



# Solving Mysteries Day

by Kathie Felix

On Saturday, April 21, Sisters in Crime author members turned out in bookstores and libraries from Livermore Falls, Maine, to Honolulu, Hawaii, to celebrate the librarians and booksellers who make their living by solving mysteries every day—by matching the right readers to the right books.

“In honor of the 25th anniversary of the founding of Sisters in Crime, we were very pleased to be able to thank some of the people who work the hardest on the front lines of publishing by rolling up our sleeves and working beside them,” Sisters in Crime President Frankie Y. Bailey said.

For her part, Bailey took a spot at The Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, in Albany NY where she spent her volunteer time in the “living room” of the bookstore chatting with readers about mysteries and reading. She served as the designated readers’ advisory person for mysteries—and even did some homework in advance to prepare customer recommendation cards with brief comments for display with books on the store’s shelves.

“[I] ended my shift at the bookstore deeply impressed by the combination of people skills and book knowledge that the bookstore staff displayed as they answered the many questions they received about books in a variety of genres,” Bailey said.

“Several of the members of the local SinC chapter, the Mavens of Mayhem, dropped by to keep me company and to buy books,” she added.

As she looked back on the experience, Bailey said that she ended up writing a few more recommendation cards at home after the day ended because she had discovered some of her favorite classic mysteries on the shelves.

## Thanks extended

Members embraced the day’s sentiment even if not volunteering. Many Sisters supported “Solving Mysteries Day” by going into libraries and bookstores on April 21 to give personal thanks to the booksellers and librarians they found working behind the counters or in the stacks.

SinC member Julie Tollefson stopped by the Raven Bookstore in Lawrence, Kansas, and let the world know via Twitter, “Just stopped in to give a big #sinc thanks to @ravenbookstore.”

Member Cynthia Kuhn reported from Denver on Twitter, “@sincnational Happy 25th! Just dropped off #sinc thank you notes to @Tattered Cover South and local library.”

*Staff members at McIntyre’s Books in Fearington Village, Pittsboro NC got down to the bare bones of bookselling!*



## Volunteers and their jobs

The participating authors enjoyed their time on the front lines of the publishing business.

“It was really nice, fun, and—tiring,” Susan Froetschel said after her day at the Takoma Park Neighborhood Library in Washington, DC “The librarians were just wonderful—and they want to get information on getting a Sisters panel to come visit.”

For SinC board member (and librarian) Barbara Fister, her time in Minneapolis’ award-winning bookstore, “Once Upon a Crime,” was all about sleuthing. “When it came to solving mysteries like ‘is my favorite author’s latest book out in paperback yet?’ and ‘What can you recommend that’s like \_\_\_?’ I was Watson; Gary [store co-owner Gary Shulze] was Holmes.”

## Why we did it

“This was a great opportunity to thank librarians and booksellers in a tangible way,” said Jim Huang, Solving Mysteries Day event founder and coordinator.

He pointed out that the project gave SinC member authors a chance to meet potential new readers and work with the support of a coordinated communications program. The communications effort provided free t-shirts for booksellers and librarians featuring the slogan “Booksellers Solve Mysteries Every Day” or “Librarians Solve Mysteries Every Day” and the SinC logo.

To help SinC member authors with publicity, SinC provided a news hook to use in contacting local media and a press release template that could be used as a guide for promoting the event (and for other purposes in the future).

See “Solving,” p. 7

## Get a Clue



Solving Mysteries Day	
<i>Kathie Felix</i> .....	1
Frankie Speaks	
<i>Frankie Bailey</i> .....	3
Editor's Note	
<i>Molly Weston</i> .....	3
Chapter Highlights .....	4
Beth's Bits	
<i>Beth Wasson</i> .....	5
Malice Domestic Chapter Meet & Greet Report	
<i>Martha Reed</i> .....	5
SinC into Great Writing	
<i>Cathy Pickens</i> .....	6
Sisters & Misterys Rock at Malice Domestic ..	8
SinC Loves Libraries	
<i>Debra H. Goldstein</i> .....	9
Law & Fiction	
<i>Leslie Budewitz</i> .....	11
SinC Past Presidents Reveal .....	11
The Deific Decree	
<i>Katherine Ramsland, PhD</i> .....	12
Conferences & Happenings .....	13
The Docket	
<i>Molly Weston</i> .....	14
Lifetime Members and Volunteers .....	15
Writing Contests .....	16

## Deadlines & Submissions

- Deadline for articles for the September issue of *inSinC* is July 15.
- Include name, email and mailing address, and phone number with submissions.
- Send columns, articles, high-res photos, ideas, praise, and story ideas via email to  
**Molly Weston**  
mysteryheel@mac.com  
919.362.1436

### The Docket

- To list your publications and award nominations, login to SistersinCrime.org and look for "The Docket" under "Members Only." Fill in the information—one entry per publication.
- Information on the SinC website will be updated regularly and will be available to anyone under "Resources."
- THE DOCKET will continue as an item in *inSinC*.

## *inSinC*

### the Sisters in Crime Quarterly

*The mission of Sisters in Crime is to promote the professional development and advancement of women crime writers to achieve equality in the industry.*

Frankie Bailey, President	Sally Brewster, Bookstore Liaison
Hank Phillippi Ryan, Vice President/Pres.-Elect	Mary Boone, Library Liaison
Laura DiSilverio, Secretary	Nancy Martin, At-Large
Kathryn Wall, Treasurer/Authors Coalition Liaison	Val McDermid, At-Large
Martha Reed, Chapter Liaison	Barbara Fister, Monitoring Project
Stephanie Pintoff, Publicity	Cathy Pickens, Past President
Kathie Felix, Public Relations	Peggy Moody, Web Maven
Laurel Anderson, <i>inSinC</i> Proofreader	Kaye Barley, <i>inSinC</i> Proofreader
Kathie Felix, <i>inSinC</i> Proofreader	Molly Weston, <i>inSinC</i> Editor/Layout
Beth Wasson, Executive Secretary, PO Box 442124, Lawrence KS 66044-8933	
Phone: 785.842.1325; Fax 785.856.6314; email sistersincrime@juno.com	

1987-88 Sara Paretsky	1995-96 Elaine Raco Chase	2003-04 Kate Grilley
1988-89 Nancy Pickard	1996-97 Annette Meyers	2004-05 Patricia Sprinkle
1989-90 Margaret Maron	1997-98 Sue Henry	2005-06 Libby Hellmann
1990-91 Susan Dunlap	1998-99 Medora Sale	2006-07 Rochelle Krich
1991-92 Carolyn G. Hart	1999-00 Barbara Burnett Smith	2007-08 Roberta Isleib
1992-93 P. M. Carlson	2000-01 Claire Carmichael McNab	2008-09 Judy Clemens
1993-94 Linda Grant	2001-02 Eve K. Sandstrom	2009-10 Marcia Talley
1994-95 Barbara D'Amato	2002-03 Kate Flora	2010-11 Cathy Pickens

## Legend

*In 2008, the board of directors of Sisters in Crime implemented a new strategic plan. Three goals emerged from this plan: *inSinC* articles will be marked with icons to represent the appropriate goal.*



*Advocacy, monitoring, and reporting*



*Professional education and career development*



*Membership growth, networking, and forums for members*

JUST THE FACTS • *inSinC* is the official publication of Sisters in Crime International and is published four times a year. • One-year dues are \$40 for professional US and Canada writers and \$35 for non-professionals (add \$5 for other countries). Two-year dues are \$80 and \$70; lifetime, \$400 and \$350. • Address and all other changes can be made by members on [www.sistersincrime.org](http://www.sistersincrime.org). If you do not use a computer or need a username please contact **Beth Wasson** at 785.842.1325 or [sistersincrime@juno.com](mailto:sistersincrime@juno.com) • Information in *inSinC* is submitted and reprinted from sources listed in each article. Where required, permission to reprint has been granted and noted. SinC does not investigate each submission independently and articles in no way constitute an endorsement of products or services offered. No material may be reprinted without written permission from Sisters in Crime. Sisters in Crime© 2012.

# Frankie Speaks

Spring in most places across the country has been kind of crazy. Here in the Northeast, we've had summer weather in March, jacket weather in May. But, whatever the weather, what spring always brings is the MWA Edgar awards and Malice Domestic. I want to congratulate those Sisters and Brothers who were nominated and/or received awards. I want to offer a special shout-out to Molly Weston, editor of the *inSinC Quarterly* and recipient of an MWA Raven Award. Well deserved, Molly. You do us proud.

This spring, we continue our year-long celebration of Sisters in Crime's 25th anniversary. As I explained at the Malice Domestic breakfast, we get to continue our celebration into this year because, although Sara Paretsky organized that impromptu breakfast at Bouchercon in Baltimore in October 1986, our name did not become official until May 1987. A steering committee also was formed in May 1987. Five years later, in May 1992, the position of Executive Secretary was created, and Beth Wasson was appointed to that position. Please join with me in wishing Beth a very happy 20th anniversary. If you've had occasion to contact our office, you know how essential Beth is to the functioning of our organization.

This year at our Malice breakfast, we saluted our volunteers. In April, we had an example of

the importance of volunteer power in helping us to achieve our goals as an organization. Last year, even though he was nearing the end of his term as a member of the SinC board, Jim Huang proposed a "Volunteer Day" when authors would say "thank you" to booksellers and librarians by volunteering in bookstores and libraries in their local area. That idea morphed into our April 21 "Sisters Solve Mysteries" event. Jim coordinated the event, right down to mailing out those wonderful T-shirts saying, "Booksellers Solve Mysteries Every Day" or "Librarians Solve Mysteries Every Day." He was ably assisted by Kathie Felix, our PR/media staff person, and Barbara Fister, board member and social media maven. Martha Reed, Mary Boone, and Beth Wasson also provided much appreciated support.

That's what happened this spring. This fall we will be in Cleveland for Bouchercon. Cathy Pickens, our immediate past president, has recruited best-selling and critically-acclaimed writer, Nancy Pickard, to present our "SinC into Great Writing" workshop. Nancy will be sharing the system she has developed for manuscript revision. Nancy's workshop and the breakout activities that will follow are worth arriving in Cleveland a day early. So if you haven't signed up already, do it now. You don't want to miss this.



This fall, SinC will again offer members an opportunity to attend the Writers' Police Academy at a reduced rate. As you may have heard from last year's attendees, Lee Lofland and the faculty of the Academy provide a terrific experience for mystery writers who want to learn more about policing.

We plan to offer another member benefit to support you in your career development this fall. You'll be hearing more about that shortly.

In the meantime, Happy Spring!

—Frankie Bailey

## Editor's Note

by Molly Weston

When smart, educated friends tell me they "just don't have time to read" I look at them in astonishment. I can't imagine my life without reading—every day, several times a day. I've always got a book handy, whether hardcover, paperback, or electronic. I read the newspaper at breakfast, but after that it's crime fiction all the way.

Characters in my favorite series are old friends—and I can't wait to catch up with them. Offerings by new authors bring more friends to my circle; I look forward to sharing them with my three-dimensional friends—in reviews, library talks, chats, or simply by stopping strangers in the mystery aisles of bookstores and libraries and asking who they read.

When I go to conferences, I'm always glad to hear and meet the authors who create these characters, and it delights me to add many of these wonderful writers to my circle.

Working with SinC has allowed me the opportunity to meet so many more creative siblings. Seeing so many of you break into publication, be nominated for and receive awards is rewarding for me. I brag about SinC members often!

Recognizing that our organization is unique in its scope, warm in friendships, and excellent in support, are you doing your part in sharing SinC with your colleagues? Do you actively seek new members? Have you talked with every crime writer, bookstore owner, librarian, and

reader you know about the advantages of SinC membership? Have you told someone in every library you visited about the We Love Libraries initiative?

Are you taking full advantage of your SinC membership? Have you visited our new website lately? Have you read (and commented on) our blog? If you didn't visit and thank your local bookstore or library on April 21, why not do that this week. A thank you is never too late.

Let's keep reading—and Sisters in Crime—alive in our communities!

—Molly

# Chapter Highlights

## Sisters in Crime/LA

[www.sistersincrime.com](http://www.sistersincrime.com)

April was very busy with the 17th annual *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books at the University of Southern California campus. Last year drew about 150,000 book lovers. The major trade show grant from SinC helped our booth provide 50 signing slots for published SinC authors.

The speaker for our April meeting was a retired LAPD homicide detective who investigated 200-plus murders. More than 70 members and fans attended, proving their eagerness to learn the ins and outs of homicide investigations and crime scene show myths. Our featured reader and former chapter president, Ashley Ream, thanked her fellow members for her successful journey to publication before reading from her debut novel, *Losing Clementine*. We sold almost \$170 in merchandise at our last meeting thanks to fun new items like crime scene band-aids and gun mugs.

Authors from our active speakers bureau participated on a mystery panel at the 2nd Annual Ojai WordFest, an eight-day literary festival drawing people from all over Southern California. We're already planning our 2013 California Crime Writers Conference; we're absolutely thrilled to announce Sue Grafton and Joseph Wambaugh as our special guests of honor.

## New York/Tri-State-State

[www.NySinC.org](http://www.NySinC.org)

On April 14, the chapter hosted "Tooling Up to write a Crime Novel," an all-day workshop by Hallie Ephron. The morning was devoted to creating characters; the afternoon to writing suspense. Hallie combined lecture with writing exercises that gave participants an opportunity to have their writing critiqued and to walk away with ideas for improving their work.

The chapter had a surprise visitor from down under. Megg Vann, who organized the SinC chapter in Brisbane, Australia in May last year, dropped in on the February meeting. Vann joined the group at dinner after the meeting and apparently enjoyed the interaction as much as we did. "Visiting the NY/Tri-State Chapter of SinC was a dream come true for me!" Vann said. "I can't wait to visit my NY Sisters again, and, if any of you would like to come visit our chapter, we would welcome you with open arms! Meanwhile, I hope to see you all online."

## Croak & Dagger (Albuquerque)

[www.croak-and-dagger.com](http://www.croak-and-dagger.com)

Chapter members turned out enthusiastically for the Bookstores and Libraries Solve Mystery Every Day event, doing everything from shelving books, to helping with author events, to interviewing staff for a SinC meeting presentation. Members and the store or library where they volunteered follow:

Jan Bray at the Cherry Hills Branch of the Albuquerque Library System, Cherry Hills NM

Rob Kresge at Alamosa Books and Treasure House Books & Gifts in Albuquerque

Joan Spicci Saberhagen at the Page One Bookstore in Albuquerque

Margaret Tessler at the Albuquerque South Valley branch library

Linda Triegel at the San Pedro branch library

Gerry Weinberg at the Corrales Community Library near Albuquerque

## Tucson Sisters in Crime

[www.tucsonsincrime.org](http://www.tucsonsincrime.org)

Halfway through the probationary period, our meetings are getting better and better! We are averaging more than 30 attendees at each meeting and now have approximately 25 members.

April's meeting featured retired official Dan Wirth, speaking on the National Park Services' law enforcement investigations. Dan's talk was both informative and entertaining. Elizabeth Gunn, longtime SinC member, talked about why we are so fascinated with evil characters.

Unfortunately we were unable to participate in Booksellers and Librarians Solve Mysteries every Day. We are all proud and impressed to be part of a group that created such a worthwhile event. Hopefully we will be able to participate next year.

We appreciate the support and suggestions on how to make this chapter successful, particularly from the Desert Sleuths, a group we consider our big Sisters.

## Orange County, CA

[www.ocsistersincrime.org](http://www.ocsistersincrime.org)

Blood spatters, fingerprints, fibers, skin cells, DNA, and many other clues left behind at a crime scene were described and discussed by experts at our Second Annual Forensics Fest in March. The panelists included Caroline Kim, California Department of Justice Bureau of Forensic Services, Riverside Lab. With more than 15 years' experience collecting and analyzing evidence in the often gruesome task of determining the manner of death, she held us enthralled. Among the tests she oversees at the lab are firearms, tool marks, blood stain patterns, footwear and tire marks, hair, textiles, and other trace evidence.

Panelist Steve Scarborough, FBI and Interpol criminologist and a specialist in forensic digital imaging, has 30 years of experience in law enforcement consulting, including on the set of the original CSI television show. He has testified in more than 300 court cases and is a regular lecturer at conferences. He is the author of the crime novel *Scrafitto*.

The third panelist was Don Lasseter, best-selling author of true crime books including *Die for Me*, the horrific story of California serial killer Charles Ng. Due to the many years of research he has conducted for his 20 true crime books, Lasseter is often a criminology guest lecturer at UC-Fullerton.

Thanks to a publicity blitz that made the wires, the event was standing-room-only with two dozen guests (some of whom braved the clogged Los Angeles freeways to hear our crime experts) and refugee members of the San Diego SinC chapter, whom we welcomed with open arms.

*Chapter Liaison Martha Reed's report is on page 5.*





## Beth's Bits

by Beth Wasson

**H**ats off to over 50 Sisters in Crime volunteers who contribute every day to the organization. You might want to be a part of this elite group.

### SinC Volunteer opportunities

Sisters in Crime has a couple of volunteer spots for members.

The Monitoring Project needs monitors for *Booklist*, *Deadly Pleasures*, and *Mystery Scene*. Barbara Fister is the coordinator and you may reach her at [bfister@hickorytech.net](mailto:bfister@hickorytech.net).

Ebook SinC Links needs one or two more volunteers to contribute to Ebook SinC Links. Please contact Ellen Hart at [ellenhart@earthlink.net](mailto:ellenhart@earthlink.net).

Molly Weston, award-winning editor, is interviewing for a Docket editor. The Docket runs four times a year in the *inSinC Quarterly*. Molly can be reached at [mysteryheel@mac.com](mailto:mysteryheel@mac.com).

### SinC into Good Writing IV...

is in Cleveland, the day before Bouchercon. Spots are filling up for the workshop with Nancy Pickard on October 3, 2012. We are working on dinner plans after the workshop so we can continue the discussions. You do not need to be registered for Bouchercon to attend. The cost is \$50 for SinC members. Visit our website at [www.sistersincrime.org](http://www.sistersincrime.org) and sign up today.

### SinC Chapters

Is your Board of Directors planning a fall book event? Don't forget to apply for a Sisters in Crime grant on [www.sistersincrime.org](http://www.sistersincrime.org), click on Chapters. Please allow 90 days for approval and for us to promote your event on the web site and in the *inSinC Quarterly*.

Courtesy Lawrence Magazine



### Did you know?

Sisters in Crime membership brochures, bookmarks, lapel pins and banners are always available from me at [sistersincrime@juno.com](mailto:sistersincrime@juno.com). Individuals are welcome to order, too. Drop them off at your local library or take them to the local bookstore.



## Malice Domestic Chapter Meet and Greet Report

by Martha Reed

**O**n Malice Friday, representatives from more than a dozen chapters gathered for a Meet and Greet SinC-sponsored luncheon to put online names to real-time faces, to renew friendships, and to share chapter news.

Attendees included Frankie Bailey, Hank Phillippi Ryan, and Beth Wasson, and represented an array of geographic locales: Becky Hutchison, C. Ellett Logan, and Kathie Felix from the Chesapeake chapter; Sheila Connolly from SinC-NE; Roberta Rogow and Debbie Buchanan from SinC Central NJ; Jessie Chandler from SinC Twin Cities MN; Cathi Stoler from NY/Tri-State; Mary Lee Woods and Anita Carter AKA Sparkle Abbey from SinC-IA; Susan Belsky from SinC-WI; Janice Hamrick of Heart of Texas; and Diane Vallere from SinC-LA, among others.

I asked the representatives to take the following ideas back to their chapters for discussion:

- **Using the Chapter Handbook.** This handy PDF reference is easy to download from the chapter webpage, and is filled with terrific information including:
  - “10 Tips for a Vital & Vigorous Chapter” by JoAnne Lucas

- “Keys to Successful Meetings” by Cheri Plant
- “Get the Word Out: PR for Chapters” by Kathie Felix
- “Planning a Writers’ Workshop” by Annette Dashofy
- “Recipe for a Great Anthology” by Barb Goffman.

- **Event Grants.** Even though they must be applied for three months in advance, grants can generate \$250 for a local event; \$500 for a regional event, and up to \$1,000 for a national trade show.

Guidelines for chapter anthologies and details about grants are posted on the SinC chapter web page.

- **The We Love Libraries program.** A suggestion was made that each chapter should form a committee to ensure that their local public libraries are entered in the lottery with a chance to win \$1,000. One lucky public library wins each month.

Chapter officer information has been updated on the website. I plan to use those email addresses for direct communication and for posting chapter news on both the national and presidents’ list serv. Future projects include:

- **A Chapter Bylaws Template.** The Bylaws template is currently being reviewed by the Board. Once approved, it will be posted on the chapter webpage as an additional resource. Chapters will be notified when it is available. I encourage each chapter to review the template and make revisions to their existing Bylaws as they see fit.
- **Chapter Best Practices.** I plan to start polling the chapters over the summer to ask for insights into running a successful chapter. The information will be collated into a Chapter Best Practices document for Board review in October. Once the document has been approved, it will be put on the chapter web page as well. Foreseeable topics include:
  - Communication Tools: Using Social Media to increase membership
  - Membership Benefits: Hosting a Special Event
  - Continuing Education: Developing an Out-reach Program

We enjoyed a very productive meeting. It was great to meet so many enthusiastic Sibs. We have a lot of good work ahead of us. As always, email me with any ideas or suggestions!

Martha Reed, 2012 Chapter Liaison  
[reedme36@gmail.com](mailto:reedme36@gmail.com)

# SinC into Great Writing IV

by Cathy Pickens

If rewriting is your personal bete noir, you won't want to miss "Sensory Self-Editing." SinC past president and multiple award winner Nancy Pickard will lead "SinC into Great Writing IV" on Wednesday, October 3. The session will begin at 1:00 PM and continue until 5:30 PM.

In an early SinC into Great Writing workshop, agent Donald Maass pointed to Nancy's latest books as examples of breakout writing. Nancy will show us how to accomplish that—scene by scene. Nancy developed her system of rewriting after extensive research and experience in both story crafting and editing.

You'll need to be prepared to work when you arrive at the Renaissance Cleveland

Hotel. Bring a story or a chapter of your novel, a stack of 3" x 5" note cards, colored pencils or pens, and two paperback novels you're willing to mark.

Additionally, Nancy and other experienced writing teachers (including Hallie Ephron, Frankie Bailey, Hank Phillippi Ryan, and Cathy Pickens) will facilitate individual critique round-tables to build on these editing skills in a group setting.

The event will end in time for everyone to explore dining options in Cleveland. You might consider planning to dine with others from the group to continue your learning and sharing experience.

It is **not necessary** to register for Bouchercon to attend this event.



Nancy Pickard



Hallie Ephron



Cathy Pickens



Hank Phillippi Ryan



Frankie Bailey

## SinC into Great Writing IV

Renaissance Cleveland Hotel

Wednesday • October 3

1:00–5:30 PM

Registration & Check-In

12 noon

\$50 SinC members

\$250 nonmembers

Coffee • Tea • Soda

Fruit • Munchies

Registration is online only at [tinyurl.com/7syswpj](http://tinyurl.com/7syswpj)

## Solving - cont'd. from p. 1

Sisters in Crime also supported the event with real-time social media coverage on Facebook and Twitter. You can check out the event-specific Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/sisters-solvemysteries](http://www.facebook.com/sisters-solvemysteries) and on Twitter via the hashtag #sisterssolve. Another great overview of the day is Barbara Fister's online storyboard on Pinterest at [pinterest.com/bfister/sisters-solve-mysteries](http://pinterest.com/bfister/sisters-solve-mysteries).

### From the volunteers

The Lisle Library, my hometown library, was kind enough to let me share their day. I started out in Youth Services working with Mary. It was Science Saturday—what a treat! I helped Mary set up the experiments and the six kids carried them out. We used a lot of white vinegar, water and **baking soda!** The finale was exploding the dirt volcano! Mary kept explaining the scientific principle behind each experiment, but the kids and I, well, we were there to have fun!

Librarian pals, Rhonda and Cathy, took me to lunch at our local Tex-Mex restaurant and then it was off to Adult Services to finish the day. Patti and Nancy let me join them behind the desk. I learned how they order books and watched as Patti compiled and created information for their newsletter on the Edgar and Agatha nominees. HTML doesn't stand a chance under Patti's hands. To me, it looked Greek but she whipped that code into shape.

I sat in utter admiration when I listened as Nancy guided a patron, over the phone, on how to maneuver the screens of the library website and Amazon in order to download a book she wanted. There were many stops and starts and I marveled at Nancy's articulation and patience. I loved working at the library and gave them a heartfelt SinC thank you and hug for all they do.

—Luisa Buehler

*Bernadette Paver (r) takes a break with owner Leah McNutt at the Uppercase Bookshop.*



*Rob Kresge gets down and dirty cleaning windows at Treasure House Books & Gifts.*

My assignment was to gather quotes from library visitors on how they use the library and what the library means to them. These will be sent to the state library to be used when they fight for funding at the state legislature. I think all the libraries in Virginia are supposed to have a "Library Snapshot Day," but in a classic catch-22 situation, the director couldn't spare anyone to work on this—and who comes along but SinC offering a writer for the day!

—Lane Stone

Croak & Dagger Chapter member and author Margaret Tessler (*Tangled Webs* and others) worked tirelessly for Albuquerque's South Valley branch library, where her writing group used to meet. She re-shelved returned books, re-alphabetized the children's section as needed, reorganized a mass of DVDs, and listened in on a children's story hour. Margaret says "Thanks to Sisters in Crime for coming up with the idea, and to our chapter coordinator for implementing it here in town."

I divided my time between two local indie bookstores, alphabetizing and re-shelving as needed nearly 40 feet of children's picture books for Alamosa Books . . . Later I worked at Treasure House Books & Gifts on Old Town Plaza during Albuquerque's 306th anniversary events, which included Native American and Hispanic music and dancers, gunfights by local re-enactors, and a parade featuring 12-foot wheeled puppets portraying the city's many ethnicities. I also washed windows, dusted shelves, re-alphabetized one section, and helped with another author's book signing.

—Former Chapter President Rob Kresge

*Kathy Lynn Emerson shelves children's books at the Treat Memorial Library.*



### Sisters on the Job Included\*

Gail M. Baugniet, at the Maikiki Community Library in Honolulu HI  
Charlotte Cohen, at the Santa Ana Public Library in Santa Ana CA  
Kathy Lynn Emerson, at the Treat Memorial Library in Livermore Falls ME  
Barbara Fister, SinC board member, at Once Upon a Crime in Minneapolis MN  
Susan Froetschel, at the Takoma Park Neighborhood Library in Washington DC  
W.S. Gager at the Jackson District Library in Jackson MI  
Kathleen Heady at the Haverford Township Free Library in Havertown PA  
Lee Kelly at Barnes & Noble in Marietta GA  
Molly MacRae at the Jane Addams Book Shop in Champaign IL  
Robin Murphy at the Sharpsburg Library in Sharpsburg MD  
Chelle Martin, at the Sadie Pope Dowdell Public Library in South Amboy NJ  
Denise Osborne, at the Mid-Continent Public Library, Raytown branch IN  
Raytown MO  
Bernadette Pajer, at the Uppercase Bookshop in Snohomish WA  
Karen Pullen, at McIntyre's Books in Pittsboro NC  
C. L. (Cheryl) Shore, at Bookmamas in Indianapolis IN  
Mary Stanton/Claudia Bishop, at Murder on the Beach in Delray Beach FL  
Lane Stone, at the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library in Alexandria VA  
Susan Van Kirk, at the Warren County Public Library in Monmouth IL  
Kathryn R. Wall, SinC Treasurer, at the Beaufort County Library, Hilton Head branch in Hilton Head Island SC  
Tina Whittle, at The Golden Bough in Macon GA

\*Other Sisters participated who were not registered through the SinC website. All volunteers were greatly appreciated.

# Sisters & Misters Rock...

## Agatha Nominees

SinC Members are in bold. Winners are listed first.

### Best Novel

*Three-Day Town*, **Margaret Maron**  
*The Real Macaw*, **Donna Andrews**  
*The Diva Haunts the House*, **Krista Davis**  
*Wicked Autumn*, **G.M. Malliet**  
*A Trick of the Light*, Louise Penny

### Best Non-Fiction

*Books, Crooks and Counselors: How to Write Accurately About Criminal Law and Courtroom Procedure*, **Leslie Budewitz**  
*Agatha Christie: Murder in the Making: More Stories and Secrets from Her Notebooks*, John Curran  
*On Conan Doyle: Or, The Whole Art of Storytelling*, Michael Dirda  
*Wilkie Collins, Vera Caspary and the Evolution of the Casebook Novel*, **A. B. Emrys**  
*The Sookie Stackhouse Companion*, **Charlaine Harris**

### Best Children's/YA

*The Black Heart Crypt*, Chris Grabenstein  
*Icefall*, Matthew J. Kirby  
*The Wizard of Dark Street*, Shawn Thomas  
*Odyssey*  
*The Code Busters Club, Case #1: The Secret of the Skeleton Key*, **Penny Warner**

### Best First Novel

*Learning to Swim*, Sara J. Henry  
*Dire Threads*, **Janet Bolin**  
*Choke*, **Kaye George**  
*Who Do, Voodoo?*, **Rochelle Staab**  
*Tempest in the Tea Leaves*, **Kari Lee Townsend**

### Best Short Story

"Disarming," **Dana Cameron**  
"Dead Eye Gravy," **Krista Davis**  
"Palace by the Lake," **Daryl Wood Gerber**  
"Truth and Consequences" **Barb Goffman**  
"The Itinerary," **Roberta Isleib**

### Best Historical Novel

*Naughty in Nice*, **Rhys Bowen**  
*Murder Your Darlings*, **J. J. Murphy**  
*Mercury's Rise*, **Ann Parker**  
*Troubled Bones*, **Jeri Westerson**  
*A Lesson in Secrets*, Jacqueline Winspear



Photo by Robin Templeton

*William F. Deek-Malice Domestic Grant winners Cynthia Sabelhaus and Sarah Bewley display their awards. Committee members Hariette Wasserman Sackler and Arleen Trudy were excited about their selections.*



Photo by Robin Templeton

*Malice Chair Verena Rose and Guest of Honor Jan Burke*



*Liz Zelvin makes a point. Edith McClintock and G. M. Malliet listen intently.*



Photo by Robin Templeton

*Dana Cameron presents Margaret Maron with the Agatha Award for Best Novel.*



Photo by Robin Templeton

*Toastmaster Dana Cameron received the Best Short Story Agatha from Katherine Hall Page.*



*Michelle Johnson and Sasser Hill enjoyed the Sunday SinC breakfast.*



*Agatha nominees Krista Davis and Janet Bolin*

More of Robin Templeton's Malice Domestic photos can be seen at [www.facebook.com/robin.templeton3](http://www.facebook.com/robin.templeton3)

# at Malice Domestic



*Kate Carlisle (r) shares a moment with NAL Executive Editor Ellen Edwards.*



*Photo by Liz Zelvin*

*Leslie Budewitz proudly displays her Agatha Award for Best Non-Fiction.*



*Photo by Robin Templeton*

*The always hilarious Lee Goldberg received the Poirot Award*



*Beth Wasson celebrates 20 years as SinC's executive secretary.*



*Catriona McPherson enjoyed the Malice banquet.*



*Doreen Wheaton was delighted to be at Carole Nelson Douglas' table at the Malice banquet.*



*Could Dean James be pondering his next exploit as Miranda James?*



*Kate Gallison and Robin Hathaway enjoy a laugh at the cocktail hour.*

## Luminaries

Guest of Honor, **Jan Burke**  
Toastmaster, **Dana Cameron**  
Lifetime Achievement, Simon Brett  
Malice Remembers, Tony Hillerman  
Poirot Award, **Lee Goldberg**  
Fan Guest of Honor, Ruth Sickafus  
SMP/Malice Domestic Best First Novel,  
Kathryn O'Sullivan  
William F. Deeck-Malice Domestic Grant  
for Unpublished Writers, *Cynthia Sabelhaus* and *Sarah Bewley*  
Amelia Award, Elizabeth Peters,  
Inaugural Winner



# SinC Loves Libraries!

by Debra H. Goldstein



**D**iverse is the only way to characterize SinC's November and December 2011 "We Love Libraries" winners.

Jones Library is located in the strongly college influenced town of Amherst, Massachusetts. In addition to its varied collection of books, it is known for being an outstanding reference source for Emily Dickinson-related material. The Haakon County Public Library in Rapid City, South Dakota, according to Executive Director Annie Brunskill, has "560 square feet of space" and serves patrons from a wide-spread area.

Monthly SinC "We Love Libraries" \$1000 grant winners are randomly selected from applications that include a picture of one or more library staff members holding books from their libraries that were written by SinC authors. The winning libraries may use the award money for anything except operating expenses. Jones Library reference librarian, Janet Ryan, was quoted in the January 31, 2012 *Daily Hampshire Gazette* explaining that Jones Library plans to use its SinC money for developing library programs. Because of space limitations, Haakon's "plan is to make it a long-lasting gift," according to Ms. Brunskill. She is "going to set up standing orders for teens, early chapter books, large print, and best sellers," because the Haakon Library thinks "that's the most economical use of the award—the gift that keeps on giving." Both libraries sponsored events, showcasing SinC members, at which the grant checks were presented.

## Jones Library

On Super Bowl Sunday, 30 Jones Library patrons filled its large meeting room to attend a panel on "Writing New England Mysteries, Long and Short" featuring SinC members Sheila Connolly, Kate Flora, and Barbara Ross. The three spoke of their writing careers, involvement with Sisters in Crime, and the tie-ins between their characters and New England.

Kate Flora, the author of 12 books, many featuring the Thea Kozak character, is a former SinC national president and former editor of Level Best Books. Barbara Ross, president of SinCNE, addressed the topic from the perspective of being a short story and full-length

novel writer. Sheila Connolly past president, presented the "We Love Libraries" check to librarian Ryan.

In addition to Jones Library publications about the "We Love Libraries" award and event, the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* published detailed articles about the "Writing New England Mysteries, Long and Short" panel on January 31 and February 8, 2012.

*Gazette* staff writer Scott Merzbach's February 8 article not only summarized the panelists and their discussion well, but caught the essence of the afternoon in an exit interview with Kathy Parella. "I thoroughly enjoyed it," Parella said, balancing six mystery novels she purchased after the talk. "I have two Kindles, but I love the feel of a book in my hands and I like being able to loan a book to a friend." She was glad the SinC award will underwrite additional programs and books for Jones Library.

## Haakon County Public Library

There are only three at-large members of SinC in South Dakota. SinC member Karen Hall drove from Rapid City to Philip to present the check and a program. She spoke about how in her new book, *Through Dark Spaces*, protagonist Hannah Morrison, an environmental consultant at a South Dakota mine, discovers someone is poisoning the water of the beautiful Black Hills. To find the person responsible, she must face her darkest fears while trapped underground with a murderer. Hall also discussed the process of writing memoirs and family stories and gave pointers on developing reading/writing groups.

Articles about SinC and the program appeared in *The Pioneer Review*, *Rapid City Journal*, and the *Fridge Door*. Brunskill summarized the community's reaction to the program by writing, "We loved having Karen come. She's a great speaker and the time just flew by... we all got a lot out of her talk. One of the results might be a writers' critique group. The editor of the paper came and he's really excited about taking that project on."

## Grants make a difference

Every library that has won a "We Love Libraries" award has thanked SinC for making it possible to enhance its collections and programs. As Annie Brunskill noted, "This is a great service you are providing, especially for small libraries like ours with limited budgets. Go SinC!" SinC authors who participate in presentation-related programs also report enjoying the positive receptions they receive. As a group, SinC members sometimes don't think about the far-reaching impact of our individual projects, but a recent letter to Molly Weston from Vinnie Hansen, a member of the Northern California SinC chapter, who authors the Carol Sabala mystery series, underscores the importance of "We Love Libraries." Hansen wrote:

*Dear Molly,*

*I was delighted to see on the front page of The Pioneer Review, a photo of a Sister in Crime presenting a \$1,000 check to the library in Philip, South Dakota! I lived in Philip from the time I was born until I graduated from high school. All my first Nancy Drews and Agatha Christies came from this library. I am so happy my hometown won the Sisters in Crime lottery as it is such a struggle for small town libraries to stay afloat. I am proud to be part of the organization that made this meaningful contribution.*

*Debra H. Goldstein is a judge, author, litigator, wife, step-mom, mother of twins, and civic volunteer. Maze in Blue, her debut mystery, is the first in the Denney Silber series. Her website is [www.DebraHGoldstein.com](http://www.DebraHGoldstein.com).*

# Law & Fiction: Getting Facts Straight

by Leslie Budewitz

*I blogged recently about an issue pending before the US Supreme Court: whether juveniles and the mentally disabled may be sentenced to life without parole for murder. So, in this issue and next, I'll revisit some related questions.*

## Can juvenile defendants be executed?

No. In *Roper v. Simmons* (2005), a Missouri case, the Supreme Court struck down the death penalty for persons who committed their crimes before turning 18.

The Court upheld the execution of juveniles in 1989, but reconsidered because of growing national consensus against the practice. Between 1976 and 2005, 22 defendants were executed for crimes committed as juveniles. By 2005, 30 states had passed laws barring the executions, although some set a limit of age 16 or 17. The evolution of public opinion played a major role in the change of heart and law.

The Court held that the death penalty for juveniles violates the Eighth Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishment and is “disproportionate” in light of the general immaturity of youth. The Court acknowledged that some juveniles commit brutal crimes but wrote that their “susceptibility ... to immature and irresponsible behavior means their irresponsible conduct is not as morally reprehensible as that of an adult. ... From a moral standpoint it would be misguided to equate the failings of a minor with those of an adult, for a greater possibility

exists that a minor’s character deficiencies will be reformed.” The majority also concluded that juvenile executions do not serve the goals of retribution or deterrence.

A similar question naturally arises.

## Can the mentally disabled be executed?

No. In 2002, in *Atkins v. Virginia*, the Supreme Court reversed a 1989 decision and held that execution of “mentally retarded” defendants violates the Eighth Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishment. Eighteen states had already banned such executions. At least 35 mentally disabled defendants were executed from 1976 to 2001. (Most statutes and court decisions use the term mentally retarded, not mentally disabled.)

Why the ban? Mentally disabled persons may not fully understand their actions and the consequences, and may be less able to control their behavior than persons of normal intelligence. They are often more suggestible and likely to falsely confess. The ban implements the philosophy that execution of the mentally disabled—regardless of guilt or innocence—is unacceptable in a civilized society.



State processes for determining mental retardation vary. So does the definition, but it generally means a disability, originating before age 18, that includes significantly below average intelligence (e.g., an IQ of 70 or less) and significant limitations in adaptive behavior, primarily in reasoning and impulse control.

Other variations include whether mental capacity is decided by the judge or jury, whether determined before trial or during sentencing, and whether the state should pay for the defense expert.

(Excerpted from *Books, Crooks & Counselors*, by Leslie Budewitz.)

*Leslie Budewitz is a practicing lawyer and a fiction writer. Her book for writers, Books, Crooks & Counselors: A Fiction Writer's Guide to Getting the Law Right (Quill Driver Books, 2011) received the Agatha Award for Best Nonfiction. For help getting the law right in your stories, visit her website, [www.LawandFiction.com](http://www.LawandFiction.com) and blog, [www.LawandFiction.com/blog](http://www.LawandFiction.com/blog).*

## SinC Past Presidents Reveal...

You can fix it later.

Write it now!

You can fix it later.

—Barbara D'Amato

- If you care passionately, someday somewhere sometime an editor will care.
- I know the book is out there and I will find it if I keep on writing.

—Carolyn Hart

Unless you're writing flat-out thrillers that move so fast your reader has no time to think about logic or consistency, characters will trump plots every time.

—Margaret Maron

# The Deific Decree

by Katherine Ramsland, PhD

**N**o one realized that something was terribly wrong with Deanna Laney on Mother's Day weekend in 2003. When she saw one of her young sons pick up a toy spear, she believed God wanted her to kill them all. When this boy later handed her a rock, she "recognized" the weapon. At first, Laney resisted, but the pressure to kill persisted the rest of the day. In humble obedience, she placed large rocks in secret places for later that night.

Laney, a housewife in New Chapel Hill, Texas, viewed herself as a "sister" to Andrea Yates, who had drowned her five children in 2001. Together, she thought, they would be the two witnesses of the Apocalypse in the Book of Revelation. Laney trusted that God would use her brutal deed to do something great. According to the Bible, He'd performed such wondrous deeds for others.

So, on that night, she waited until her husband and kids were asleep. She then entered the room where Aaron, her 14-month-old baby, slept in a crib. Laney placed him on the floor and used a four-pound rock to hit him on the skull. He cried, so she held a pillow over his face until she heard him gurgle. (Aaron would survive.)

Next, Laney took Luke, six, outside and told him to lie on the ground. He obeyed and she smashed his skull. To prevent her oldest son, eight-year-old Joshua, from seeing Luke's body, Laney dragged it into the shadows and left the stone on top of him. Finally, she killed Joshua.

Laney called 911 herself to report the murders, and at her trial, psychiatrists from both sides agreed that she had been psychotic during the entire incident. Thus, she did not appreciate that what she was doing was wrong. Among the items of psychological evidence was Laney's post-crime demeanor. Devoid of grief, she

smiled as she described the attacks. Because she'd obeyed God, she asserted, "I feel like He will reveal His power and they will be raised up. They will become alive again."

Only after she was medicated did she realize the enormity of what she'd done. Laney wept throughout her brief trial. The jury acquitted her.

## The deific decree

The principle of insanity requires defendants to demonstrate that their mental state prevented them from appreciating the wrongfulness of an act. But when they claim that God told them to do it, they do know it's wrong. It's just that, in their minds, God's law supersedes social rules. For such situations, the courts have devised an exception.

The idea that God calls on someone to kill is known as the *deific decree*. You can know that an illegal act is wrong but still be eligible for an insanity defense.

The first US case to officially categorize it in this manner was *People v. Schmidt*. In 1913, the dismembered body of Anna Aumuller was found in the Hudson River. When arrested for Anna's murder, Hans Schmidt admitted his guilt. He claimed that he'd experienced spells of religious ecstasy in which he'd heard God requiring that he kill Anna in atonement for his life of crime. She'd been a necessary sacrifice.

In this case, Judge Cardozo devised the "deific decree" to exempt religious claims from the way sanity is generally conceived. He argued that "if ... there is an insane delusion that God has appeared to the defendant and ordained the commission of a crime...it cannot be said of the offender that he knows the act to be wrong" even if he knows it's illegal. Two physicians declared Schmidt insane, but two others



said he was faking. The jury accepted the latter opinion, convicting him of murder.

Laney got by with a deific decree. Yates, who believed that Satan was the inspiration for killing her children, did not. For the deific decree defense, courts tend to focus on the "wrongful" aspect of an act rather than the ill-defined "cognitive appreciation," and they generally restrict the issue to "legally wrong" rather than "morally wrong." Those jurisdictions that evaluate the latter might find themselves entangled in church vs. state issues.

*Katherine Ramsland is a writer and professor of forensic psychology and criminal justice. Among her 40 books are The Ivy League Killer and Snap! Seizing Your Aha! Moments. She has published more than 1,000 articles.*



# Conferences & Happenings

2012

## Thrillerfest VI

New York NY • July 11–14

Thrillermasters Jack Higgins and R. L. Stine; spotlight guests Lee Child, John Sanford, and Catherine Coulter; true thriller award recipient Ann Rule. Silver Bullet award recipients Richard North Patterson and Karen Slaughter are featured authors. Bestselling authors will share secrets; top agents and editors will be on hand. [www.thrillerfest.com](http://www.thrillerfest.com)

## Public Safety Writers Association

Las Vegas NV • July 12–15

For anyone writing crime and mystery fiction or non-fiction, technical writing for public safety magazines in print or online, or anyone interested in writing, this is a great place to network with the experts. [www.policewriter.com](http://www.policewriter.com)

## Killer Nashville

Nashville TN • August 24–26

C. J. Box and Peter Straub headline as guests of honor at the conference for thriller, suspense, and mystery writers—and fans. [www.killernashville.com](http://www.killernashville.com)

## Bloody Scotland

Stirling Scotland • September 14–16

Scotland's first international crime writing festival highlights Scottish crime writing and places it in an international context. [www.bloodyscotland.com](http://www.bloodyscotland.com) and [@bloodyscotland](https://twitter.com/bloodyscotland)

## Writers Police Academy

Jamestown NC • September 20–23

WPA offers the “most hands-on, interactive, and educational experience for writers.” Keynote speaker is Lee Child. [www.writerspoliceacademy.com](http://www.writerspoliceacademy.com)

## Conferences & Workshops

Please send all conference and workshop information, including those sponsored by SinC chapters, to Molly Weston at [mysteryheel@mac.com](mailto:mysteryheel@mac.com). Include conference name, date, location, brief description, contact information, and website. Please include “Conference” or “Workshop” in the subject line. Deadline for the September issue is July 15.

## SinC into Great Writing

Cleveland OH • October 3

Nancy Pickard offers a self-editing workshop one day prior to Bouchercon. [www.sinc.org](http://www.sinc.org)

## Bouchercon

Cleveland OH • October 4–7

Crime fiction rocks—and the opening ceremony takes place at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Those honored include Elizabeth George as American guest, Robin Cook for distinguished contribution to the genre, Mary Higgins Clark for lifetime achievement, Les Roberts as special Cleveland guest, Doris Ann Norris as fan guest, and John Connolly as toastmaster. [www.bouchercon2012.com](http://www.bouchercon2012.com)

## Magna cum Murder

Muncie IN • October 26–28, 2012

SJ Rozan will highlight Ball State University's 18th conference as guest of honor. Eric G. Wilson will deliver the banquet address. [www.magnacummurder.com](http://www.magnacummurder.com)

## Noircon 2012

Philadelphia PA • November 8–11

This literary convention features David L. Goodis recipient Lawrence Block, Jay and Deen Kogan Award recipient for literary excellence Otto Penzler, keynote speaker Robert Olen Butler, and master of ceremonies Charles Benoit. [www.noircon.info](http://www.noircon.info)

2013

## Love Is Murder

Chicago IL • February 1–3

This forum allows writers and readers to further their knowledge of writing, publishing, and the business of book production. David J. Walker will be local guest of honor; Lee Goldberg and Michael Harvey, featured authors. [www.loveismurder.net](http://www.loveismurder.net)

## Book 'Em North Carolina

Lumberton NC • February 23

The second writers conference and book fair at Robeson Community College will host more than 75 authors and publishers for book signings, panel discussions, and more. [www.bookemnc.org](http://www.bookemnc.org)

## Left Coast Crime

Colorado Springs CO • Mar. 21–24

“Where murder is the last resort” is for readers, writers, librarians, and other mystery and

thriller enthusiasts. Craig Johnson and Laura Lippman will be guests of honor; David Corbett, toastmaster; Parnell Hall, “Last Resort Troubadour”; Tom and Enid Schantz, fan guests of honor; Stephen J. Cannell, ghost of honor. [www.leftcoastcrime.org/2013](http://www.leftcoastcrime.org/2013)

## Malice Domestic 25

Bethesda MD • May 3–5

The conference honoring the traditional mystery will convene at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Guest of honor will be Laurie R. King; toastmaster, Laura Lippman; lifetime achievement, Aaron Elkins; Malice remembers, Dick Francis; international guest of honor, Peter Robinson; fan guest of honor, Cindy Silberblatt. [www.malicedomestic.org](http://www.malicedomestic.org)

## California Crime Writers

Pasadena CA • June 22–23

LA-SinC and Southern Chapter of Mystery Writers of America co-sponsor this biennial event geared to emerging and established mystery writers. Sue Grafton will be keynote speaker on Saturday; Joseph Wambaugh, on Sunday. [www.ccwconference.org](http://www.ccwconference.org)

## Bouchercon

Albany NY • September 19–22

Honorees include Sue Grafton for lifetime achievement, P. C. Doherty as international guest of honor, Tess Gerritsen as American guest of honor, Steve Hamilton as toastmaster, and Chris Aldrich and Lynn Kaczmarek as fan guests of honor. [www.bcon2013.com](http://www.bcon2013.com)

2014

## Bouchercon 2014

Long Beach CA • November 13–16

Honorees include Jeffery Deaver for lifetime achievement, Edward Marston as international guest of honor, J. A. Jance as American guest of honor, Simon Wood as toastmaster, and Al Abramson as fan guest of honor. [www.bouchercon2014.com](http://www.bouchercon2014.com)

2015

## Bouchercon 2015

Raleigh NC • October 8–15

“Murder Under the Oaks” will feature Tom Franklin as American guest of honor, Sean Doolittle and Lori Armstrong as toastmasters, and Ron Rash as local guest of honor. [www.bouchercon2015.org](http://www.bouchercon2015.org) and [@Bcon2015](https://twitter.com/Bcon2015)

Entries for The Docket are progressing more smoothly, but please be mindful of the following directions:

- Submit entries **within six months** of publication, nomination, or award.
- Ensure that all spelling is correct. Your entry will be downloaded exactly as you have entered it.
- **Do not use ALL CAPS** anywhere.
- Put quotations around short story titles.
- The “editor” field should be for anthologies only.
- Enter any non-fiction chapter or short story title you have published. (Previously, individual short stories in chapter anthologies were not listed.)
- Enter all publishers for a title in the “publisher” field, including the site where e-publications are available, i.e., “Smashwords, Kindle, etc.” If your title is available in most online versions, simply use “ebook”
- Indicate awards and award nominations for this title only.
- Enter the name you want shown as author as you want it shown. For pseudonyms, to show your real name shown, enter “Pseudonym aka Real Name” in the “Pen Name or Pseudonym” field.
- Spell out all publishers, magazines, awards, etc.
- **Check your entry before hitting “submit.”** If after submitting you realize there was an error, resubmit the entry correctly. For multiple dates the most recent entry will be used. **There is no need to contact me about this.**

Avery Aames’ *Clobbered by Camembert*, was nominated for an Agatha Award.

Cathy Ace, *The Corpse with the Silver Tongue*, TouchWood Editions, March

Amy Beth Arkawy, *Killing Time: An Eliza Gordon Mystery*, Hen House Press, February

Janet Bolin’s *Dire Threads* was nominated for an Agatha Award and the Bloody Words Light Mystery Award.

Frances Brody, *Dying in the Wool*, Minotaur Books, February

Warren Bull, “The Last Gift From my Father” in *Strange Mysteries 4 Anthology*, February. His “Company Policy,” was nominated for a Derringer Award.

Mollie Cox Bryan, *Scrapbook of Secrets: A Cumberland Creek Mystery*, Kensington, February

Ellen Byerrum, *Death on Heels*, Obsidian/Penguin, February

Sally Carpenter’s *The Baffled Beatlemaniac Caper* was nominated for the Eureka! Award for best first mystery novel by Left Coast Crime

C. Hope Clark, *Lowcountry Bribe*, Bell Bridge Books, February

Mindy Starns Clark and John Campbell Clark, *Echoes of Titanic*, Harvest House Publishers, March

Jane K. Cleland, *Dolled Up for Murder*, St. Martin’s Minotaur, March and “Last Supper” in *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, June

Deborah Coonts, *Lucky in Love* (novella), Forge Books ebook, January and *So Damn Lucky* Forge Books, February

Jacqueline Corcoran, *Backlit*, Etopia Press ebook, January

Hilary Davidson, *The Next One to Fall*, Forge, February. Her *The Damage Done* won the Crimespree Award for Best First Novel

Vicki Delany, *A Winter Kill*, Rapid Reads (Orca Publishers), April and *Gold Mountain: A Klondike Mystery*, Dundurn Press, April

Lesley A. Diehl, *Poisoned Pairings*, Mainly Murder Press, May

M J Donahue, *The Pearl Affair*, Smashwords, Amazon Books ebook, February

Monette Michaels, *Cold Day in Hell, A Security Specialists International Book*, Liquid Silver Books ebook, January

Joya Fields, *Beneath the Surface*, The Wild Rose Press, January

Lynda Fitzgerald, *Live Ammo*, Crystal Dreams/MMP, April

R. Barri Flowers, *Serial Killer Couples: Bonded by Sexual Depravity, Abduction, and Murder*, Kindle/Nook/iTunes ebook, January

R. Barri Flowers, *Edge of Suspense: Thrilling Tales of Mystery & Murder*, Kindle/Nook/iTunes ebook, December

Sandra Gardner’s *Mother, Murder and Me* (April) won the First Annual New Author Contest from Swyers Publishing.

KB Gibson, *A Class on Murder*, Five Star Publishing, June

Patricia Gligor, *Mixed Messages*, Post Mortem Press, April

Sarah M. Glover, *Grave Refrain*, Omnific Publishing, February

J.M. Griffin, *Murder on Spyglass Lane*, Amazon/ebook & paper, February

Laura Ellen, *Blind Spot*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, October

Jean Harrington’s *Designed for Death*, was a finalist in the 2011 Emily Contest

Charlaine Harris, *Deadlocked*, Ace, May and “Playing Possum” in *An Apple for the Creature*, Harris & Toni L. P. Kelner, eds., Ace & ebook, September

Libby Fischer Hellmann, *A Bitter Veil*, Allium Press of Chicago & ebook, April

Lynda Hilburn, *The Vampire Shrink*, Sterling Publishing/Silver Oak, April

Lynda Hilburn, “Until Death Do Us Part”, Kindle/Smashwords ebook, April

Joan Hall Hovey’s *The Abduction of Mary Rose* was nominated for the Eppie Award

Jonnie Jacobs, *Paradise Falls*, Five Star, March

Darrell James’ *Nazareth Child* won the Eureka for best first mystery at Left Coast Crime.

Hannah Jayne, *Under Suspicion*, Kensington Books, May

April Kelly & Marsha Lyons, *Winged*, February; *Murder in One Take*, April; *Murder: Take Two*, April; Flight Risk Books

Diane Kelly, *Death, Taxes, and a Skinny No-Whip Latte*, St. Martin’s Press, March

Laura Alden, *Plotting at the PTA*, Obsidian, July

Marian Lanouette, *If I Fail, A Jake Carrington Mystery*, September and *Burn in Hell, A Jake Carrington Mystery*, January 13, MuseItUp Publishing ebook,

# Lifetime members and volunteers

*SinC volunteers and those who have taken advantage of the lifetime membership option were recognized at the Sunday SinC breakfast at Malice Domestic. Two new membership categories were offered this year for the first time: lifetime and two-year.*



*Lifetime members receive a special pin.*



*Lifetime members include past presidents.*



*All volunteers were invited to the SinC breakfast at Malice Domestic.*



## The Docket - cont'd from p. 14

B.V. Lawson, *Ill-Gotten Games*, Untreed Reads ebook, February. "Touch of Death" won the Derringer short story Award.

Steve Liskow, *Cherry Bomb*, Create Space, Kindle, Nook ebook, March and "Hot Sugar Blues" in *Vengeance*, Mulholland Books, April

G.M. Malliet's *Wicked Autumn* was nominated for the Agatha and Dilys Awards.

Jonathan McCormick, *Wyoming Secrets a "J" Team Novel*, CreateSpace/Amazon ebook, February

Carolyn McSparren, *One Hoof in the Grave*, Belle Books, Inc., January

Ada Madison aka Camille Minichinom, *The Probability of Murder*, Berkley Prime Crime, March and *Mix-Up in Miniature*, Perseverance Press, April

Marie Moore, *Shore Excursion*, Camel Press, April

Sandra Murphy, *Bananas Foster*, March and *Sweet Tea and Deviled Eggs*, January, Untreed Reads ebooks

Sylvia A. Nash, "The Mystery Man" in *Christian Fiction Online Magazine* ebook, February

Radine Trees Nehring, *A Fair to Die for*, Oak Tree Press, June

Terry Odell, *Rooted in Danger*, Five Star/Gale, April

Helen Macie Osterman, *Emma Winberry and the Evil Eye*, Weaving Dreams Publishing, September

Katherine Hall Page, *The Body in the Boudoir*, Wm. Morrow, ebook, large print, May

Sharon Pape, *Sketch a Falling Star*, Berkley Prime Crime, March

Karen Pullen's "Brea's Tale" was co-winner of the Derringer Award for best long story.

Kathleen A. Rya, "Heat of Passion," was nominated for the Derringer Award for Best Flash Fiction Story and winner of the 2011 Public Safety Writers Association Flash Fiction Award

Connie Shelton, *Sweet Hearts: The Fourth Samantha Sweet Mystery*, Secret Staircase Books, January

Morgan St. James, *The Mafia Funeral and Other Short Stories*, ebook, January and *Writers' Tricks of the Trade: 39 Things You Need to Know About the ABCs of Writing Fiction*, September, Marina Publishing Group

Art Taylor's "A Drowning at Snow's Cut" was co-winner of the Derringer Award for best long story.

Paula Unroe, *Babe's Amaze'n Grace*, Kindle ebook, April

Molly Weston won the Raven Award from the Mystery Writers of America.

Catherine A. Winn, *Tough Luck*, Wings ePress ebook, January

Joyce Yarrow, *The Last Matryoshka*, Istorica Books ebook, March

Karen Spears Zacharias, *A Silence of Mockingbirds: The Memoir of a Murder*, MacAdam/Cage, April

Elizabeth Zelvin, *Death Will Extend Your Vacation*, Five Star, April



PO Box 442124  
Lawrence KS 66040  
[www.sistersincrime.com](http://www.sistersincrime.com)

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BLACKSBURG, VA  
PERMIT NO. 158

**Change Service Requested**

## Writing Contests

### **The Tony Hillerman Prize**

**June 1**

Co-sponsored by the Tony Hillerman Writers Conference and St. Martin's Press, the prize is awarded annually to the best debut mystery set in the Southwest. [tinyurl.com/qyvt7e](http://tinyurl.com/qyvt7e)

### **Claymore Award**

**June 1**

Sponsored by Killer Nashville, judges will consider the first 50 pages of a manuscript from any subgenre of mystery or thriller. [www.ClaymoreAward.com](http://www.ClaymoreAward.com)

### **St. Martin's Minotaur/MWA First Crime Novel**

**Usually mid-November**

Open to any writer who has never been the author of a published novel (excepting self-published or one who is under contract). [tinyurl.com/6m6quoq](http://tinyurl.com/6m6quoq)

### **William F. Deeck-Malice Domestic Grants Program for Unpublished Writers**

**Annually, Mid-November**

Grants to two unpublished writers in the malice domestic genre. [www.malicedomestic.org/grants.html](http://www.malicedomestic.org/grants.html)

### **Poisoned Pen Press Discover Mystery Award**

**April 30**

First book contest for unpublished writers. [www.poisonedpenpress.com/contest](http://www.poisonedpenpress.com/contest)

### **Writing Contests**

Please send all information for mystery writing contests, including those sponsored by SinC chapters, directly to Molly Weston, inSinC editor, at [mysteryheel@mac.com](mailto:mysteryheel@mac.com). Include contest name, entry deadline, sponsor, and website. Include "Contest" in the subject line. Deadline for the September issue is July 15.