



Mapping the new world of publishing

by Marcia Talley & Barbara Fister

In mid-September, on the day preceding Bouchercon 2011 in St. Louis, Sisters in Crime sponsored its third annual “SinC Into Great Writing” workshop. The session was a landmark in professional development for Sisters in Crime. For the first time in its 25-year history, SinC hired a team of videographers to capture the event on video to extend access to the information to members and others unable to attend.

The video content, available online at no charge to both members and non-members, includes more than two hours of information on the latest trends in publishing presented by crime fiction industry leaders specifically for crime fiction authors.

The free video content includes: Meg Gardiner’s “Lying for a Living” (21 minutes), Ellen Hart’s “E-publishing 101” (9 minutes), Libby Fischer Hellmann’s “To E or not to E” (20 minutes), David Wilk’s “Trends in Publishing” (22 minutes), Marcia Talley’s “Look Ma! I’ve Been Kindled!” (15 minutes), Cathy Pickens and Jim Huang’s “The Business of Print Publishing” (12 minutes), and “Brazen Hussies Present: A Colloquium on Marketing” (19 minutes).

The video segments taken from the seminar are available for viewing online at <http://tinyurl.com/7zcpcll>.

Constructing the workshop

In past years, the SinC into Great Writing workshops focused on the craft of writing; but, in an increasingly volatile publishing

environment, it seemed time to concentrate on the business of writing.

Members wanted to know:

- Where is the publishing industry headed?
- How does an author decide to try to follow a traditional publishing route or to self-publish?
- And what, exactly, is involved in publishing an e-book, anyway?

The seminar was shaped like an hourglass, with broad issues first, more narrowly focused “how-to” sessions scheduled just before dinner, and a return to the bigger picture at the end of the day with a three-speaker panel on marketing, followed by a Q & A wrap-up.

Current trends

First at the podium was David Wilk, CEO of Booktrix, who spoke about current trends in publishing. “Print publishing is in a lot of trouble,” he stated. In a few years, Wilk predicted, we may have a “Big Three” rather than a “Big Six.” Indeed, a recent survey in “Publishers Lunch” found that readers of e-books don’t know or care where e-books come from. To them, it’s the author who matters, not the source. This makes it even more important for authors to work on creating a “brand” for themselves, he said. The old “megaphone marketing” model no longer works. Today it’s not about promoting the next book, it’s about “forging an evolving relationship with readers,” using a variety of social media. Wilk emphasized that the important question for authors to answer when

planning for a long career in publishing is how much work are they willing to do themselves? He mentioned specific companies to look to for e-publishing support, and discussed pricing, Amazon, Lightning Source, and why e-publishing, in general, is a good thing for authors.

Pros and cons of e-publishing

“To E or not to E?” asked Libby Fischer Hellmann in her presentation about the pros and cons of traditional vs. e-publishing. Hellmann feels that traditional publishers are lagging behind the times when it comes to electronic rights but cautions authors not to go dashing out to create their own e-books without studying the business and evaluating the pros and cons of the variety of options available.

While it is attractive for authors to think that e-publishing offers them full control over their work, one should not underestimate the value of the kind of market support provided by a traditional publisher—advance reading copies and strong, broad distribution channels, to name but two. Booksellers are valuable for the hand-selling they do, Hellmann said, and traditional publishers are experts at getting books into stores.

In an e-environment, there are no gatekeepers, so every book has to float to the top on a sea of competition. Pricing, too, can be tricky. In today’s market, “low” is the most powerful price point, but you could pay a steep price for going low, as

Get a Clue

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Deadlines & Submissions

- Deadline for articles for the June issue of *inSinC* is April 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.

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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. If you do not use a computer or need a username please contact **Beth Wasson** at 785.842.1325 or 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

A new year. If you're like me you're probably torn between optimism about the possibilities for growth and positive change and pessimism about your ability to actually keep the resolutions that you have made and to achieve your goals.

The good news is that you—we—never have to go it alone. One of the benefits of membership in Sisters in Crime is having a support system. No matter where we are in our lives and careers, there are others who understand our dreams and want to help us make them reality. At the individual level, we make friendships that see us through good times and bad. At the organizational level, we find the tools that we need in the programs offered in chapters and through SinC National.

Here at SinC National, the Education Committee has been hard at work looking at ways to support you in achieving your career goals. In 2012, SinC will team again with the Writers' Police Academy to offer members the opportunity to attend WPA at a discounted registration fee. At Bouchercon 2012, in Cleveland, SinC into Great Writing will feature award-winning and critically-acclaimed writer Nancy Pickard as our workshop leader. And be sure to see Jim Huang's article about SinC authors "giving back" by volunteering.

Look for more announcements about educational opportunities in the coming months. This is going to be a great year, and SinC will be there with you all the way.

—Frankie Bailey



Editor's Note

by Molly Weston

What a wonderful year for SinC—25 years for an organization sounds so much more venerable than for a person!

There are many great articles in this issue and I hope you'll read each one with care. If you weren't able to attend SinC into Great Writing 2011, you can see highlights online. Chapters are reporting exciting events for celebrating our 25th anniversary. In "Beth's Bits," Beth Wasson gives information about our Malice Domestic breakfast, an update on our newly revised website, and more.

I'm delighted that Dorothy Francis submitted the third in a series of "how-to" articles from SinC members and that Debra H. Goldstein will begin reporting on the "We Love Libraries" program.

Don't miss Mary Boone's call for volunteers for the American Library Association's Anaheim meeting in June and Barbara Fister's report on our important monitoring program. Former SinC presidents, aka Goddesses, have contributed some of their "aha"

moments. These will appear throughout 2012.

Leslie Budewitz continues her efforts to help you keep within the law as you write fiction and Katherine Ramsland foregoes the criminal mind in this issue to offer suggestions for fostering creativity.

As usual, our conference and contest details are as complete as possible. Please email me whenever you have information about something not listed. Remember our deadlines are a month and a half before issue date.

For the first time in a long while, we have nearly two pages of listings for *The Docket*. Please read instructions for submitting—and remember to submit your entry as soon as you receive notice of publication. *The Docket* will be available to the public on the SinC website. I encourage all SinC members to post new publications. It's an excellent announcement to the reading public!

The online version of *inSinC* will contain live links to referenced websites. This should make it easier for you to visit them in con-

junction with the article you are reading. Just don't forget to come back to *inSinC* when you're done!

Here's wishing each of you a happy spring filled with great writing and reading!

—Molly



Chapter Highlights

Sisters in Crime/LA

www.SistersInCrimeLA.com

The year 2012 began with a new Board of Directors and a pledge to build on past accomplishments. Our February speaker discussed how to weave paranormal elements into mysteries. In March, a panel of award-winning short fiction writers will answer questions targeting those who plan to submit to our upcoming anthology, *Last Exit to Murder*.

In April we will again sponsor a booth at the annual *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books, an event that typically draws 150,000 book lovers. Our booth provides signing slots for 50 of our published authors.

We continue to have an active speakers' bureau that arranges events at libraries and other venues for our authors. In December, more than 80 chapter members attended our holiday party, a meeting that historically profiles our pre-published authors. This year the event also celebrated Sisters in Crime's 25th anniversary with a spectacular cake.

Desert Sleuths

www.DesertSleuths.com

On December 3, the Desert Sleuths Chapter hosted a SinC 25th anniversary party for more than 60 members and guests at the Poisoned Pen bookstore in Scottsdale, Arizona. The event began with a panel of Desert Sleuth authors moderated by chapter president Roni Olson. Speaking about their works were authors Kris Neri, Clark Lohr and Deborah J. Ledford.

After the panel, guests found tables groaning with food on the patio, including frosted cookies specially cut in the shape of "SinC." This is one of a series of events Desert Sleuths is hosting throughout the year across Arizona to publicize the anniversary and showcase the organization.

Desert Sleuths panel—Roni Olson, Kris Neri, Clark Lohr, and Deborah J. Ledford—at 25th anniversary celebration at Poisoned Pen Bookstore.

New SinC Chapter, Tucson SinC

A few fiction writers are forming a new chapter in Southern Arizona. They held an informational gathering at the Clues Unlimited bookstore in Tucson in mid-January which was well attended by many enthusiastic mystery lovers and SinC members. The group held their first chapter meeting on February 18. Guest speakers were mystery author Susan Cummings Miller, who writes the Frankie MacFarlane geology mysteries, and Eddie Resner, state commander of the Arizona Rangers.

The new chapter calls itself Tucson Sisters in Crime, with the tagline: Murder, Mayhem and Mystery in the Old Pueblo. Contact them at tucsonsincrime@gmail.com.

Murder We Write (NC)

www.MurderWeWrite.com

The chapter will sponsor a series of free events of interest to writers and readers in the Triad (Greensboro, High Point, Winston-Salem NC) area. All events will be on Sunday afternoons from 2–4.

March 11—"How to Market Your Book and Take Advantage of Today's Technology." For all writers. Laptops optional. High Point Public Library.

April 8—"Forensics: What Mystery Writers Must Know." Pennybyrne Conference Room, 109 Penny Road, Jamestown.

May 20—"Crime Readers Rap." Readers and writers of mystery discuss favorite authors and titles. High Point Public Library.

The Guppies

www.sinc-guppies.org

In collecting titles of chapter members' Agatha-eligible works, we realized how far the Guppies have come from our humble beginnings. Elizabeth Zelvin compiled impressive figures from the reports for this year.

In 2000, Guppies had two publications; in 2001 and 2002, none. In 2003, two. In 2004 through 2007, still only a handful. Four years later, even with the publishing industry fiddling while it burns, look below at what we've accomplished collectively.

- Traditionally published
19 non-first novels
14 first novels
59 short stories,
4 works of mystery-related nonfiction.
- Independently published
15 non-first novels
7 first novels
11 short stories/novellas.
Other than the first-novelists, only one novelist and two short story writers were never traditionally published.
- The total
129 publications in 2011.
Almost 75 percent (96) were traditionally published.

Go, Guppies!



Beth's Bits

by Beth Wasson

It's March, and the Sisters in Crime renewal period is over. If you missed it don't fret. You may still log in to and renew on the website or send your \$35/\$40 check to: Sisters in Crime, PO Box 442124, Lawrence KS 66044.

Coming to Malice Domestic?

We will be looking for you at the SinC Annual Malice Breakfast on Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 7:30 AM. The breakfast will be held at the conference hotel and the room name will be sent to you at a later date and will be posted to the website. We apologize for the early start time but we don't want to interfere with the Malice panels. Join the gang for coffee, a full plated breakfast and conversation by signing up online and paying \$20 by MC/Visa. The price for non-members is \$30 and the deadline to make your reservation is Wednesday, April 25, 2012, if you pay on the site. To make your reservation by mail the deadline is Wednesday, April 11, 2012. Please send your check to SinC, PO Box 442124, Lawrence KS 66044 to arrive on or before April 11, 2012. Your name will be on the reservation list at the door. Tickets will not be sent but if you include your e-mail address you will receive a receipt by e-mail.

Are you a SinC Author?

Do you need help updating your membership profile on the website? Contact me by e-mail at SistersInCrime@juno.com for help.

Don't forget

Sign up for SinC into Great Writing 2012! It is only \$50 for members and you will be treated to an afternoon and evening of writing craft presented by Nancy Pickard and other writing professionals.

Chapters

Do you need SinC banners, membership brochures, lapel pins or bookmarks? Please contact me at SistersInCrime.org. The materials are free to the chapter and SinC pays the shipping and handling.

SinC's Technology

Did you ever wonder how SinC manages more than 3,000 members worldwide, sends more than 150,000 informative and educational e-mails a year, participates in hundreds of book events around the country, has more than 48 SinC Chapters, and is planning new ways to serve its members? If so, read on.

In 2009, the SinC Board of Directors voted to partner with a data management company called Affiniscap. The database and all other website content was converted and uploaded to Affiniscap's platform on the Internet. Affiniscap is based in Austin TX and is a highly rated 21st century company within the data management community. The 10-year old company has more than 900 clients.

A large data management company allows SinC to take advantage of their resources. SinC purchased Affiniscap's least expensive platform, "24/7," in 2009 which brought us into the 21st century with Internet access and management at all times. It also brought us the ability to add content to our website without using HTML language. The platform also included a module to send e-blasts to our members at any time.

I'm sure all of you benefit from SinC Links and Ebook SinC Links every month. We also are able to post and send *inSinC* digitally to more than 90% of our members each quarter. This move has been a savings in time and money for the organization. SinC still prints a paper *inSinC* for those who don't want it by e-mail. SinC sends more than 150,000 e-mails to its members each year. We are not a small organization. We cast a large net in the mystery world and we've seen an increase in membership from all over the world.

The organization was happy with 24/7, but it was important to keep moving forward and in SinC's 25th year, the Board of Directors voted to change to a new platform within Affiniscap "360," which brought new technology and a framework to institute new

ideas and to further automate all the current programs and projects. 360 gives us the ability to do just about anything within our scope. This platform change started September 15, 2011 and went "live" in November.

I hope most of you have noticed the enhanced Membership Profiles which you view when you log in with your username and password. You may access your Membership Profile at any time to renew your membership, check to see if there will be a SinC Breakfast at Malice Domestic, and pay for discounted workshops and events which are part of your membership with SinC.

One of the other features is the "real time" updates that take place on the website. Your membership information has always updated in real time but our SinC Author Lists, which are in a search feature, available to anyone to search, did not update in real time. We needed to download twice monthly to keep them current. The beauty of this is, SinC authors can go into their Membership Profile, update their most current title, change their website's URL, or upload a new picture and it will be available, in real time, to thousands of website visitors, librarians, and book buyers.

What's next?

Along with our ongoing publications, *Publishers Summit Reports*, and online education (see 2 hours of video from SinC into Great Writing! online now) we are working on a redesign which would improve our home page, add new navigation features, and allow us have interactive maps on the site.

Stay tuned—and SinC into a Good Mystery.

Courtesy Lawrence Magazine





Promote or Perish

by Dorothy Francis

This past summer when, entry fee in hand, I applied for a vendor's space at my local area art fair where I had sold my books for years, I received a cool reception. New officers (very young) had been elected to the art fair board. I recognized none of them. They did not recognize me. More surprises were in store. A new name had been chosen for the Central Iowa Arts Fair; it was now known as the Linn Creek Arts Festival. When I asked for a vendor's entry blank, a new board member said, "What category do you plan to enter?"

"Books," I replied. The lady looked nonplussed.

"We are considering inviting only painters, potters, sculptors, jewelry makers—those kinds of artists this year," she said.

Staying calm

Heeding my mother's sage advice about not spitting into the wind by expressing my true feelings of outrage, I replied, "I'll be very disappointed not to be included." The outcome of our conversation was that I was, reluctantly, accepted as a vendor in the Linn Creek Arts Festival. Additionally, the board invited all area authors to join a newly created division at the festival titled the Author's Alley—this at a special reduced vendor's rate.

I certainly hadn't expected this. Thirteen local authors signed up and paid our fees. Surprise! I didn't know there were 12 others in the area and I enjoyed meeting them. Not only did the board offer us reduced vendor rates, they pro-

vided our display tables, chairs, and tents. What a deal. I sold more books that day than at any previous art fair. Perhaps adding the word festival in the title helped

What it means

If your local art fair/festival doesn't include authors, approach the board, either singly or in a group and ask to be included. Point out that this will not only give them more vendor fees, but that it will also give their art fair/festival a new dimension of interest that will attract more attendees. Asking may be all it takes to get authors included in this and future art fairs.

Make it work

Once you've been included, use your time and space to your advantage. I've found that simply sitting behind my book display doesn't create many sales. My advice? Work the crowd. Don't let people walk by your table giving your books only a glance. Stand. Approach anyone looking in your direction with a smile and a bookmark. You remembered to bring bookmarks, right?

Then ask, "Do you like to read mysteries?" If the person says yes, lead him closer to your display and perhaps place a copy of your latest book in his hand. Then back off and give him time to read the dust jacket and look at your other books while you greet the next person looking your way. No hard sell approach, please.

You won't always get a positive response to your do-you-like-to-read-mysteries question.



You may get excuses such as don't have time, read only non-fiction, haven't opened a book in years. Whatever the reason, be sympathetic, smile, and thank the person for taking a look at your display. Then look on to the next person.

Having a booth is work. The day may be hot or windy or rainy—but stay on your feet and keep smiling. By the end of the day you'll have fewer books on your table and more money in your pocket.

Good luck.

Dorothy Francis lives and writes in Marshalltown IA and the Florida Keys. A winner of the Derringer Award, her novels include Killer in Control and Daiquiri Murder, both from Five Star.



Sisters celebrate local collaborations

by Jim Huang

Mark your calendars! On Saturday, April 21, SinC authors will honor local booksellers and libraries from 10:00 until 4:00 across the US and Canada.

For 25 years, booksellers and librarians have helped women writing crime fiction find their audience. In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of Sisters in Crime, SinC writers will recognize booksellers and librarians by spending a day in their institutions, shadowing, observing, and helping out.

For six hours, SinC members will observe and assist librarians and booksellers in every way they're asked—shelving books, pulling holds

and checking in books, helping browsers and making recommendations.

Throughout the day, volunteer authors and the librarians and booksellers with whom they are working, will report their observations. They will Tweet, Facebook, and blog about the experience—before, during, and after the event. SinC authors will share what they learn about what bookstores and libraries bring to their communities as they assist readers, select books, provide programming, and match services to their patrons.

SinC authors understand how these vital local institutions support local writers, and they

recognize that in helping readers find the right books, booksellers and librarians solve mysteries every day.

SinC members who aren't volunteering can be active too. Check the website to see if a SinC volunteer will be working in your community. If so, drop by and support the event. If not, stop by and express your appreciation for what the store or library does.

For more information about the program, including details for authors who are interested in participating, please visit www.SistersSolveMysteries.com.

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Amazon pays a larger percentage on books priced at \$2.99 and more. Libby ended her session with a great Q&A which can be heard in its entirety in her video segment.

The business side

Cathy Pickens and bookseller/publisher Jim Huang followed with a lively conversation about the business side of publishing. An indefatigable advocate of the printed book, Jim made the important point that authors don't have to choose between The Big Six and self-publishing—small publishing houses offer a third way, as long as they are represented in the Ingram distribution system. What authors need to know in choosing a smaller publisher is its “access to market.” This means that terms of sale are critical, and the two most important terms are discount and returnability. During the Q & A session, Cathy and Jim discussed how readers can buy e-books at their favorite independent bookstore, the different arrangements that libraries use to lend e-books, and what e-book format is likely to become industry standard.

E-publishing your backlist

Ellen Hart spoke next, drawing on her decision to convert her large backlist of Jane Lawless titles into e-books, and giving a practical outline of the steps involved.

- First, if you don't have the e-rights to your backlist from the original publisher, you must get them reverted.
- The second task is to obtain an electronic file of the book, which for older titles usually involves scanning.
- Cover design and obtaining an ISBN are also critical.

Ellen concluded with a discussion on metadata, digital rights management (DRM), and pricing. For published authors with a backlist of out-of-print titles, she said, e-publishing can result in new life—and new money—as well as new readers.

How to e-publish

In “Look Ma, I've Been Kindled!” Marcia Talley offered an illustrated step-by-step tutorial on creating a clean, professional-looking e-file of your novel in Word and uploading it seamlessly into Kindle and

Nook. Download Talley's handout, full of tips and tricks, here at tinyurl.com/18r.

Gardiner reveals her path

In her entertaining after-dinner talk, award-winning author Meg Gardiner drew from her blog, “Lying for a Living,” to speak to aspiring authors about craft. Gardiner writes a series featuring Santa Barbara attorney Evan Delaney, as well as the Jo Beckett series about a forensic psychiatrist. The series have two things in common—a compelling main character and a “big idea.” Gardiner's books were published worldwide, but failed to attract a US publisher until Stephen King wrote an article praising her first novel, *China Lake*, in *Entertainment Weekly*. After that, publishers practically beat down her door.

Planning is important, she says, as well as brainstorming, writing (and rewriting!), and using trustworthy people as sounding boards. Will you be “left behind in the e-book rapture?” Gardiner asked. E-books are not going to go away and, if you're not there yet, it's not too late. Focus on writing the best book you can.

Marketing

The evening concluded with “Brazen Hussies Present: A Colloquium on Marketing” featuring three industry pros, all offering non-traditional models for success—Libby Jordan, marketing consultant for Open Road Media; Gina Panettieri, president and executive editor of Talcott Notch Literary Services; and Debbi Mack, an independently-published author whose book had made the *New York Times* e-book bestseller list. Harking back to David Wilk's presentation at the start of the workshop, all three emphasized the importance of using technology to build personal relationships with readers. Although blogs have fallen somewhat out of favor, Facebook, Twitter, and interactive websites seem to be the way to go. The key, all speakers concurred, is finding a balance between the time dedicated to your writing and to market-focused relationship-building.

View the workshop videos in their entirety at <http://tinyurl.com/7zcpcll>.

SinC into Great Writing 2012



Sisters in Crime will present SinC into Great Writing IV on Wednesday, October 3, in Cleveland OH. Hone your craft with tips and insight from leaders in the field of crime fiction including former SinC president Nancy Pickard. Nancy is the award-winning author of 18 popular and critically-acclaimed novels including *The Scent of Rain and Lightning* and *The Virgin of Small Plains*. The workshop takes place the day before Bouchercon. The cost is only \$50 for SinC members. Register online now at tinyurl.com/7syswpj.

Links at a glance

David Wilks, “Trends in Publishing”
<http://tinyurl.com/7pa6cm2>

Libby Fischer Hellmann
“To E or Not to E”
<http://tinyurl.com/7m9yvht>

Cathy Pickens & Jim Huang
“The Business Side”
<http://tinyurl.com/8859ucc>

Ellen Hart, “e-Publishing 101”
<http://tinyurl.com/7lbomr4>

Marcia Talley
“Look Ma, I've Been Kindled!”
<http://tinyurl.com/86u8soc>
<http://tinyurl.com/18r> (handouts)

Meg Gardiner, “Lying for a Living”
<http://tinyurl.com/856ceep>

Libby Jordan, Gina Panettieri, & Debbi Mack
“Brazen Hussies on Marketing”
<http://tinyurl.com/793banl>



SinC Loves Libraries!

by Debra H. Goldstein

Lawton, Oklahoma's Lawton Public Library celebrated being the September Sisters in Crime "We Love Libraries" winner by hosting a reception and panel discussion featuring Carolyn G. Hart and Eve K. Sandstrom (aka JoAnna Carl) on December 13, 2011. In addition to Hart and Carl speaking about their careers and respective new books, *Dead by Midnight* and *The Chocolate Castle Clue*, the two former SinC presidents, aka "Goddesses," presented Lawton Library with a \$1000 SinC "We Love Libraries!" check. The library also received a \$250 grant commemorating SinC's 25th anniversary.

The "Book Talk & Book Signing" which was attended by 54 people, was presented as part of the library's monthly "Lunch & Learn Program." According to the *Lawton-Constitution* and a public service announcement, the event was the first time that "two of the state's best known mystery writers" made a joint appearance in Lawton.

Lawton Public Library Circulation Coordinator Dory Thomas, in a December 15, 2011 letter, reported that "everyone had a wonderful time with Eve Sandstrom and Carolyn Hart." Thomas further expressed appreciation that the SinC "We Love Libraries" grant allowed the library to purchase a new collection of 57 hard-back and audio titles.

SinC's "We Love Libraries" project makes a monthly award of \$1000 to a public library for use in expanding the library's book collection. It cannot be used for general operating expenses. Libraries in the United States are invited to be part of a random monthly drawing by going to the www.SistersInCrime.org website to submit an entry form and picture of one or more of their staff posing with three of the library's books that were written by members of SinC. Following selection of each winner, awards are presented at different types of events arranged by the libraries and SinC members.

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.



SinC at ALA-Anaheim

by Mary Boone



Investing in America's Libraries

Sisters in Crime will host a booth in the Exhibit Hall at the 2012 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Anaheim CA. Exhibit dates are Friday, June 22 for the opening reception through Monday, June 25. Author and librarian SinC members who live in or near Anaheim or who may be traveling to the area during the conference dates are invited to help represent SinC at this important conference. Several people are needed each day to help staff the booth. A local contact volunteer is also needed to receive membership handouts and other things that SinC will send to Anaheim for the conference.

SinC pays registration for all volunteers, and authors may, if they choose, sign and give away books while in the booth. Author members, if you are unable to attend ALA, would you consider sending one signed book to be given away in daily raffles held in the SinC booth during the convention? Librarians who win these raffles generally put the books into their library's collections. It would be a crime to miss out on these opportunities to connect with the people who put members' books into readers' hands every day.

I hope to see you in Anaheim! For more information, contact Mary Boone, Library Liaison at macboone@me.com.

Measuring change by tracking reviews

by Barbara Fister

When the founders of Sisters in Crime gathered to organize for change 25 years ago, one of the first projects launched was to examine how much review coverage women mystery authors received—and to make some noise if women weren't getting their fair share. Thus the Monitoring Project was born.

As Sara Paretsky recalled in her speech at the SinC birthday breakfast at Bouchercon in St. Louis, male authors at the time were getting seven times as many reviews as women. "We thought, 'Men might write twice as well as women, but we don't think they write seven times better,'" she joked. The light the monitoring project shed on inequality had an immediate impact. Though a letter of concern the group sent to the influential *New York Times Book Review* was never acknowledged, within two years the percentage of its mystery reviews devoted to books by women rose from seven to 25 percent.

Today's numbers

Our most recent numbers for 2011 show further improvement. This year, the four major pre-publication review sources had the highest percentage of women's mysteries reviewed on record, with both *Library Journal* and *Kirkus* devoting more than half of their mystery reviews to books by women and *Publishers Weekly* coming close (48%). As has been the case for many years, *Booklist* trailed, but its percentage of mysteries by women reviewed has been climbing over the past three years, with women's mysteries now claiming a 41 percent share. Genre-focused publications varied: 38 percent of reviews in *Deadly Pleasures* were of mysteries by women, whereas *RT Reviews* continued to favor women authors, with 69 percent of the mysteries reviewed.

Newspapers, which review far fewer mysteries than either pre-publication book

review sources or genre-focused publications, are more likely to favor male writers. The local newspapers monitored saw a slight increase overall in reviews of mysteries by women to 40 percent, with the *Houston Chronicle* reviewing 21 mysteries by women compared to only 17 by men. National newspapers were less generous to women writers. Slightly over a third of mysteries reviewed in the *New York Times Book Review* in 2011 were by women. The *Washington Post* and Toronto's *Globe and Mail* were slightly higher, at 36 and 39 percent respectively. The lowest figures were for the *Wall Street Journal*, which reviewed only six mysteries by women compared to 34 by male authors.

Expanding our project

The Monitoring Project, in recognition of shrinking newspaper subscriptions and dwindling review space, is beginning to sample born-digital review media. This year, we tallied more than 700 mystery reviews published in seven US-based blogs with a mystery focus written by readers for readers. In aggregate, these blogs were remarkably even-handed, with 51 percent of the reviews covering mysteries by women. In the coming year we will add digital review sources such as "Reviewing the Evidence" and "I Love a Mystery Newsletter" to our monitoring efforts.

Though there are no figures available of the percentage of all mysteries published broken down by sex of the author, 54 percent of adult fiction submitted for Edgar award consideration in 2011 was by women, compared to 38 percent when the Monitoring Project began. While male authors dominated submissions for the category for best mystery, female authors dominated submissions for best paperback original.

It's difficult to estimate the influence of blog reviews compared to national news media,



Photo by Mark Coggins

but it's striking that traditional newspapers continue to favor male authors published traditionally and most often in hardcover—and that online media review a much wider variety of mysteries published in different ways, reflecting more accurately the true diversity of the genre at a time of great change.

To volunteer to be a review monitor, contact me at bfister@hickorytech.net.

Barbara Fister is a librarian in Minnesota, author of the *Anni Koskinen* series, and a member of the SinC Board of Directors.

Remembering...

The Los Angeles chapter is mourning the sudden death of former president Diana James who passed away January 10th of a pulmonary embolism. Diana was a cheerful warrior for the cause who left an indelible mark of excellence on everything she touched. Her passing is a huge loss to the LA mystery community.



Goddess “Aha!” Moments

Goddess: A woman who is adored or idealized. SinC Goddess: A former SinC president.

As part the celebratiion of SinC’s 25th birthday year, SinC president, Frankie Bailey, suggested asking “each of the past SinC presidents to share the most important thing she has learned in the past quarter century about writers/writing.” Several of these mostly short “aha!” moments, will appear in each 2012 inSinC issue.

What I’ve learned:

- That when women put their energy, talent, and commitment towards a common goal, they cannot lose.
- That every time I think I know the market, it changes and I have to relearn it.
- That a mystery writer is a person who has to tell a story—no matter where it leads.
- That good writing is easy to recognize but difficult to define.
- That mystery writers are some of the kindest, most generous people I know. And that it’s probably because we get our demons out on the page.

—Libby Fischer Hellmann

A co-worker of my son’s sold her first novel—a fantasy novel, very different from what I write and from what I read. He sent me an autographed copy, and I wrote her a short note of congratulations. I began with, “You’ve created a world...”

Aha! I realized that “creating a world” was my ambition, too. She had created a fantasy world, but all writers—whatever their genre—want to create their own world, one that enthralls the reader.

By the way, my son’s former co-worker is named Mercedes Lackey.

—Eve Sandstrom, aka Joanna Carl

I’ve learned a lot in the past 25 years:

1. The rise of e-books—what a fantastic ride that’s just starting.
 - If you don’t know how to format, learn.
 - If you haven’t given away your digital rights, learn.
 - If you have given away your digital rights, make sure your agent/lawyer gets you the best deal.
2. With e-books—editing/research is even more important. People think just because it’s on CSI it’s real! Have your characters make a comment about what is true and what is TV truth. Now lawyers and judges are asking if jurors watch TV crime shows.
3. With a print-published book—you still need to make sure your research is above and beyond; and, make sure the print reader knows the difference between TV truth and the real thing.
4. Mystery writers are the most giving, friendly group I’ve ever encountered.
5. I’ve been teaching creative writing and tell my students to write a brilliant book—with compelling characters, fantastic dialogue and description that mean something.

One thing has not changed—writing is a lonely, somewhat thankless job—as a writer I put my heart/soul/ blood, sweat, and tears into every book I write. And, yes, it hurts when a reviewer gives a nasty review and

admits: She hated the genre, he got your characters mixed up with someone else’s, and she gave away your brilliant twist. But what’s a writer to do? Write on for another 25 years—and beyond!

—Elaine Raco Chase

The most important thing I’ve learned about writing in the past 25 years (aside from the inestimable value of my sisters, who come through over and over in so many ways, and who make me delighted to “pay it forward”) is the importance of taking chances.

- Taking chances on writing male characters in police procedurals.
- Taking chances on writing true crime.
- Taking chances on editing and publishing short story collections.
- And now, taking chances on collaborating on memoirs. Who knew?

—Kate Flora

Take care of your body. It’s so much harder to write without it.

—Sue Dunlap

When you have two things in a sentence joined by “and,” eliminate the weaker of the two. Most of the time that strengthens what you are saying.

—Patricia Sprinkle

Law & Fiction: Getting Facts Straight

by Leslie Budewitz

Can school authorities search students' lockers?

Yes. In *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, (1985), the Supreme Court upheld a warrantless search of a student's purse. The Court held that the Fourth Amendment does apply to students, who have a legitimate expectation of privacy, but also acknowledged the interests of schools in maintaining a safe learning place. To balance the interests involved, it established a "reasonable suspicion" standard, less than probable cause. That is, do school administrators have reliable knowledge that shows a "fair probability" or "moderate chance" of discovering evidence of a crime or violation of school rules? Search measures must be "reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction."

A teacher reported that T.L.O. was smoking in the bathroom, in violation of school rules; T.L.O. vehemently denied it. The Court found that the vice principal had reasonable grounds to search T.L.O.'s purse for cigarettes. He immediately spotted rolling papers, giving him reasonable suspicion to search more thoroughly. He then found marijuana, a pipe, several empty plastic bags, a substantial number of one-dollar bills, an index card listing students who owed T. L. O. money, and two letters implicating her in marijuana dealing. He called her mother and police. She confessed to dealing. Delinquency charges were brought. She challenged the legality of the search and confession and the admissibility of the evidence as "fruit of the poisonous tree," but lost.

The same principles apply to locker searches. Unlike purses and backpacks, though, lockers are school property; some argue that students therefore have a

reduced expectation of privacy in them. Some school districts require schools to give students written notice that lockers may be searched on reasonable grounds; others have eliminated lockers. While random searches violate the T.L.O. principles, searches following a "hit" by a drug-sniffing dog are probably valid. Further, a search based on a reliable report that a student brought a gun to school will also be upheld, if it meets the "reasonable grounds" test. Even then, though, the methods and scope must be limited: Administrators can't search for a rifle in a pencil case.

What else?

What other situations might be used, successfully or otherwise, to justify a search of a student's locker or backpack? School staff have grounds to suspect a student of drug use or sales in several instances:

- The student is seen making repetitive trips to his or her locker, then clustering with small groups of students not known to be his friends.
- There are reports that another student has contraband—alcohol, drugs, knives, guns—at school.
- There are reports that a student possesses stolen items or evidence of other crimes at school.
- There is gang activity or violence between students.
- There is a health emergency.
- There is an immediate threat to health and safety, such as reports that students plan a shooting or to set off a bomb at school.

Methods and scope are key to a recent decision that offers considerable story potential. In *Safford Unified School District v. Redding* (2009), the Supreme



Court invalidated an underwear search of a middle-schooler suspected of possessing forbidden prescription pain relievers. Administrators had grounds justifying a search of her locker and backpack—to which she consented—but went too far in searching her underwear. Why? No evidence suggested that the pills presented a danger or that they were in her underwear, making the search "excessively intrusive." The search violated the girl's Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable searches.

School search law and policy has changed a lot in recent years in response to competing concerns about privacy, on the one hand, and over school shootings, bullying, and other violence, on the other. State and local variations abound. Even before *Redding*, some states and school districts specifically prohibited school officials from conducting strip or body cavity searches. Washington State mandates a search where there are reasonable grounds to believe a student illegally possesses a gun. You can create local rules or procedures to suit your story, keeping in mind the overriding constitutional principles.

—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) was published in October 2011. For more help getting the law right in your stories, visit her website, www.LawAndFiction.com.

Priming your brainstorm

by Katherine Ramsland, PhD



You know the feeling: You're at an impasse with a character or plot point and you can't seem to dissolve it. You're frustrated, perhaps desperate. It's going nowhere, but you're on a deadline. You've run out of ways to spur your muse.

Consider this

Don't work so hard. The less you push, the better your chances of getting what you need. Your brain requires some space to do its best work.

Isaac Asimov realized this. Whenever he experienced writer's block, he knew it was useless to force the issue. So, he'd go to a movie. He let his subconscious process the material in its own way. Once he returned, he invariably had new ideas.

Many writers, inventors, scientists, artists, and mathematicians have discovered the same thing. The solution arrives—aha!—seemingly from nowhere. But they seem so random. Those people just got lucky.

The truth is that you—any of you—can harness your resources to produce them. According to recent neuroscience research, with a little work you can prime your brain for “aha! moments,” and you can get them on a regular basis. They're a direct result of balancing work and play.

I call them “snaps,” because the flash of genius that really counts is more than just a shift of consciousness or new perspective. Snaps are insights plus momentum—they snap you toward action. They make

you drop everything and run to your desk (or naked into the streets, like Archimedes) and even get you out of bed. Sound exciting?

What shoves a snap insight from the tip-of-the-tongue to the top-of-the-mind is the combining and triggering of certain stimuli. For example, you're doing a crossword puzzle. You stall. But at some point prior to this, you had read an article or walked through a market that contained the correct answer. You'd packed stuff into your brain during unrelated activities that can now converge, and bang! You have the answer. The same thing can happen for writing blocks.

So, first, you work: You do your research. Be diverse. Gather lots of different types of data. Immerse in your field of expertise, but also read something new to you. This idea stew forms your knowledge base.

Now, for the fun! Read through the material on which you're blocked and then go do something else. Relaxing your left brain releases your eager right brain to reshape the data into new patterns.

So, stop clenching. Give your brain room to play. Then, when you least expect it, an idea will pop.

“Snap” examples

Jonas Salk was working on a cure for polio in a dark basement in Pittsburgh. He failed time and again, so he traveled to Italy to wander in a monastery. There, he experienced a rush of ideas, including the one that resulted in the polio vaccine.

Friedrich Nietzsche was out for a walk in the mountains when his famous Zarathustra tale tumbled forth.

Martin Cooper was watching Star Trek when he first envisioned the cell phone.

Art Fry, an employee of 3M, had spotted a weak type of glue in the course of his work, but only when he was singing in church did he see how to use it. He wanted a bookmark that would stay in place without damaging the hymnal. Snap! The weak glue. Fry then invented the Post-it note.

Poet John Keats got dressed in his best clothes whenever he felt blocked and it helped him reconnect with his muse.

Math professor Darren Crowdy let his mind wander while listening to a lecture and he suddenly “saw” the solution to a long-unsolved math puzzle.

J. K. Rowling was on a stalled train pondering the plot of an adult novel when she snapped on a child wizard. “I simply sat and thought, for four (delayed) hours,” she said, “and all the details bubbled up in my brain.”

Get started

Start now to learn your rhythms for when to stop fussing and go play. Walk, take a shower, throw a stick for your dog: Do something that relaxes the cognitive load. This gives your brain the energy it needs to merge data you've supplied and switch on your inner light bulb.

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

Sleuthfest

Lake Buena Vista FL • Mar. 1–4

“Put the Magic Back in Your Writing” features guests of honor Charlaine Harris and Jeffrey Deaver, with Chris Grabenstein as Thursday spotlight speaker. See www.sleuthfest.com.

Public Library Association National Conference (PLA)

Philadelphia PA • Mar. 14–16

Left Coast Crime

Sacramento CA • Mar. 29–April 1

“Mining for Murder” will feature guests of honor John Lescroart and Jacqueline Winspear, toastmaster Harley Jane Kozak, and fan guest of honor Noemi Levine. Details can be found at www.leftcoastcrime.org/2012.

Malice Domestic 24

Bethesda MD • April 27–29

The “fun fan” convention saluting the traditional mystery will convene at the Hyatt Regency. Honorees include Jan Burke as guest of honor, Dana Cameron as toastmaster, Simon Brett for lifetime achievement, and Ruth Sickafus as fan guest of honor. Lee Goldberg will receive the Poirot award, and Malice will remember Tony Hillerman. Elizabeth Peters will receive the Amelia award. Visit www.MaliceDomestic.org.

Crimefest

Bristol UK • May 24–27

The international crime fiction convention “where the pen is bloodier than the sword” will celebrate with featured guest authors Lee Child, Sue Grafton, Rosland & Hellbroth and toastmaster Jeffery Deaver. P.D. James has confirmed her attendance. More details are at www.crimefest.com.

American Library Association Annual Conference (ALA)

Anaheim CA • June 22–25, 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; and, top agents and editors will be on hand. Full details are at www.thrillerfest.com.

Killer Nashville

Nashville TN • August 24–26

C. J. Box and Peter Straub will headline as guests of honor at the conference for thriller, suspense, and mystery writers—and fans. More information is available at www.killernashville.com.

Bloody Scotland

Stirling Scotland • September 14–16

The festival will showcase Scottish crime writing and place it in an international context. Details will continue to emerge at www.houseinfloridaforsale.co.uk/ and on Twitter @[bloodyscotland](https://twitter.com/bloodyscotland).

SinC into Great Writing

Cleveland OH • October 3

Bouchercon

Cleveland OH • October 4–7

Crime fiction rocks—and the opening ceremony takes place at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Guests of honor 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. More information will come at www.bouchercon2012.com.

Magna cum Murder

Muncie IN • October 26–28, 2012

Full details for the 18th “house party with your best friends” were not available at press time. See www.magnacummurder.com.

2013

Left Coast Crime

Colorado Springs CO • Mar. 21–24

The website for “The Last Resort” is currently under construction. Check for updates at www.leftcoastcrime.org/2013

Malice Domestic 25

Bethesda MD • May 3–5

California Crime Writers Conference

TBA • June

LA-SinC and Southern Chapter of Mystery Writers of America co-sponsor this biennial event. More details to come.

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.

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.

2015

Bouchercon 2015

Raleigh NC • October 8–15

Plans are underway for “Murder Under the Oaks.” Updates will be available at Bouchercon2015.org and on Twitter @[Bcon2015](https://twitter.com/Bcon2015).

Conferences & Workshops

Please send all conference and workshop information, including those sponsored by SinC chapters, to Molly Weston at 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 June issue is April 15.

It's fitting that *inSinC's* first issue of our 25th year of Sisters in Crime, "The Docket" information was gathered directly from authors via our website. Please note that you control the information that appears in The Docket. Entries will be downloaded from the website at the end of the day of deadline and sent to me exactly as you have entered them.

As is the case with any new venture, we had a few challenges with the new system, but, on the whole, things went smoothly. Some of the challenges stem from things you may not have known; many are the result of the new evolution to e-books; still others were that a field's name was confusing.

Listed below are some clarifications—we may find more challenges as time goes by, but please stick with us!

- Submit entries within six months of publication, nomination, or award.
- Use lower case for book titles; they will be converted to italics.
- Put quotations around short story titles.
- Enter anthology titles (short story or non-fiction) only if you are the editor.
- 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." (Note: This field may change with the industry's evolution.)
- Indicate awards and award nominations for this title only.
- Enter the name you want shown as author as you want it shown. For pseudonyms, if you want your real name shown, enter "Pseudonym aka Real Name" in the "Pen Name or Pseudonym" field.
- Do not use acronyms for 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.

This Docket has the most titles we've seen recently. Congratulations to everyone!

Kathryn J. Bain, *Breathless*, White Rose Publishing, January

Gail M Baugniet, *For Every Action There Are Consequences*, CreateSpace, Amazon, Smashwords, April

Ruth L. Beall, *Demon*, Xlibris, September 2011

Adeline Bolton, *A Deadly Greed*, BookLocker.com, December 2011

Lisa Brackmann, *Getaway*, Soho Press, May

Warren Bull, *Heartland*, Avignon Press, December 2011; "The Crime of Edward Palmer" in *Somewhere in Crime*, Revenge Press, December 2011; winner of *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine's* mysterious photograph contest for "Say Ahh."

Janice Cantore, *Accused*, Tyndale Publishers, February

Kait Carson, *Zoned for Murder*, Mako Graphics, December 2011

Erika Chase, *A Killer Read*, Berkley Prime Crime, April

Nancy J. Cohen, *Shear Murder*, Five Star, January

Sheila Connolly, *Fire Engine Dead*, March, "Dead Letters," February, Berkley Prime Crime eSpecial

James L. Conway, *Dead and Not So Buried*, Camel Press, February

Cindy Huefner Cromer, *Desperate Measures*, eTreasures Publishing, October 2011

Maddi Davidson, *Outsourcing Murder*, Createspace, December 2011

E. B. Davis, "Rock the Cradle" in *A Shaker of Margaritas: Cougars on the Prowl*, Mozark Press, Inc., November 2011

Patricia Driscoll, *Shedding Light on Murder*, Gale/Five Star, January

Peggy Dulle, *Saddle Up*, *Liza Wilcox Mystery* and *The River's Secret*, *A Get Away Diner Mystery*, CreateSpace, January

Carola Dunn, *Gone West*, Minotaur, January

Kaye George, "Henry, Gina, and the Gingerbread House" in *Grimm Tales*, John Kenyon, ed., Untreed Reads, December 2011

Lorhainne Eckhart, *The Choice*, Smashwords, August 2011; *The Forgotten Child*, Orangeberry Publishing, January

Melinda Elmore, *Blood on the Feather*, Dancing with Bear Publishing, September 2011

Helen Haught Fanick, *Moon Signs*, Create Space, Kindle, October 2011, quarter finalist for Amazon Breakthrough Novel Awards

Gerrie Ferris Finger, *The Ghost Ship*, July 2011; *Whispering*, December 2011, Crystal Skull Publishing

Amanda Flower, *Murder in a Basket*, Five Star/Gale, January

Dorothy Francis, *Daiquiri Dock Murder*, Five Star, March

Shelley Freydon, *Foul Play at the Fair*, Berkley Prime Crime, June

Susan Furlong-Bolliger, "Murder on the Ropes," Untreed Reads, November 2011; "The Detective and Mrs. O'Malley" in *Woman's World Magazine*, January

- Judith Geary, *Getorix: Games of the Underworld*, Ingalls Publishing Group, November 2011
- Rebecca Grace, "Shadows from the Past," The Wild Rose Press, March
- Denise M. Hartman, "Dying to Diet," September 2011, "Snow Slayer," December 2011, Amazon/ B&N/ Smashwords
- Beth Groundwater, *Wicked Eddies*, Midnight Ink, May
- Eileen Robertson Hamer, *Chicago Stories: West of Western*, Amazon Kindle, January
- Karen Harper, *Return to Grace*, Mira Books, March
- Michael F. Havelin, *Ben Bones and The Deadly Descendants*, Smashwords, November 2011
- Kathleen Heady's *The Gate House*, Whiskey Creek Press, May was a finalist for the EPIES award from the Electronically Published Internet Connection (EPIC).
- Judy Hogan, *Killer Frost*, Mainly Murder Press, September
- Michelle L. Johnson, *The Footloose Killer*, Koehler Books, April
- Kat Jorgensen, *Your Eight O'Clock Is Dead*, Maralan Press, October 2011
- Stacy Juba, *Dark Before Dawn*, Thunder Horse Press, November 2011
- Abigail Keam's *Death by Drowning* and *Death by A Honeybee* were finalists for USA Book News' Best Books of 2011.
- David E. Knop's *Mining Sacred Ground* was one of Killer Nashville Claymore's Top Ten.
- Barbara Fass Leavy, *The Fiction of Ruth Rendell: Ancient Tragedy and the Modern Family*, Poisoned Pen Press, September
- Jerri L. Ledford, *Biloxi Sunrise*; Kindle/Nook/ iBooks/Smashwords, October 2011
- Alice Lowecey, *Back in the Habit*, Midnight Ink, February
- Christopher J. Lynch, "The Loot," Kindle, Nook and "The Last Seduction," Amazon.com, December 2011
- Anne E. Macdonald, *Deadlines Are Murder*, Amazon.com, December 2011
- Morgan Mandel, *Forever Young: Blessing or Curse*, Smashwords, December 2011
- Nancy Martin, *No Way to Kill a Lady*, Obsidian, August
- Edith Maxwell, *Speaking of Murder*, Trestle Press, December 2011
- Mary Moody, *A Killing in Antiques*, Obsidian, July 2011
- Marie Moore, *Shore Excursion*, Camel Press, April
- Patricia L. Morin, *Crime Montage*, Top Publications, Ltd., March
- Pete Morin, *Diary of a Small Fish*, Amazon, October 2011
- Elizabeth Morris, *Late Stages: Pig Piles and Chasing Rainbows*, Publish America, April 2011
- Sandra Murphy, "Superstition," Untreed Reads, December 2011
- Sylvia A. Nash, "The Mystery Man" in *Christian Fiction Online Magazine*, February
- Kris Neri, *Magical Alienation*, Red Coyote Press, November 2011
- Janet Nodar, *Trumpet Field and Other Stories*, Kindle/Nook/Smashwords, December 2011
- Melanie O'Hara-Salyers, *The Traveling Tea Ladies Death in Dixie*, Lyons Legacy Publishing, June 2011
- Alan Orloff, *Deadly Campaign*, Midnight Ink; *Damned if You Don't*, L&L Dreamspell, January
- Anita Page, "Tear Down" in *Murder New York Style: Fresh Slices*, Terrie Farley Moran, ed., L&L Dreamspell, September 2011
- Sharon Pape, *Sketch a Falling Star*, Berkley Prime Crime, March
- S. J. Rozan's *Ghost Hero* was nominated for the Dilys Winn award.
- Laurie Stevens' *The Dark Before Dawn* was named to *Kirkus Reviews* Best of 2011.
- Karen Pullen, "Brea's Tale" in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, January
- Lois Wells Santalo, *The Brook Farm Murders*, CreateSpace, August 2011
- Dorothy St. James, *The Scarlet Pepper*, Berkley Prime Crime, April
- Joyce T. Strand, *On Message*, Kindle/Amazon/ Nook/iBooks, November 2011
- Nancy Sweetland, "An Unhealthy Practice" in *Over My Dead Body*, December 2011
- David Swinson, *A Detailed Man*, Dymaxicon Books, January
- Marcia Talley, *The Last Refuge*, Severn House, March
- Elaine Togneri, "Joy Ride," in *Women's World*, January
- Maggie Toussaint, *Death, Island Style* Five Star/Cengage and *Murder in the Buff*, Muse It Up Publishing, both March
- Steve Ulfelder, *The Whole Lie*, Minotaur, May
- Victoria Weisfeld, "Windjammer" in *U.S. 1*, July 2011; "Premeditation" in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, February
- Mary V. Welk, "Diamonds Aren't Forever" in *Dark Things II: Cat Crimes*, Savage Tiki Digi Books December 2011
- Alana White, *The Sign of the Weeping Virgin*, Five Star, December
- Lois Winston, *Death By Killer Mop Doll*, Midnight Ink, January; her *Assault With a Deadly Glue Gun*, Midnight Ink received the Reader's Choice Award from the Salt Lake City Library System.
- Nancy Means Wright, *The Nightmare*, Perseverance Press, September 2011





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Writing Contests

Poisoned Pen Press Discover Mystery Award

April 30

First book contest for unpublished writers. www.poisonedpenpress.com/contest

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

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

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

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

Writing Contests

Please send all information for mystery writing contests, including those sponsored by SinC chapters, directly to Molly Weston, *inSinC* editor, at mystery-heel@mac.com. Include contest name, entry deadline, sponsor, and website. Include "Contest" in the subject line. Deadline for the June issue is April 15.