



SISTERS in CRIME  
**CROAK & DAGGER**  
ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER



# THE NOOSE LETTER

Volume VIII, Number 6 – November 2012

## †Expert Testimony†

This will be my last column as your president. I have enjoyed being your president and thank you for the opportunity. Thanks as well to the three boards I've worked with. They made the job a lot easier.

After three years, it is time for new ideas and turnover. That is one of the reasons our bylaws specify a limit of three consecutive one-year terms in an office and no more than five years on the board. Again, I encourage everyone to consider getting more involved in Croak and Dagger, either as an officer or in some other capacity, whether it is arranging an event or writing a book review or whatever.

At our October meeting I mentioned a problem the board had discovered about our membership and suggested that we vote on a solution in November. Here is a quick update for those who were at the meeting and some background for those who were not:

The key point is that we need to defer a decision until later, so there will be no vote on this issue at the November meeting. We will only be voting on our chapter officers (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer) for next year at the November meeting.

Reviewing our bylaws, the board found an inconsistency with the national Sisters in Crime (SinC) bylaws. The national bylaws state that members of local chapters must also be members of national SinC. That is not in our local bylaws. In fact, it looks like only about

30% of our local C&D members are actually members of SinC.

There are two obvious alternatives. First, we can go with the national requirements and mandate that all of our local members must join SinC. This would essentially triple our members' dues. Our dues are \$20 and SinC's dues are \$35 or \$40, depending on the type of membership. Since only 13 of our 46 members are now members of SinC, this increase would probably significantly reduce our local membership.

Second, we could simply become a local mystery group and encourage, but not require, our members to join SinC.

Another alternative may be possible based on our local bylaws, if SinC allows it. Section 4 under our membership article talks about expansion of membership categories. "Additional or amended categories of membership may be added by a majority vote of the Executive Committee followed by a majority affirmative vote of the regular membership." If SinC will let us do this, we could create a reader class, which would cover most of our members, and not require them to join SinC.

I talked to Beth Wasson at SinC and explained our problem. At our November Board meeting we discussed this issue and reviewed our current bylaws. SinC definitely wants to work out something to keep us. Beth seems to understand our problem and says we are not the only Chapter facing this issue. She spent a lot of

time going over the benefits of SinC membership.

(continued on page 3)

### **Don't Miss It!**

**Tuesday, November 27, at 7 p.m.**

Our special presentation for the November meeting will be a panel-led discussion focusing on reader likes and dislikes.

Three readers and a moderator will get things started, and members and visitors will be invited to express their pet “peeves and raves” about mystery books.

What do you like about mystery books? What habits of highly successful—and not so much—writers make you want to throw the book at the wall, or give up reading any more by that author? What are your favorite plots, and what clichés are you really tired of? Do you hate some settings and love others?

Give some thought to why you like or don't like the next book you read and bring your reasons to the November meeting.

The Albuquerque Croak & Dagger chapter of Sisters in Crime welcomes mystery fans, readers, and writers. Meetings are held in the police briefing room of the James Joseph Dwyer Memorial Substation, 12700 Montgomery NE (1 block east of Tramway). Unless otherwise noted, programs are free and open to the public.

**Check Out the Croak & Dagger Website for all your Croak & Dagger information needs. Log on to [www.croak-and-dagger.com](http://www.croak-and-dagger.com) for:**

- Upcoming Programs
- Current Meeting Schedule
- Membership Form
- Speakers Bureau
- Links to Mystery Websites & Websites for Your Favorite Croak & Dagger Authors
- *The Nooseletter* Archive
- Link to the new C&D blog, for interviews with local authors,

information about mystery topics of all kinds—and more links!



Sisters in Crime was founded in 1986. *The mission of Sisters in Crime shall be* “to promote the professional development and advancement of women crime writers to achieve equality in the industry.”

*Our vision is:* “Raising professionalism and achieving equity among crime writers.”

*And our motto is:* “SinC into a good mystery!”

Croak & Dagger's January 2013 speaker will be Gail Rubin, author of *A Good Goodbye: Funeral Planning for Those Who Don't Plan to Die*. There are plenty of funerals in mystery novels—come and find out the real story behind them. Gail has looked into funeral home services like caskets, cremation, cemetery plots, and how much it all costs and will share her knowledge with Croak & Dagger members.

Gail has given talks on “Everyone Dies: Lessons from Six Feet Under,” using scenes from the quirky, HBO series to illuminate funeral planning issues. Earlier this month, she was interviewed on TV in connection with the Day of the Dead. You can see the interview online at [www.kasa.com/subindex/nm\\_style](http://www.kasa.com/subindex/nm_style).

### **The Line Up**

President/Treasurer – Olin Bray –  
*ohbray@nmia.com*  
Secretary – Fred Aiken –  
*FAAiken@aol.com*  
Vice President – Joan Sabenhagen –  
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Nooseletter Editor – Linda Triegel  
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## Noose News

Past Croak & Dagger president **Margaret Tessler**'s latest mystery in the Sharon Salazar series, *Casting Shadows*, is an intriguing tale set in Cloudcroft, NM at the annual Mystery Weekend held at The Lodge. Margaret also informs us that her Tangled Web is available on Amazon Kindle. Look out for the October 17 special offer of a free download to repeat itself.

Nooseletter editor Linda Triegel also reports a e-pub presence. Her Regency romance, *The Rival Earls* (written as **Elisabeth Kidd**) is available for your e-reader on [www.regentreads.com](http://www.regentreads.com) (in nearly all formats) as well as on Amazon Kindle. A second historical romance, *My Lady Mischief*, with a mystery involving a plot to steal the Elgin marbles, was just posted this week.

Look for **Patricia Smith Wood**'s first mystery novel, *The Easter Egg Murder*, whose plot stems from a notorious, but still unsolved, New Mexico murder case. "My idea was to create an interesting mystery, loosely based on the actual case, but I would have the advantage of revealing a fictional killer," Pat says. Pat is now working on the second book in the series, *Murder for Breakfast..* For more about how she came to write *The Easter Egg Murder*, visit her website: [www.patriciasmithwood.com](http://www.patriciasmithwood.com)

Restaurant Lovers, you can take New Mexico writer E.S. Abrahamson's *From Fat to Fabulous: A Diet Guide for Restaurant Lovers* with you to your favorite restaurant and order the foods the author ordered and eat the meals that enabled her to lose 50 pounds in one year. *Fat to Fabulous*, from Red Carpet Press, is available in eBook and paperback formats from Amazon.com, BN.com, Smashwords.com, etc., and can also be ordered from your favorite bookseller.

Robert Kresge writes the Warbonnet historical mystery series set in 1870s Wyoming. He has also written a Civil War spy novel based on real events, and modern-day short stories. Rob retired from the CIA in 2002, after working on Southeast Asia, North Korea, Iraq during Desert Storm, and sanctions against the former Yugoslavia. Register for a free giveaway of Rob's latest mystery, *Shell Game*, on [http://www.goodreads.com/giveaway/show/27534?utm\\_medium=api&utm\\_source=giveaway\\_widget](http://www.goodreads.com/giveaway/show/27534?utm_medium=api&utm_source=giveaway_widget)

### C&D Members!

Send news of your latest releases, good news of any kind, and any news you hear about your favorite authors to the *Nooseletter* at the address on page 2. I can't make this stuff up!

—the editor

(continued from page 1)

We agreed that there are a lot of benefits for writers and aspiring writers, but far fewer for readers, who are the bulk of our Chapter (about 33 out of our 46 members). There are also some benefits to local SinC chapters, such as small grants to fund some local activities, but we have not used any of these. She is going to talk to the SinC Chapter liaison and the SinC Board.

From my email to Beth, she has our three alternatives. While she didn't want to, and could not commit the SinC board to anything, it sounded like a reader category of membership (either officially or unofficially) might be a possibility. However, we need to give their board time to think about it and consider some alternatives. Therefore, we decided to defer any vote and decision on our part.

There is no decision that has to be made immediately, so we can wait and see what SinC comes up with. This means that at our November meeting, we don't have to have a vote on this issue, as I had mentioned at the

October meeting. Our only voting will be for new officers.

Again I enjoyed being your president and now look forward to just being a member.

– Olin Bray, President

## **A Jane Doe Gets a Back Story**

*The following is excerpted from a November 12 article in The New York Times by James Gorman:*

As cold cases go, this one was frozen. Forty-one years ago a young woman's badly decomposed body was found floating under a highway overpass at the southern end of Lake Panasoffkee, in central Florida, about an hour and a half northeast of Tampa.

There was no clue to her identity, but one clear sign of her fate. "A man's belt was wrapped around her neck," said Darren Norris, an investigator with the Sumter County Sheriff's office who is now in charge of the case.

She was pulled from the water on February 19, 1971, and detectives spent thousands of hours in a futile effort to determine who she was and who might have killed her. She was buried as Jane Doe.

But such cases are not easy to let go. A young woman's life and body had been thrown away. Detectives could not help but think of the family somewhere who had lost a daughter.

In 1986, the body was exhumed, for further investigation, which again led nowhere. What the detectives had to go on, based on forensic science at the time, was frustratingly sketchy: She was 17 to 24 years old, might have had children, and seemed to be white or Native American. It wasn't enough, and as it turns out it was only partly correct.

Early this year, Detective Norris brought the skeleton of the victim to Erin Kimmerle, a forensic anthropologist at the University of South Florida. Dr. Kimmerle reconstructed the woman's face and clothing, took shavings of her tooth enamel and bones, and recruited George Kamenov, a geochemist at the University of Florida in Gainesville, to analyze chemical traces in those shavings of lead, carbon and other elements that can give a surprisingly detailed history of diet and environment. This kind of study, called isotope analysis, is part of the tool kit of geologists, archaeologists and paleontologists, but has only recently been used in criminal cases.

His conclusions were startling. The young woman was not Native American. The best evidence suggested that she grew up in Greece and came to the United States less than a year before she was killed.

The research, said Detective Norris, "turned the case upside down." Based on the findings, he provided information for an article that was published in The National Herald, an international Greek-language newspaper. It was accompanied by the new reconstructed image of the victim and her clothing.

The case is still not closed. The woman's identity has not been determined, and Detective Norris acknowledges that it is still a long shot. But he is confident that he is on the right track. "The best lead that has ever come in this case came because of the science," he said — science that has changed remarkably in the decades since the body was found.

Among the changes are better databases for skull measurements used to determine ancestry; 3-D identification software for processing measurements and aiding in producing reconstructions of a face; and isotope analysis. A forensic investigation can now involve scientists from an array of fields, including anthropology and chemistry.

"We're all working together," said Ann H. Ross, who developed the software program and is professor of anthropology at North Carolina State University. "That's where it has changed dramatically."

Isotope analysis is one of the newest tools. "It's in its infancy now" in criminal cases, Dr. Ross said.

The reason such an analysis can be done is that elements come in different versions, called isotopes, that vary by mass. Rocks and soil in different geographic locations have characteristic percentages of these isotopes, a kind of signature. Geologists have been documenting these signatures for years, creating geographic databases. Now, with mass spectrometers, a scientist can read the signature of an element like strontium from a small sample of rock, bone, hair or other material and match it to a location.

Lead in the victim's tooth enamel was what led Dr. Kamenov to his first discovery — that she grew up in Europe. In the 1950s, both Europe and America used leaded gasoline, and so lead ended up in the air, the dirt, the food and the teeth of growing children. But the lead came from different sources, with different signatures.

European gasoline had lead from Australia, Dr. Kamenov said. "The whole of Europe was contaminated with this Australian lead," he said. The young woman's tooth enamel showed she had grown up in Europe.

But where in Europe? For that, Dr. Kamenov looked at another element, oxygen, also incorporated in growing teeth. People living near the sea have more of the heavier oxygen isotopes: when seawater evaporates, the heavier molecules (hydrogen and oxygen) fall closer to the coastline. The victim's tooth enamel showed heavier oxygen, which suggested she was from southern Europe.

He also looked more closely at databases showing fine variations of lead isotope signatures in teeth and narrowed down her probable geographic origin to Greece, probably south of Athens. But, he cautioned in an e-mail that this is just "the most likely scenario based on all the data." He put the probability at 60-70 percent that she was from Greece, but said there could be other locations in the region with a similar lead signature. A final piece of evidence came from carbon in her hair. Corn and wheat have different carbon signatures and Europeans have a more wheat-based diet than do Americans.

In looking at samples from the growing root of the hair and the old tip, Dr. Kamenov found a change: "The last hair that grew showed heavier carbon isotopes." The woman had moved to a corn-based diet during the time her hair was growing, less than a year. She was a recent arrival in the United States.

And that discovery has given Detective Norris a slim edge in pursuing a very old, very cold case. People who knew the victim may well be dead now, so such a case is very hard to pursue. But "This science exists," Norris said. "You can use it. It's a great tool."

### ***The Latest for Amazon E-Readers***

Amazon has released two new features that will be critical for the new Kindle Fire HD series of tablets. Immersion Reading and Whispersync for Voice take audiobooks and e-books to a whole different level.

Immersion Reading brings new harmony to e-books from Amazon and Audio Books from Audible. It basically allows readers to synchronize a Kindle text with the Audible audio version of that work. While you are reading, the e-book is highlighted as the audio track moves on, making it easier for the reader to follow along. One of the more useful ways you can employ this is by reading a book and listening to the audio version at the same time.

Whispersync for Voice is another new option that, in essence, allows you to read the e-book at home and then pick up where you left off on the audio version. "The ability to seamlessly switch back and forth between reading text on any Kindle and listening to the same title in audio on your smartphone—and always pick up where you left off—means that the story can continue during those times of the day when you cannot look at a screen," says Audible Founder and CEO Donald Katz. "We think that Whispersync for Voice can help us all enjoy more books, which is good news indeed."

This new Whispersync function would be perfect for people who are reading a book at home and then commuting the next day. You can listen to the e-book version on any official Audible app for the iOS or Android.

What do you need to get all of these new functions right away? You need any new model of the [Amazon Kindle Fire HD](#) and an iOS or Android device with the official Audible app.

## Reviews

### Rob's Random Shots

#### November Case File Number 1

***The Scarecrow*** by Michael Connelly, Grand Central Publishing, 2010, 538 pp (PB).

OK, OK. I know you all are tired of hearing (reading) me sing Michael Connelly's praises. But here's another one, a novel that hits me at many levels. I've said that Connelly excels at revisiting characters from previous stand-alones. In this novel he brings back Jack MacEvoy, the reporter hero of *The Poet*, about a serial killer Harry Bosch finally disposed of in *The Narrows*, which I reviewed earlier this year.

In a nutshell, in this novel, *LA Times* reporter MacEvoy finds himself downsized and given two weeks to train his replacement, a bright young recent college graduate. Although I have a journalism degree, I never got to work in a major newspaper, but I feel Jack's pain about the shrinking print press in the face of electronic news from various sources.

In investigating the open-and-shut confession of a gang banger accused of murdering a stripper and leaving her body in the trunk of her car, Jack looks for similar crimes and quickly concludes that there's a serial killer out there disposing of women and running under the radar of law enforcement.

Without giving too much away, this killer has access to impressive computer files that enable him to peg Jack as having searched for the term "trunk murder" and begins to hunt him. In short order, FBI Agent and former lover Rachel Walling gets involved and both become targets.

Connelly's website provides a list of which of his major characters appear in crossover roles in other books. In this novel, Jack alludes to having written stories about LAPD Detective Harry Bosch and LA lawyer

Mickey Haller (*The Lincoln Lawyer*), who appeared together in *The Brass Verdict*, without ever mentioning them by name.

Another treat for series fans is the amount of time Jack and Rachel spend in the Connelly haunts of Las Vegas, other Nevada towns, elsewhere in southern California towns, and now, Mesa, Arizona, where much of the late action and the climax takes place.

Besides evading death, Jack is offered his job back, but refuses. Rachel is fired, then rehired. She doesn't refuse but knows she'll be on thin ice for the rest of her career.

You'll find this a chilling read, with crisis upon crisis. A reviewer of the Thomas Harris novel *Red Dragon*, a Hannibal Lecter precursor, said, "You'll never sleep soundly again when you learn how this killer selects his victims" (entire families). It's no exaggeration to apply this same description to *The Scarecrow*. The same technology that protects us can be used against us and that's amply demonstrated in this first class thriller.♦

#### November Case File Number 2

***The Last Manly Man*** by Sparkle Hayter, Quill Books, 1999, 258 pp (TP)

Now for something a whole lot lighter. As you can tell from the above publication date, it's been too long since I reviewed Sparkle Hayter in these pages. As a break from the pulse-pounding thriller I reviewed above, I'm glad to report that Sparkle's (I just love using her name as often as possible) reporter heroine, intrepid ANN (a barely disguised CNN) producer Robin Hudson is back. This means more than just a zany, light-hearted caper, although this book certainly delivers that, but a slowly unfolding mystery worthy of the best writers today.

But no one else writing today can make this claim: Sparkle Hayter is funny in every paragraph, in part because she, like other humorous mystery writers Craig Johnson, Steve Brewer, and Mike Orenduff, writes in first

person. It's easier to set a light tone when we can see our protagonist's wry observations in every situation.

And boy, do we get wry. Right from the very get-go. The first sentence reads, "For weeks after my reported death, I made light of it with friends, asking them, 'Where were you when you heard I died?'"

That sets the tone and things only get zanier (is that a word?) from there. We get a mysterious note and hat passed to Robin by a stranger in the street, which makes her late for a meeting with a representative of a macho ladies' man whom she needs to interview to save her job, punctured love expectations, illicit chemical experiments, fistfighting goons, a testosterone-filled hunting expedition, libidinous bonobo monkeys, and a convention of drugged feminists. Whew.

I haven't read Sparkle for a long time and it's great to return to the well-meaning but inept Robin, last seen in *Revenge of the Cootie Girls*. I hope this isn't her last adventure and that, through the wonders of Amazon, I can find more adventures of this jaded New Yorker with the acerbic wit, a nose for trouble, and a dead eye capable of skewering cherished male foibles, especially my own. ♦

—Rob Kresge ([www.robertkresge.com](http://www.robertkresge.com))

***Cruel Intent* and *Trial by Fire*** by J.A. Jance, Touchstone Books, 2006 And 2009 (HC).

I've long enjoyed Southwestern writer J.A. Jance's Sheriff Joanna Brady mysteries, set in Bisbee, Arizona, her J.P. Beaumont series maybe not so much (although the two characters do cross paths a couple of times), but definitely her newest series, about TV newswoman-turned-detective Ali Reynolds.

The first in the series was *Web of Evil*, and it does help some to have read that first to have a little more background when you get to #4 and #5. I read *Cruel Intent* a second time in error, probably because the dumb generic title didn't follow the previous pattern (with "Something of Something" in the title).

Set in Sedona, *Cruel Intent* features a tiresome serial killer plot, but the cliché is redeemed by good characters with interesting backstories and relationships, including family and adopted family. One is a whiz computer hacker (a promising love interest, though this isn't obvious until the next book), who helps solve the mystery in a clever way.

*Trial by Fire* gets Ali away from home, most of the time in a hospital setting where she is doing some undercover police work not quite in the job description of her temporary position as media relations officer with the Yavapai County Police Department.

A woman is found in a burnt-out house and transported to a Phoenix hospital where she lies near death for some time while her devoted second husband and not-so-devoted son and daughter are located. Of course, they despise their stepfather, who they think is only after Mummy's money, but despite being the obvious suspect, Hal Cooper, convinces Ali that he is innocent. She's not so sure about the kiddies.

This plot is nicely worked out and believable despite twists and some unsavory characters, who are made up for by Hal and Sister Anselm, a nurse who specializes in terminal cases, helping both the living and the dying. The solution involves an exciting chase and, while not a total surprise, doesn't involve a serial killer. ♦

—Linda Triegel ([ljt23@earthlink.net](mailto:ljt23@earthlink.net))

***The Last Templar*** by Raymond Khoury. Signet 2006, 526 pp (PB)

Billed as a *DaVinci Code*-like thriller, *The Last Templar* has an intriguing premise but isn't anywhere as readable as Dan Brown's best-seller; say what you like about Brown's literary chops, he sure kept you turning the pages.

In the first chapters of *The Last Templar*, four masked horsemen dressed as Knights Templar stage a bloody raid at the Metropolitan Museum of Art during the opening gala for an exhibit of Vatican treasures. Grabbing a strange geared device—and a few hockable trinkets—they disappear into the night.

Archaeologist Tess Chaykin is present at the museum to witness the carnage, but is more immediately concerned with protecting her young daughter Kim from harm and trauma. Later, however, she remembers more details of what she saw and comes to realize that she knows one of the knights. When the others are killed in assorted nasty ways, Tess and FBI agent Sean Reilly realize that they're being silenced, and Tess wants to warn the man she once looked on as a friend, but who could also be the mastermind behind the bizarre plot.

The first half of the book moves swiftly enough, although there's a lot of violence I could have done without. The second takes Tess and Sean to the Mideast, where they find themselves searching for the wreck of a Templar ship that sank with the secret of the mysterious machine. This part gets interesting, if a bit long-winded. Overall, a good tale that could have used a better writer—or at least an editor not afraid to cut. ♦

—Linda Triegel (*ljt23@earthlink.net*)

**Key:**

PB = Paperback  
TP = Trade paperback  
HC = Hardcover

***Buckingham Palace Gardens***, by Anne Perry, 2011 (PB edition).

In this 25th book of the Charlotte and Thomas Pitt mystery series by Anne Perry, set in Victorian England, Charlotte does not play a role, only Thomas Pitt and, surprisingly, their housemaid Gracie.

Thomas, now working for Special Branch to investigate crimes against the State, is summoned to solve a crime that shocks his values: the murder of a prostitute inside Buckingham Palace.

The Prince of Wales was hosting a house party to promote a grand scheme of building a railroad down the spine of Africa. He invited four couples: the Dunkelds, Sorokines, Marquands, and Quases. After dinner the

women retire to their rooms while prostitutes are brought in to entertain the men.

Dunkeld is a large, arrogant, short-tempered and violent man who cares most for appearances. He hopes to achieve high-society status with this railroad venture. He does not love his wife; his eyes rove constantly and he uses women casually. He only loves his daughter Minnie, from his first wife. Elsa's heart belongs to Julius Sorokine, although she loves from afar. She feels that Julius is all the good kind things a life partner should be (and her husband isn't).

Minnie Sorokine feels only contempt for her husband. She flaunts herself and openly flirts with men; her affair with Simnel Marquand is no secret. Simnel's wife Olga is cold and distant, obviously distraught by her husband's rejection.

Hamilton Quase has a serious drinking problem. His wife Liliane constantly tries to limit his drinking, afraid he will reveal a dangerous secret from the past in Africa.

To investigate this murder, Thomas can only interview the servants and guests. He is not allowed free run of the palace to look for evidence. Pitt recruits Gracie to help, by pretending to be a servant at Buckingham Palace. She has access to many more areas and overhears candid conversations.

Late into the story, the Princess of Wales does her part to help. She is deaf and so largely ignored by most. She is, however, quite perceptive, and provides vital information. She alone of the palace supports truth and justice.

The story is similar to a locked-room puzzle. Buckingham Palace is guarded, and all who enter and exit are known...or are they? Pitt investigates a mysterious large heavy box delivered to Dunkeld in the wee hours.

When a second murder occurs, and one person seems to be the obvious killer, Pitt races against time to make certain of the evidence. Even after Pitt identifies the killer, he continues investigating all unexplained facets of the case, up to the final plot twist.

I highly recommend the Charlotte and Thomas Pitt mystery series to readers who enjoy a historical setting rich with period detail and

attitude. The characters evolve over time, so the series is best read in order. First book of the series is *The Cater Street Hangman*. ♦

—Susan Zates ([smzates@yahoo.com](mailto:smzates@yahoo.com))

## NOVEMBER ELECTION

*The Croak & Dagger chapter works because of the efforts of dedicated volunteers.*

Each year, members of Croak & Dagger vote for candidates for the four elective positions on the C&D board who serve 1-year terms. As usual, this year's election will be held at the November meeting. All dues-paying members are eligible to vote.

If you cannot attend the November meeting, please e-mail your vote to the current membership chair, Pat Wood, at [pwood73@comcast.net](mailto:pwood73@comcast.net) **no later than** noon on November 26. Ballots will be distributed and counted at the November 27 meeting and the results announced at the end. The whole board officially takes office in December.

Many current board members have expressed a willingness to stay for another term, but we welcome newcomers to the roster. If you are interested in running for any of the positions listed below, contact president Olin Bray at [ohbray@nmia.com](mailto:ohbray@nmia.com).

### *Elective Positions*

The **President** presides at all membership meetings and executive committee meetings, sets goals and assigns responsibilities, polls members on major decisions, keeps members informed, and serves as group spokesperson.

The **Vice President** conducts meetings in the President's absence and fills in or assists when needed for any other executive tasks.

The **Secretary** takes minutes at monthly board meetings, sends out notices of board meetings when needed, and keeps members on track as to what matters have been decided.

The **Treasurer** maintains the chapter's checking account and, with the membership chairman, tracks income and outgo.

### *Appointive Positions:*

The **Programs/Publicity Chair** uses chapter resources to come up with speaker ideas and lines up programs for two or three months at a time; also coordinates purchase of gift bookmarks and sends press releases.

The **Nooseletter Editor** collects material from members and the media, edits for length, lays out the bimonthly *Nooseletter*, and delivers it to the membership chair for email distribution.

The **Membership** chairman works with the treasurer to maintain a database of members, and sends out meeting announcements and the *Nooseletter* to members.

The **Website Technical Support Manager** maintains the chapter's website, renewing contracts with the site host, uploading announcements and other information when directed by the board.

Not ready to commit yourself full-time? Croak & Dagger also welcomes "apprentice" officers to assist members of the board in their jobs and fill in if needed. If you'd like to find out what a job involves, without committing yourself to it full-time—not that any job is full-time!—contact the current board member (names and e-mails on page 2). Who knows—you may like it and decide to run for elective office yourself, or seek an appointment to another position, next year.

## 2012-13 MEETING DATES

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Tuesday, November 27, 7:00 p.m.  
December 2012 – No meeting – Happy Holidays!  
Tuesday, January 29, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 26, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 23, 7:00 p.m.

### Meetings are free to the public.

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held every fourth Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., at the James Joseph Dwyer Memorial Police Substation, 12700 Montgomery Blvd. NE, one block east of Tramway.

(If the substation lot is full, there is more parking available just below the substation, accessed via a driveway below the substation on the right.)

Check our Web site, [www.croak-and-dagger.com](http://www.croak-and-dagger.com), for schedule changes and upcoming programs.

*Croak & Dagger* friends are encouraged to contribute articles, reviews, and essays on aspects of mystery writing *and* reading for publication consideration. Information on relevant conferences or events is also welcome. Especially let us know if you have published a new book or story, or have an upcoming local author event. (Unbridled enthusiasm for your own mystery book is encouraged here.)

**Length:** Articles should average 500 words, but short items are also welcome.

**Deadlines:** Publication is every other month, starting in January. Submission deadlines are the 15th of the month prior to publication: Feb 15, April 15, June 15, Aug 15, Oct 15, and Dec 15.

**The Living and the Dead:** As a general policy, articles and information should focus on living authors rather than dead ones, but that's not set in concrete shoes. Articles about specific historical development of the crime-mystery writing genre, for example, would be welcome.

**Submissions:** Please submit via e-mail to [newsette@earthlink.net](mailto:newsette@earthlink.net), with "Nooseletter" in the subject line.

The *Nooseletter* is distributed to all members electronically. □ —Linda Triegel

### Summary of Findings

The *Nooseletter* is the internal organ of the Croak & Dagger chapter, Albuquerque, of Sisters in Crime (SinC). Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and editors. □

### †Nooseletter Submissions†



## Still not a member of Sisters in Crime?

\$20/year brings mystery to your life! The Albuquerque *Croak & Dagger* chapter welcomes mystery fans who want to enjoy felonious fun, absolutely criminal companionship, and sensational speakers.

Benefits of membership in the *Croak & Dagger* chapter include a subscription to our *Nooseletter*, close contact with local mystery writers, and fun events with other mystery fans.

You do *not* have to be a member of the national organization to join us. Come hear our next program speaker and meet the gang. We promise to bring mayhem and murder into your life.

Contact our membership chair, at [contact@croak-and-dagger.com](mailto:contact@croak-and-dagger.com).