Still Alice*—even *The Great Gatsby*. Did you know that the two of the original titles Fitzgerald was considering for *The Great Gatsby* were *Under the Red, White, and Blue* and *Trimalchio in West Egg* (he's a freed slave in Roman fiction)? Good thing Fitzgerald had the brilliant Maxwell Perkins as his editor. Clearly Perkins knew this rule.

4. Make It Visual: If your title lights up an image in the reader's mind, this is a big plus. How many times have you had a friend say, "I've written a book called *Something-or-Other*" and five minutes later you have no idea what the title of the book is. If it were *The Red Shoes* or *The Circus Tent* or *The Last Train to Paris* you'd have a better chance of remembering. Of course, this is not always possible or appropriate, but if you can make your title visual you'll have a much better chance of making it memorable.

5. Make It Original: Book titles are not protected by copyright—though some authors have managed to trademark their titles—but it's never a good idea to use the same title as that of another book that's still in print. Sometimes accidents happen. In fact, I remember one year in the '90s when three novels called *Accident* were all available at the same time. Was that an accident? Probably. Try making a list of all the titles you feel might work for your book. Perhaps pull out a phrase from the text, the name of a character, a place, or a popular expression that has to do with your story or subject matter.

6. Make It Clear: Make it clear, but not too obvious, as Walker Percy suggests. In other words, your title should relate to your story but neither hit the reader over the head with its significance nor be so obscure that the potential reader has no idea what the novel is about. If you are writing non-fiction, it's usually a good idea to have your title make a promise, followed by a clear statement about the benefits of reading the book for the reader. Often this requires a subtitle. Some examples: *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate*; *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*; *Younger Next Year*, or *Get Out of Your Own Way: Overcoming Self-Defeating Behavior*.

Betty Kelly Sargent is the founder and CEO of BookWorks.

Revise Wisely: Tips From an Indie Author

May 11, 2015

By Drucilla Shultz

Indie author Sophie Schiller advises writers of historical fiction to use beta readers and do their research.

As a writer of historical fiction, indie author Sophie Schiller has always wanted to bring her "own unique brand of adventure" to life. In 2013, she self-published her first novel, *Spy Island*—and notes that going indie opened up a host of new opportunities.

Publishers Weekly praised her latest novel, *Race to Tibet*, with our reviewer saying it did “a solid job of transforming an obscure real-life Victorian expedition into a thrilling yarn.” Looking back, Schiller is happy with her self-publishing journey: “In a way, I’m glad I learned everything one step at a time. Everything that pertains to publishing your novel, from conceptualizing to creating your cover image, to articulating the back blurb, to hiring an editor, to marketing your book, can only be learned through experience. The best advice is to take it one step at a time and don’t rush your book to press.”

We asked Schiller for some advice for aspiring indie authors:

Kill Your Television

“If you want to be a serious writer, throw away your TV. The life of a serious writer and a TV-watcher are incompatible.”

Revise Wisely

“Don’t waste too much time editing your manuscript until the first draft is complete, (and when you’re done) use beta readers—hopefully with some knowledge about your book’s subject matter—to tweak your manuscript before the final edit and publishing.”

Do Your Research

“Start with memoirs, letters, and diaries from the era, and, to acquire a larger grasp of the period, study history books, newspaper articles, and biographies.... For dialogue, I suggest watching theatrical performances, to attune your ear to the speech patterns and vocabulary of the time. The more you as the writer immerse yourself in that period, the more the material will start to flow from your subconscious. Above all, you must let go of any preconceived notions about how an individual from that era should speak, think, and act. Aim for authenticity. Let your characters speak and act in the most natural way possible for their time and place.”

Mystery Writers Cookbook now available

Publication Date: March 24, 2015, Quirk Books, Philadelphia, PA

Hard-boiled breakfasts, thrilling entrees, cozy desserts, and more—this illustrated cookbook features more than 100 recipes from legendary mystery authors. Whether you’re planning a sinister dinner party or whipping up some comfort food perfect for a day of writing, you’ll find plenty to savor in this cunning collection. Full-color photography is featured throughout, along with mischievous sidebars revealing the links between food and foul play. Contributors include Lee Child, Mary Higgins Clark, Harlan Coben, Nelson DeMille, Gillian Flynn, Sue Grafton, Charlaine Harris, James Patterson, Louise Penny, Scott Turow, and many more.

Literary Landscapes

Albuquerque Pays Tribute to Tony Hillerman

Tony Hillerman (1925–2008) was an award-winning author who deftly spun the ethnographic landscape of the Southwest into an award-winning mystery series. From 1970 through 2006 he produced 37 original works that include 18 books of fiction, two children’s books, screenplays and five non-fiction

books depicting the people and terrain of New Mexico. In honor of his 90th birthday, Wordharvest/The Hillerman Group, and the City of Albuquerque are proud to present the following series featuring a wide range of literary genre in the spirit of New Mexico's best known author.

Coming This Summer and Fall: The 2015 Tony Hillerman Literary Landscape Series

1. **Crime Writing: Finding Your Inner Sleuth, June 19 & 20**
2. **Writing for the Screen in New Mexico, July 23 & 24**
3. **Enhancing History, September 25 & 26**
4. **Leaving a Family Literary Legacy, October 30 & 31**

All Events take place at the
South Broadway Cultural Center
1025 Broadway Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Crime Writing: Finding Your Inner Sleuth – June 19 & 20

Registration Deadline – Monday, June 15

One-day registration for any of the above events is \$125, two-day registration is \$225. Lunch is included in the price of registration. All events take place at the South Broadway Cultural Center in Albuquerque.

South Broadway Cultural Center
1025 Broadway Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Questions? Contact us at 505-471-1565 or at wordharvest@wordharvest.com

“Murder is always a mistake – one should never do anything one cannot talk about after dinner.” – Oscar Wilde.

Friday, June 19:

9:00 AM – A Day in the Life of an Albuquerque Detective. Detective Mark Manary shares his daily routine as a member of the 118th Street West Mesa Murders Task Force. A veteran of the Air Force where he served as a Law Enforcement specialist, Det. Manary has worked with the Albuquerque Police Department for 16 years. His duties include the review of all case material of the investigation. He continues to stay in contact with the victims' families, and to investigate new leads concerning the West Mesa Murders.

10:00 – Working the Streets. Christine Barber started her career as a newspaper reporter in Gallup, N.M. She went on to work as a columnist and editor for the *Santa Fe New Mexican* followed by the *Albuquerque Journal*. Barber won the 2008 Tony Hillerman Prize for best first mystery for her novel, *The Replacement Child*. Her other award-winning books in the series include *The Bone Fire* and *When the Devil Doesn't Show*. She is currently at work on her first nonfiction book, tentatively titled *The Rules of Survival*, which focuses on the rules that prostitutes use to stay alive on the street. As part of that book, she has extensively researched the West Mesa serial murders.

11:00 – Daughters of the West Mesa. Author Irene Blea discusses her techniques in gathering information for her new book based on the murders of the eleven women whose remains were found on Albuquerque’s west side in 2009. Blea, a New Mexico native, earned her Ph. D. in Sociology from the University of Colorado-Boulder.

Lunch – 12:00 to 1:15

1:30 – Killer Miracle. A graduate of the University of New Mexico, author Laura Sanchez used her background in art and architecture to weave the narrative in *Killer Miracle*, a mystery revolving around the murder of a *santero* in Northern New Mexico. When the revered Emilio Cordova is found dead, the villagers of La Cuenta become entwined in an investigation that includes art, faith and family intrigue.

2:30 – Unsolved: New Mexico’s American Valley Ranch Murders and Other Mysteries. Prior to becoming an award-winning author, Don Bullis worked in law enforcement. The author of nine non-fiction books on New Mexico history and two novels, his new book on the American Valley Ranch murders brings to life the world of outlaws, crooked politicians, unsolved mysteries and UFOs. <http://www.donbullis.com>

Saturday, June 20:

9:00 – Burned. Sarah Lovett recently coauthored the book *Burned* with former CIA operative Valerie Plame. *Blowback*, the acclaimed first book in the series by Lovett and Plame, featured protagonist Vanessa Pierson, a covert ops officer. Lovett authored the highly praised forensic thriller series featuring Dr. Sylvia Strange: *Dark Alchemy*, *Dantes’ Inferno*, *Dangerous Attachments*, *Acquired Motives*, and *A Desperate Silence*. She is also the author of 30 nonfiction books and works as a writing coach and editor. www.sarahlovett.com

10:00 – BORDERLINE. Joseph Badal was named one the best authors in the “2014 Best of City Survey” by Albuquerque Magazine. He is the author of seven suspense novels and his first mystery, *Borderline*, will be published in July. Badal also writes short stories and the monthly blog “Everyday Heroes.” He is a member of International Thriller Writers, Sisters in Crime, Military Writers Society of America, and the Southwest WritersWorkshop. <http://www.josephbadalbooks.com>

11:00 Murder at the Observatory. After retiring from the University of New Mexico, Christina Squire created the protagonist Caroline Steele, who is a hag without a future, tired of her housewife routine, bored with marriage, beaten down by teaching, and confused by her growing sons. But when she becomes a prime suspect in the murder of her arch nemesis, a prominent astronomy professor, she is shocked out of her mind-numbing routine.

Lunch 12:00 – 1:15

1:30 – Documenting Mystery Fandom. A mystery reader since 1943, Marvin Lachman is co-author of the Edgar-winning *Encyclopedia of Mystery and Detection*. He continues to author books on the mystery genre and has been involved in mystery fandom and conventions for almost fifty years. His other books include: *A Reader’s Guide to the American Novel of Detection* and the Macavity Award winner *The American Regional Mystery*. In 2005, his book, *The Heirs of Anthony Boucher: A History of Mystery Fandom* won an Anthony Award. His latest book, *The Villainous Stage*, a history of crime plays on Broadway and in London’s West End, was published by McFarland in 2014.

2:45 – Murderous Terrain – Diana Filar, UNM scholar of The Tony Hillerman Portal at the University Libraries at UNM, takes us on a journey through Hillerman country.

Writing for the Screen in New Mexico, July 23 & 24

One-day registration for any of these events is \$125, two-day registration is \$225. Lunch is included in the price of registration. All events take place at the South Broadway Cultural Center in Albuquerque.

Registration Deadline – Monday, July 20
South Broadway Cultural Center
1025 Broadway Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102

“The length of a film should be directly related to the endurance of the human bladder.”—Alfred Hitchcock.

Thursday, July 23

9:00 Promoting New Mexico’s Film Industry—Ann Lerner is the Director of the City of Albuquerque’s Film Office. She has 20 years of experience of working in the film industry as an owner and line producer for her own commercial film production company, specializing in TV commercials. She has produced local, regional and national television commercials, filming on location all over the United States, and Toronto. With her at the helm, many successful television shows have been filmed in Albuquerque including *In Plain Sight* and *Breaking Bad*.

10:00 The History of Film in New Mexico—Tom Donnelly is currently at work on a major research project on film and television production in New Mexico, part of which will cover the history of production in the state up to the present day. This work will form the basis of a book to be published by the University of New Mexico Press in the spring of 2017. Donnelly lectures on film and television at Leeds Trinity University in the United Kingdom and is a specialist in American film history and the study of cult television.

11:00 Marketing Your Film—Justin Golding is a writer, actor and director. He is a produced screenplay writer and is commissioned by producers and production companies to develop and write film and TV scripts. He teaches screenplay writing and film production at the Santa Fe University of Art and Design’s Film School and presently has a three-book project with Ariel Books LLC.

Lunch 12:00 – 1:15

1:30 Documenting History on Film—Kirk Ellis won two Emmys, a WGA Award, a Peabody, and the Humanitas Prize for his work as writer and co-executive producer on the HBO miniseries *John Adams*. He also received an Emmy nomination and won the WGA Award and Humanitas Prize for the ABC miniseries *Anne Frank*, which he wrote and co-produced. Currently, Ellis is writing *Bound for the Promised Land*,” a film for HBO about Harriet Tubman. Ellis is also writing *Drill*, a dramatic series set amidst US Army basic training in Ft. Jackson. Upcoming motion picture projects include the bilingual feature *El Democrata*, based on the life of Mexican Revolutionary hero Francisco Madero, and a biography of the Marquis de Lafayette for director Jean-Francois Richet.

2:45 Adapting Books for the Screen—Bruce C. McKenna is an award winning screenwriter and TV producer. He wrote on four of the ten episodes of HBO's Emmy Award-winning mini-series *Band of Brothers*. He then created, co-wrote and co-executive produced *The Pacific*, the Emmy Award-winning Miniseries for HBO, Steven Spielberg, and Tom Hanks on the Pacific Theater of the Second World War. He is currently developing a miniseries on Peter The Great for Bold Television, and adapting Hampton Sides' Kit Carson epic *Blood and Thunder* for Ridley Scott.

Friday, July 24

9:00 Producing a Film Festival—Jacques Paisner is the director of the Santa Fe Independent Film Festival. He currently serves on the Executive Board of Directors for the Santa Fe Railyard Community Corporation. He is the author of *Albuquerque Blues 2007*, and was writer and director of the 2009 feature film, *Rejection*. Paisner is a graduate of the University of New Mexico. <http://santafeindependentfilmfestival.com>

10:00 Writing, Directing & Acting for the Screen—Alejandro Montoya Marin was born in Laredo, Texas and raised in Mexico. His interest in film began at a young age which led to his education at the Vancouver Film School in Canada. When he moved to Albuquerque he began producing short films and documentaries that have been screened in France, India, Turkey and across the United States. His work includes: *Intrepido*, *The Princess and the Musician*, *The Joneses*, and *Low/Fi*. He's presently at work on a feature film.

11:00 Capturing the World on Film—Documentary filmmaker Debra Denker is the founder and director of the non-profit SkySpirit Foundation's Global Diversity Film Project. Her film *We Are All Mothers* was shown at the 2007 Santa Fe Film Festival. Other films on Tibetan and Afghan refugees were shown at the Taos Mountain Film Festival and at Telluride Mountainfilm. She co-produced the 1985 documentary *A Nation Uprooted: Afghan Refugees in Pakistan*, which was shown at many film festivals, on PBS, and on international TV. Her short film on community gardens in New Mexico and South Africa, *Community Garden: Many Hands Make Light Work*, was shown at the 2012 New Mexico Filmmakers Showcase. She is currently working on a full-length documentary, *Between Worlds: Africa*.

Lunch 12:00 – 1:15

1:30 So You Want to Write Comedy?—Ron Bloomberg explores the seriousness of being funny. He is an award-winning comedy writer-producer whose network credits include *All in the Family*, *Three's Company*, *9 to 5*, and *Home Improvement*, plus pilots for CBS, NBC, and MTV. Upon moving to Santa Fe in 2004, Bloomberg began writing one-act plays. Six have been produced, as well as his full-length play, *The Queen of Madison Avenue*.

2:45 Tony Hillerman on Film—Graduate student and scholar Sophie Ell of The Tony Hillerman Portal at the University Libraries at UNM will discuss the four Hillerman books made into movies: *The Dark Wind*, *Skinwalkers*, *Coyote Waits* and *A Thief in Time*. <http://ehillerman.unm.edu>

Enhancing History, September 25 & 26

Registration Deadline – Monday, September 21
South Broadway Cultural Center
1025 Broadway Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102

“God cannot alter the past, but historians can.” – Samuel Butler.

Friday, September 25

9:00 Researching the Past in the Present. Eileen O’Connell, the head librarian at Albuquerque’s Special Collections Library, will provide insight into the research sources on Albuquerque history. Materials range from popular treatments of ghosts and aliens to scholarly publications on history, anthropology, archaeology, religion, language and art in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the greater southwest. O’Connell is a lifelong Albuquerque resident. For the past ten years, she has worked for Albuquerque Bernalillo County Library at Taylor Ranch, San Pedro, and most recently as manager of Special Collections.

10:00 Oiling the Hinges of History. Albuquerque author Rob Kresge takes us on a trek of discovery where an event, plan, or even a rumor can serve as a pivotal hinge for research, for character motivation, and for developing relationships between characters within an author’s chosen historical setting. The author of six published novels, Kresge is a former senior intelligence analyst and founding member of the Central Intelligence Agency’s Counterterrorist Center. <http://www.robertkresge.com>

11:00 Blueprint to Resources. Researcher David Schneider provides a step by step process of resources for writers delving into writing historical fiction. Schneider received a BS in Business/Economics from the University of Albuquerque and a BA & MA in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico. He has written many articles and given many presentations concerning the founding and history of Albuquerque, and played an instrumental part in the Tricentennial celebrations in Old Town in 2006. Schneider was as a researcher at the Special Collections Library and the Genealogy Library, both parts of the BERNCO library system. Currently, Schneider appraises and auctions books for the Albuquerque Friends of the Library and Cataloging books for the Sandoval County Historical Society in Bernalillo.

Lunch – 12:00 – 1:15

1:30 Albuquerque Facts & Fiction. Lucinda Lucero Sachs, the author of *Believe in the Wind* (2014) and *Clyde Tingley’s New Deal for New Mexico: 1935–1938* (2013), will discuss the process of writing historical fiction versus writing history. Her award-winning short fiction includes “New Mexico Family Roots” published in the *International Quarterly* and “The Blue Kimono” in the *Blue Mesa Review*.

2:45 – TBA

Saturday, September 26

9:00 Mastering the Art of the Medieval Mystery. Susan McDuffie writes historical mystery novels set in 14th century Scotland. Fascination with the past and the history of her own Scottish clan led McDuffie to create the Muirteach MacPhee mysteries set in the Scottish Isles. The series includes *A Mass for the Dead*, *The Faerie Hills* (2011 New Mexico Book Awards “Best Historical Novel”) and *The Study of Murder*. Muirteach’s next adventure, *Death of a Falcon*, is currently in the works.

10:00 Writing Fiction for Children. Carolyn Meyer is the author of 60 published books for young readers, including *Rio Grande Stories*, which has been part of the curriculum in many middle schools in New Mexico. More than a dozen of her books are historical fiction for teenagers on subjects as diverse

as Charles Darwin, Cleopatra, and Anastasia Romanov. Her latest novel, *Diary of A Waitress: The Not-So-Glamorous Life of A Harvey Girl*, is set primarily in New Mexico. <http://www.readcarolyn.com>

11:00 TBA

Lunch – 12:00 – 1:15

1:30 Unearthing the Treasures of Historical Fiction. William White's first book, *Tales of the Caballo*, was published in 2003 and quickly became known as the treasure hunters' bible in southern New Mexico, where no self-respecting treasure hunter would head for the mountains without it safely stowed in his backpack. His other books include: *The Treasure of San Miguel Island*, *The Pancho Villa Treasure of the Guadalupe Mountains*, and *The Aztec Treasure of the Caballo Mountains*.

2:45 Cultural Syntax. The Tony Hillerman Portal at the University Libraries at UNM graduate student and scholar, Stephanie Mack, discusses Hillerman's treatment of Southwest cultural heritage and archaeology in his Navajo detective novels. <http://ehillerman.unm.edu>

Leaving a Family Literary Legacy October 30 & 31

Registration Deadline – Monday, October 26
South Broadway Cultural Center
1025 Broadway Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102

“The only thing wrong with immortality is that it tends to go on forever.” – Herb Caen.

Friday, October 30

9:00 The Roots of Reconnaissance—Librarian Lisa K. Kindrick sheds light on the numerous genealogy resources available at Albuquerque's main library on Copper Ave. The largest collection in the state, the library features 31,000 volumes of data organized by county and state with a dedicated computer lab for genealogical research, as well as records on microfilm and microfiche. An Albuquerque native with one set of grandparents farming pinto beans and milking cows in the Estancia Valley and the other set of grandparents coming to New Mexico to work at Los Alamos National Labs, Kindrick's family story encompasses both the rural and high tech aspects of New Mexico's history.

10:00 The Detective in All of Us—Henrietta Christmas recounts the patience and tenacity needed for genealogical research. A well-known and respected genealogist and author, Christmas lectures regularly on topics related to New Mexico. She has performed genealogies for the PBS Series *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*, New Mexico's local PBS panel discussion on genealogy, Santa Fe Fiesta Lectures, and the Historical Society of New Mexico, among others. Christmas is the 2015-2016 president of the New Mexico Genealogical Society.

11:00 Expanding the Audience for Your Family Legacy—Award-winning family memoirist Candace Walsh shares the secrets of transforming the plot points of family history into a universally gripping story that connects you with a wider audience. Walsh is the author of the memoir *Licking the Spoon: A Memoir of Food, Family, and Identity*, a New Mexico/Arizona Book Award winner. She is also the co-editor, with Laura André, of *Dear John, I Love Jane: Women Write About Leaving Men for Women*,

a Lambda Literary Award finalist; and the editor of *Ask Me About My Divorce: Women Open Up About Moving On*. She is the managing editor of *New Mexico Magazine*. <http://candacewalsh.com>

Lunch 12:00–1:15

1:30 New Mexico History and Family—Thomas E. Chavez is a historian with a Ph. D. from the University of New Mexico. He is the author of nine books, numerous book reviews and articles. Chavez will discuss the familial connections of the 150 original families that settled in New Mexico from the book *Origins of New Mexico Families* that was written by his uncle, Fray Angelico Chavez. Chavez retired in 2004 as the Executive Director of the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque. Prior to that, he was director of the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe, New Mexico for 21 years.

2:45 Creating a Future by Preserving the Past—Folklorist and author Nasario Garcia shares his experiences in working with community elders to preserve history. Garcia is an award-winning author of twenty-nine books on folklore, oral history, creative stories—both for children and adults—and poetry. Garcia was born in Bernalillo, NM. He received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of New Mexico. He was awarded a Ph.D. in 19th century Spanish literature from the University of Pittsburgh. <http://nasariogarciaphd.com>

Saturday, October 31

9:00—The History of Heritage The founding publisher and editor of *La Herencia*, Ana Pacheco, provides the building blocks to meld oral histories into family legacies. Pacheco is the author/editor of six books on New Mexico history. Her new book, *Spirituality in Santa Fe: The City of Holy Faith*, will be published in February 2016. She is also the marketing director for the 2015 Tony Hillerman Literary Landscape Series. <http://anapachecosantafe.com>

10:00 —The Hunt for Crypto Jews For the better part of fifteen years, Rob Martinez has travelled from New Mexico to Mexico, to Cuba, Puerto Rico, and then to Spain, Italy, and France, in the search of Crypto Jewish roots in Hispano families. As a research historian for Stanley Hordes' Sephardic Legacy Project, Martinez has used his skills as a paleographer and historical detective to attempt to reveal an often difficult and controversial area of genealogy. Martinez was born and raised in Albuquerque and is a graduate of the University of New Mexico. Currently he is Assistant State Historian.

11:00 – TBA

Lunch 12:00 – 1:15

1:30 —The ABCs of DNA In 2004, Angel Cervantes pioneered the study of Anthropological Genetic Genealogy with the creation of the New Mexico DNA Project. This study is the second largest Hispanic DNA database on record, with more than 2200 DNA samples. In 2006 and 2014, Cervantes participated in PBS specials that discussed Anthropological Genetic Genealogy through the DNA of the Founding Families of the Spanish New Mexico Colony. Cervantes was born and raised in Las Vegas, NM and is a graduate of the University of New Mexico. <https://www.familytreedna.com/public/NewMexicoDNA>

2:45 —The UNM Tony Hillerman Portal Project Graduate student and scholar Emily Cammack provides an overview of the digital archive at The Tony Hillerman Portal at the University Libraries at UNM. <http://ehillerman.unm.edu>

Sisters Reunite in NYC Writing Class

Two women who took a writing class at Columbia University found that their own stories were better than fiction. They were sisters born to the same teenage mother in the early 1980s and adopted by different families.

Lizzie Valverde and Katy Olson discovered they were sisters during a writing class in January 2013. Valverde grew up in New Jersey, while Olson grew up mostly in Florida and Iowa. Both moved to New York as adults and enrolled in Columbia University's School of General Studies.

Olson figured out the connection when Valverde introduced herself to the writing class and talked about being adopted. The 35-year-old Valverde will graduate on Monday, May 18th. The 34-year-old Olson and their biological mother, Leslie Parker, will be there. --From a wire service report

SPINNING ENGLISH

Self-proclaimed "semi-bestselling" satirists Henry Beard and Christopher Cerf's latest offering, *Spinglish* (Blue Rider Press), is a collection of examples of deliberately deceptive language or, as they call it, a "bullschictionary." If you want to succeed in life, they say you have to excel in "terminological inexactitude." If you can name it, "someone can rename it to make it sound a whole lot better and promote it with a flurry of press releases flogged by a host of professional Spinocchios and hundreds of highly paid liars with fireproof pants...."

There are so many stunning entries in the book that it's hard to winnow them down to a few. Some are familiar: "collateral damage" and the 1960s' "plausible denial." If you are house-hunting, you'll have discovered a "vibrant" area is deafeningly noisy. Some Spinglish is funny—remember "hiking the Appalachian Trail?" (I don't get it—Ed.) Some is funny *and* depressing—"vegetation manipulation" to describe clearcutting.

Politics provides some of the best Spinglish. When the U.S. invaded Panama in 1989, columnist George Will called it a "good-neighbor policy..., an act of hemispheric hygiene." To reverse the negative feelings about lobbyists, they call themselves "legislative leadership advocates." In Venezuela, censorship by another name has been called "a paper shortage." There are numerous business contributions: Citibank in 2012 characterized its layoffs of more than 11,000 worldwide as "optimizing the consumer footprint across geographies." Rebranding a somewhat unattractive fish known as the slimehead into "orange roughy" worked so well that it's now on a threatened species list. In the journalism world, the *New York Times* called a case of plagiarism "unacknowledged repetition."

Spinglish is a delightful (and maddening) compendium of obscurantism, backed up by citations. I'm just sorry they left out the noxious "open the kimono." It deserves their deft skewering.

--[Marilyn Dahl](#), editor, *Shelf Awareness for Readers*

Reviews

Key: PB=Paperback TP=Trade Paperback HC=Hardcover
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Rob's Random Shots

May Case File Number One

The Poisoned Chocolates Case by Anthony Berkeley, Felony and Mayhem Press, 1929 (2010 reprint), 221 pp, TPB

I pulled this from the Croak & Dagger chapter book box, to which I am returning it. This is a “Golden Age” mystery, usually defined as those written by mostly British authors between the two world wars, e.g., Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, and others. The novelty that sets this book apart is that a baffled Scotland Yard inspector reluctantly lays a difficult case before a meeting of six amateur detectives—some of them novelists—two women and six men.

After being briefed on the facts of the case—a box of chocolates was mailed to a man who ate two; his wife ate seven and died of the poisoned candy. We are in turn treated to efforts by each amateur in succession to ascertain the viability of alibis, mailing opportunities, matching typewriters and unique stationery not universally available, and then evaluating whether the man or his wife was the intended target.

On the face of this, it would seem an interesting exercise, a la Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express* or *And Then There Were None*. But Berkeley's “a la's” turned into “alas” as I labored through each sleuth's unique take on the crime. Of course, I couldn't identify the actual poisoner or the true motive and by the time I staggered across the finish line, I was grateful the book had ended.

I will have returned this volume to the chapter book box by the time this review is published.

--Rob Kresge, rkresge777@comcast.net, www.robertkresge.com.

May Case File Number Two

Dick Francis's Refusal by Felix Francis, Berkley Press, 2013, 421 pp, PB

From the tedious to the subline. FULL DISCLOSURE: I met former Queen's jockey

Dick Francis, one of my all-time favorite mystery authors, at a signing at my local Borders in 2000 when I had finished the first half of my first manuscript. He was gracious enough to ask me to write my name for him, saying he would look for my book. Alas, his wife died three weeks later, Sir Richard retired from writing, and died himself less than a year later.

His son Felix (whom I met at Malice Domestic in April 2013) picked up some of his father's characters, the best-known of which, Sid Halley, a maimed one-handed steeplechase jockey forced to retire and become a private investigator. This is Felix's seventh novel and second Halley adventure. He studied his father's style well.

Halley is asked by racing authorities to look into whether jockeys aboard some favorites are deliberately losing races. There is the usual mayhem after Halley identifies the likely fixer and jockey intimidator, but with a twist—Halley is framed for child molestation and although free on bond, is restricted to even come near his own house. His sidekick, martial arts expert Chico Barnes, helps him relocate and together they identify the manipulator who has intimidated scores of jockeys and a race official or two, defeat him, resolve the case, and prove Halley's innocence in a true Francis nail-biting conclusion. Highly recommended; returned to the book box.

--Rob Kresge, rkresge777@comcast.net, www.robertkresge.com

May Case File Number Three

The Watchman by Robert Crais, Pocket Books, 2007, 422 pp, PB

Robert Crais burst into my consciousness with his first book in the Elvis Cole, PI series, *The Monkey's Raincoat*, back in the 90's. Although he writes mostly in that series, he has done a standalone and a two-book series. In this volume, Cole's super-reticent partner, ex-Marine Joe Pike, gets to be the main character and Elvis plays a supporting role.

The plot accelerates out of the gate, when super-rich heiress Larkin Connor Barkley is involved in a minor auto accident and becomes

the sole witness in a Federal investigation. A cop buddy of Cole's (and former partner of Pike's) clues them in to reports that she will be targeted by unknown assassins and the plot roars onward as the two put her into their own stringent witness protection plan and dodge gunmen, car chasers, and assorted muscle. This could be a primer for anyone who wants to write his own tough-guys thriller and contains enough police procedural details to satisfy anyone.

Near misses include the discovery that the people in the other car are found dead by Pike in their damaged car within an empty warehouse. There's even foreign intrigue in this, because the mastermind behind it and many of his henchmen have South American connections. This thriller is more amped-up than the more genteel Francis thriller above. A suspenseful tour de force, but not for the faint of heart. Back to the book box, but be warned if you want to pick this book up.

--Rob Kresge, rkresge777@comcast.net,
www.robertkresge.com

May Case File Number Four

Night of the White Buffalo by Margaret Coel, Berkley, 2014, Kindle version

Margaret Coel is a perennial favorite of mine and the relationship and alternating points of view in her Vicky Holden-Father John O'Malley Wind River Wyoming series, of which this is the 18th entry, served as inspiration for the romantic ups and downs of my own characters in my 1870s Warbonnet, Wyoming novels. She could write a book on this tactic to keep a series (and series characters) fresh after 10 years, the elapsed time in this series.

Father John wonders when he'll be recalled and sent to another assignment after his years at the Wind River parish church. He and Vicky are aware that someone unknown is shooting at cars (non-fatally so far) on the main road through the Arapaho Reservation.

Then the stakes are raised when a local rancher is killed in one of the auto attacks. His widow informs authorities (and Father John) that their buffalo ranch has just had the good fortune to have a rare white buffalo calf born in their herd, an event that local Indians, and

indeed most Western tribes regard as a favorable omen, that the Great Spirit has not forsaken his people.

Lawyer Vicky puts aside current difficulties with erstwhile lover Adam Lone Eagle, who wants her to move to Denver with him. She looks into Arapaho hard feelings toward the dead rancher, who would hire only white cowboys and no local Indians. Meanwhile, Father John pursues a separate line of investigation that involves missing non-local white cowboys whose whereabouts are sought by distant loved ones.

After more near-fatal shootings and a murder of one of Father John's friends, the plot accelerates toward resolution. I feared the white buffalo calf would turn out to be a painted phony, but that is not the case. You may read this intricately plotted novel with the assurance that no animals will be harmed in the denouement.

--Rob Kresge, rkresge777@comcast.net,
www.robertkresge.com

May Case File Number Five

Dying To Get Published by Judy Fitzwater, 2010, Kindle version

I found out about this book on Amazon and cannot recommend it highly enough to Croak & Dagger members. Imagine a frustrated female would-be author who participates in a small critique group with three other women and moonlights for a catering company to pay the bills while she yearns for publication. Do opportunities for humor suggest themselves to you? They did to me, a veteran of two four-person critique groups, and I was not disappointed.

Jennifer Marsh has been laboring for years over her first eight manuscripts about cool, professional PI Jolene Arizona, mistress of martial arts and handguns, fearless sleuth, and expert interrogator of suspects. But Jennifer's personal life is a shambles. Barely able to keep the wolf from her door, she is enraged by the latest rejection of her draft manuscript by snide Atlanta literary agent Penney Richmond and begins to plot the woman's murder.

She works out murder scenarios and tries them out on her critique group, without revealing that the plotting is real. Although Jennifer's love life does not mirror that of self-confident super-cool Jolene, she is attracted to a reporter she meets. Finally, Jennifer works up the nerve to put on a disguise and surveil Penny Richmond's secure apartment building to figure how she can get in and get to the woman's door. But on the night she tries out her plan, she gets cold feet and ends up leaving.

What do you think such a madcap writer would find out the next morning? That's right, Penny Richmond has been found murdered in her apartment and the disguised Jennifer is on closed circuit video surveillance. Now she and her critique group must figure out who could have done the deed that Jennifer couldn't.

A chuckle a minute. I hope to find Judy Fitzwater's other Jennifer Marsh novels at our libraries. Hope you can find them, too.

--Rob Kresge, rkresge777@comcast.net,
www.robertkresge.com

May Case File Number Six

Murder and Mendelssohn, a Phryne Fisher mystery by Kerry Greenwood, Kindle version

I've made my wife Julie a devotee of the Phryne Fisher 1920s Melbourne, Australia mysteries through the DVDs of the Australian TV series. If you're in love with Phryne the way we are, Season Three has now been filmed and premiered in Australia in early May. The next DVDs can't be far behind.

This 20th adventure finds our fearless flapper sleuth involved with an old friend from the First World War, the death of a conductor of a choral group practicing a Mendelssohn oratorio, and a brewing war between a couple of Melbourne crime bosses. Phryne's old friend and lover is also involved with the murdered man's replacement, who may be targeted as well. We gain insights into her WWI role as a front lines ambulance driver and her dabbling in espionage. She winks out the Melbourne offices of the Australian intelligence office and gets help in her effort to protect the replacement conductor.

As usual, the large household Phryne has accumulated in previous books is on hand to help and protect her.

Recommendation: Try Netflix for the Phryne video mysteries. You can also find them at the Amazon website. Don't try Hastings. You can't find Australian series or the wonderful Canadian Murdoch mysteries we love on Hastings' shelves.

--Rob Kresge, rkresge777@comcast.net,
www.robertkresge.com

The Sense of Death by Matty Dalrymple,
William Kingsfield Publishers, 2013, 326 pp
(read in Amazon e-book version)

A Philadelphia socialite goes missing. Months later, almost too late to find any reliable evidence of murder, her body turns up in a marsh at the edge of the city. But like many criminals—possibly more in real life than in fiction—the murderer eventually reveals himself through his own mistakes.

This being fiction, however, there are plenty of thrills in *The Sense of Death*, and a climax to the well-constructed plot that puts our heroine in grave danger. That heroine is the very appealing Ann Kinnear, who is not a psychic (she insists) but does have a talent for sensing spirits in old buildings, of which there are plenty in Pennsylvania.

One of Ann's clients is eager to live in a haunted house and hires Ann to check out some possibilities. When Ann senses "something evil" about a house just off Rittenhouse Square and won't even go inside, Detective Joe Booth gets wind of her reaction and checks her out, hoping she can help him prove who murdered Elizabeth Firth. Joe knows who did it; he just can't prove it.

Where the obsessed killer makes his biggest mistake is finding out about Ann's ability, tracking her down, and thinking that eliminating her will keep his secret. Not likely.

The author describes Ann's talent in believable detail, and the reader understands why she views it as both a blessing and a curse. Apart from the solid and suspenseful plot, the characterization in *The Sense of Death* (the apt

title comes from *Measure for Measure*) is outstanding. Ann's partner in her "consulting" business is her capable brother Mike, who takes care of the business details so that Ann can focus on the difficult business of discovering what, if any, spirits inhabit a house and deciding what they want to tell owners and visitors.

Joe is an appealing character too, a shambling kind of guy who nonetheless has the instinct to persist in a hunt he knows will yield results. I won't tell you who the murderer is, although that's clear from the get-go, but he's both believable and thoroughly nasty—even if he weren't a killer. However, there are some lovely, warm touches and relationships, even casual ones, among the many major and minor characters that bring them to realistic life.

I also enjoyed the setting, which ranges from the Jersey shore to the Main Line, and is detailed enough to be unique without overwhelming the reader with description. You always know where you are, and for me, it was nice to revisit some familiar places.

—Linda Triegel (ljt23@earthlink.net)

†*Nooseletter* Submissions†

Croak & Dagger members and friends are encouraged to contribute articles, reviews, and essays on aspects of mystery writing *and* reading for publication consideration. 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 shorter 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 submissions via e-mail to Rob Kresge at rkresge777@comcast.net, with "*Nooseletter*" in the subject line.

The *Nooseletter* is distributed to all paid-up members electronically. ♦

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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. ♦

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, June 23

Tuesday, July 28

Tuesday, August 22

Meetings are free and open to the public.

As of April, meetings will be held every fourth Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., in Room 6 at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center, 7521 Carmel Ave, NE, one traffic light north of Paseo del Norte, off Wyoming Blvd.

(Check our Website, www.croak-and-dagger.com, for schedule changes and upcoming programs.)

Our June speaker will be local author Olive Balla, whose first novel is *An Arm and a Leg*. Albuquerque divorcee Frankie O'Neil dreams of having a normal life. However, given her penchant for making the worst possible decisions about men and the fact she hoards food and hears the voices of dead relatives who hint at a dark family secret, her life is anything but normal. When her brother is shot minutes after leaving a package in her freezer, the police suspect her of murder and order her not to leave town.

Our July speaker will be Albuquerque author Robert Kidera, whose first novel is *Red Gold*, a Gabe Mackenna adventure. "If you're going through hell, keep going..." Shaken by the death of his beloved wife and wrestling with powerful personal demons, Professor Gabriel McKenna leaves New York City for New Mexico to claim an inheritance from mysterious distant relatives. He finds something other than a Land of Enchantment.

The 2015 C&D Chapter Line Up

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Vice President – Anne Zeigler –
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Secretary – Olin Bray –
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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!"

Summary of the Board Meeting Minutes of Sisters in Crime Croak and Dagger Chapter, ABQ, NM, May 18, 2015

Board members present: President Pat Wood, Vice President Ann Zeigler, Secretary Olin Bray, Treasurer Fred Aiken, *Nooseletter* Editor Rob Kresge, Program Chair Rita Herther, and Member-at-large Joan Saberhagen.

President Pat Wood called the meeting to order at 7:15. Minutes from the March 16, 2014 meeting were approved, moved by Fred Aiken and seconded by Rita Herther.

The Treasurer's computer disk crashed so he will get out his report in a few days. The only changes since the last board meeting were four new members/renewals and reimbursement for the water he brings to the meeting. Since there are water fountains and vending machines at our new meeting place, we discussed whether we still need to bring water. There was a motion, moved by Ann Zeigler and seconded by Rob Kresge, to stop providing water. It was passed unanimously.

Membership report: Our current paid up membership for 2015 is 37, up from 32 at the March board meeting.

The next three speakers (May, June, and July) will be Pat Wood, Olive Balla, and Robert Kidera. Announcements: None.

Old business: Southwest Writers is interested in doing a joint meeting with Croak & Dagger. Given the work we are doing setting up the joint meeting/conference with the Rocky Mountain Chapter of Mystery Writers of America in August, we are going to ask them to postpone that until next spring.

We are proceeding with planning for a joint event in Albuquerque with the Rocky Mountain Mystery Writers Association (RMMWA) Denver chapter. The event will be Saturday August 22 at the Marriott Pyramid. There will be five or six panels. Committed speakers include David Morrell and Anne Hillerman. There will also be authors from RMMWA and New Mexico. A continental breakfast is included for those staying at the hotel. Lunch and dinner will be on your own, but the hotel restaurant will be available. After dinner Saturday night, there will be a ghost tour of Old Town for those interested (\$15). There will also be a meet-and-greet-dinner at the hotel Friday night for those who are interested, also on your own. The registration form will ask who is interested in the two dinners and lunch at the hotel, so we can give them a count. The conference fee will be between \$20 and \$30 depending on how soon you register. We will be sending out a registration form shortly. There will

probably be at least one more special board meeting to cover additional details. A local bookstore will handle book sales at the event.

The next regular board meeting will be at 7:00 at Joan Saberhagen's home on July 20, 2015. The meeting adjourned at 8:30. --Olin Bray, Secretary

Help Wanted

Nooseletter editor Rob Kresge is seeking a replacement starting in the 2016 calendar year. Rob will have been the editor for 2014 and 2015 and would like more flexibility for family travel next year.

Duties entail:

- Scanning issues of National Sisters in Crime newsletter *InSinC* for reprintable articles that would be of interest to our chapter members who don't belong to the national organization. If you do not belong to National yourself, you can have someone who does send you recommended articles for the *Nooseletter*.
- Scanning other mystery publications like the Mystery Writers of America newsletter for the same kind of thing. Articles from both National SinC and MWA appear by permission in each issue.
- Seeking permission via email to reprint these selected articles.
- Receiving submissions from our own chapter members (book reviews, news of successes, minutes).
- Converting and saving each contribution as individual Word documents.
- Compiling the *Nooseletter* six times a year in odd numbered months. This involves:
 - Editing contributions and selected items for *Nooseletter* use (takes about one day).
 - Placing selected items into the Word template (takes about half a day).
- Converting/saving the entire Word document into a PDF and sending it to the appropriate Croak & Dagger officer to distribute it as an email attachment to paid-up members of C&D.

The *Nooseletter* editor attends C&D board meetings six times a year in odd numbered months (same months as *Nooseletter* release).



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.