

THE STILETTA NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE

Sisters in Crime † Northern California Chapter

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Welcome to 2012!!!

I am not unaware of the irony of becoming president of SinC NorCal the year the Mayan calendar ends. But, I'm more worried about filling the very big shoes of the previous presidents that have stewarded this organization in previous years. My tiara goes off to Dana Fredsti our immediate past president. I raise my glass to Julie Goodson-Lawes (aka Juliet Blackwell and Hailey Lind) and Simon Wood all the presidents with which I worked since becoming a board member.

We also say good bye and thank you to Alyx Morgan and Gigi Pandian, past board members who leave us to work on the next phases of their writing careers. We wish them all the best and look forward to reading their books and blogs.

I welcome our new board members, Susan Shea, Terry Shames, Julie Benbow and Pat Morin and welcome back, Malena Eljumaily, Camille Minichino, David Fitzgerald and Joan Imbeau.

Now back to the Mayans. I'm not an archeologist, Mayan scholar or academic, and I don't play one in my books (at least so far) but for what it's worth, here's my take on the Mayan calendar. I never buy a new calendar for the next year until the present year is almost over. If I had a five year calendar, I wouldn't buy another at the beginning of the five year period but at the end. And if I had a 100 year one, well you get the picture. In keeping with that philosophy, the way I see it, the Mayans didn't survive to create the next cycle calendar. Thus, I'm going to believe that if the Mayans had survived, then we'd have a new calendar coming out near the end of this year.

Either way, the Mayan calendar ends so let's get cracking, there are tons of books to read and even more to write and publish before the end of the year. But we're always doing that any way, right?

For 2012, our new board is hard at work creating exciting events. Come and join us for an exciting 2012!!

Helen Stavropoulos Sandoval

(aka H. S. Stavropoulos)

P.S. Left Coast Crime is in our own backyard this year in Sacramento. I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to go.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Page 1: Letter from our Prez
- Page 2: 2012 SinC Norcal Board:
All you need to know!
- Page 3: Upcoming Meeting & Events
- Page 3: A Good Book!
- Page 3: Board Bio's continued
- Page 4: Hot Off the Presses!
Members publications
- Page 4: Membership Information
- Page 5: Left Coast Crime
- Page 5: It's All About You!

Introducing... 2012 SinC Norcal Board of Directors

President	HELEN SANDOVAL	Events Coordinator	TERRY SHAMES
Vice-President	SUSAN SHEA	Newsletter Editor/Designer	JULIE BENBOW
Treasurer/ Membership	MALENA ELJUMAILY	Member at Large	DANA FREDSTI
Secretary	JOAN IMBEAU	Member at Large	DAVE FITZGERALD
Speaker's Bureau	CAMILLE MINICHINO	Member at Large	PAT MORIN

HELEN SANDOVAL – President. Helen, who writes as H. S. Stavropoulos, was born and raised in a small Greek Village in the middle of Oakland California. She hopes one day to write the breakout novel that will finally allow her to quit her day job as a tax attorney. Her writing contains the theme of being born in America of Greek immigrant parents, living between those two worlds, and of course Greek food and the wealth of Greek culture and traditions.



SUSAN C. SHEA – Vice President, spent more than two decades as a non-profit executive directing communications and fund-raising programs. Her debut mystery, *Murder in the Abstract* was published in 2010 and was a local bestseller. *Abstract* is the first in a series featuring a professional fundraiser for a fictional museum and takes place in the arts communities of San Francisco and Santa Fe. Susan lives in Sausalito, California.

MALENA ELJUMAILY – Treasurer & Membership, is currently the Membership Chair, as well as acting Treasurer. Though mystery is her primary genre, she sometimes switches gears and writes about subjects other than murder and mayhem. Malena is presently at work on a crafting mystery novel set in a town quite similar to Bolinas. She would get a lot more writing done if Netflix didn't offer so many British mysteries! She lives in Santa Rosa with her husband, two sons and a Manx cat named Polly.



JOAN IMBEAU – Secretary. Sisters in Crime is composed of writers and readers and Joan is one of the readers. Being a non-writer does not mean that she can't "write" up the Minutes of all our meetings. She does that very capably. Joan's interests are reading (mysteries), seeing movies (mysteries rate high), acting as a Supernumerary in the San Francisco Opera and travel to far away places-the last few trips were Italy, Germany and Austria, Africa to see the animals and Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland.

CAMILLE MINICHINO – Speakers Bureau Coordinator. A retired physicist turned writer, Camille is the author of the Periodic Table Mysteries. As Margaret Grace, she writes the Miniature Mysteries; as Ada Madison, she's launched an academic series featuring Professor Sophie Knowles, math teacher at fictional college in Massachusetts. Soon, every aspect of her life will be a mystery series. Camille also works at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and is on the faculty of Golden Gate University in San Francisco.



TERRY SHAMES - Events Coordinator, grew up in Texas, and is hoping to publish her debut mystery in 2012. Tentatively entitled *Murder at Jarrett Creek*, it is set in small-town Texas, and features ex-lawman Samuel Craddock. She has lived in Berkeley, CA for twenty years, and has also traveled extensively in the Caribbean. She just completed a thriller set in the Bahamas.

2012 Board bios continued on page 3.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

APRIL - Chocolate & Mysteries - a special tasting

Saturday, April 14,

(changed from first Saturday since that is Passover)

Noon - 2 p.m. - \$10.00

Hosted by Janet and Frank Rudolph. Janet will give a talk connecting "chocolate" to mysteries, and Frank will do the tasting. The event will be at Pat and Larry's Morin's home in San Francisco.

Please bring finger foods to share.

MAY - Dark Side of the Bay - Boat excursion

Saturday May 5th - 11AM -1PM

\$55.00 • Maximum 50 people, partners welcome!

JUNE - Spring Showcase

June 2, from 12-2 p.m. • Orinda Books

Authors: If you have a book that came out (print or e-edition) since our last showcase or will have one by the date of the showcase, please let Susan Shea (scsauthor@mac.com) know by May 1. Also, if you'd like to have Orinda Books have copies on hand for the event, please send Susan the title, ISBN number, and publisher no later than May 1.

July - no meeting

Not Just For Valentine's Day!

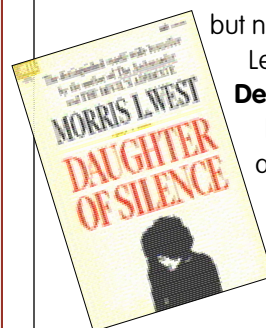
Love a good murder mystery? How about curling up with a glass of wine and a box of truffles and reading

Morris L. West's 1961 classic:
Daughter of Silence.

“ It was noon on a sunlit August day in the Italian village of San Stefano... a Madonna-faced young woman got out of a taxi, crossed to the mayor's house, rang the bell, and when he appeared in his doorway, she shot and killed him.”

Recommended by Pat Morin, Board Member at Large. She says, "Morris L. West, through this book, was my introduction to mystery, and I have nine of his first edition books. Most of his stories take place in Italy, but not in Venice (Donna

Leon territory). **The Devil's Advocate** was his most popular, although I loved this one centering on a unique woman.”



2012 SinC Norcal Board of Directors - continued

DANA FREDSTI - At Large, (Past President) Dana is ex B-movie actress with a background in theatrical sword-fighting. She's written numerous published articles, essays, short stories, screenplays, and two non-fiction books with Cynthia Gentry. *Plague Town*, the first in a three book zombie/paranormal romance series with Titan Books, is being released April 2012, and she has a sequel in the works to her mystery, *Murder for Hire: The Peruvian Pigeon* (Rock Publishing, 2007). Under the nom de plume Inara LaVey, she has five stories and three novels published by Ravenous Romance.

DAVID FITZGERALD - At Large, (2011 Event Coordinator) By Day, a biblical historian, David is Director of the Atheist Film Festival and author of *Nailed: Ten Christian Myths That Show Jesus Never Existed At All*. He speaks Irish Gaelic and bits of about two dozen other languages. By night, he is erotica author Kilt Kilpatrick, author of *The Manny Diaries* and his new anthologies, *Under the Kilt and Demon Lovers*, co-edited with Inara Lavey (a.k.a. Dana Fredsti).



PAT MORIN - At Large. Besides writing novels, nonfiction books, short stories, and plays, Pat is on the board of MWA, a member of California Writers Club, Left Coast Writers, and the National Jungian Society, as well as a number of other prestigious organizations. She works and supports the Children's Aid Program of Africa (Kenya). Her story "Homeless" was nominated for a Derringer and an Anthony Award, while "Pa and the Pigeon Man" was nominated for a Pushcart Award. The inner complexities of the human mind play a strong part in her stories.



Hot Off The Presses!

Patricia Driscoll: SHEDDING LIGHT ON MURDER

January 2012 (*Five Star/Gale*, \$25.95)

Readers are taken on a visit to an unexpected Cape Cod. The summer tourists are gone, and snow blankets the historical towns. A determined heroine and a cast of distinctive villagers shaken by recent shocking events must find a way to bring resolution and peace back to Barnstable Village.



A gentle reminder....

... if you haven't already done it, to take just a little time out from your busy schedule to RENEW your NorCal SinC membership. If you have already renewed, THANK YOU!

NorCal dues are only \$25.00.

Here's the link:

<http://www.sincnorcal.org>

or you can send a check to:

P.O. Box 3464

Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

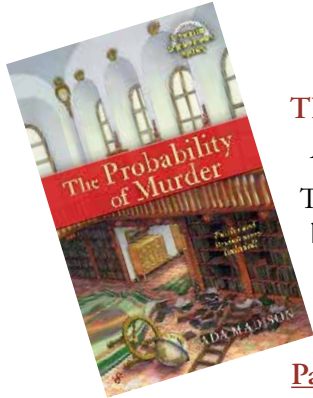
You must also be a member of **SinC National:** Send your name, address, and a check for \$40 (payable to Sisters in Crime) to: Beth Wasson, Executive Secretary Sisters in Crime, P. O. Box 442124, Lawrence, KS 66044-8933

Sisters in Crime

is a nonprofit, international organization of women and men dedicated to combating discrimination against women in the mystery writing field, educating publishers and the general public about inequities in the treatment of women authors and raising the level of awareness of the contributions of women to the field.

Norcal SinC

Founded in 1990, we are the Northern California Chapter of Sisters in Crime, a friendly group of women—and men—who share a common passion for mysteies. Our motto is "Quaking in Our Books" and we do our utmost with events, talks by experts, chapter newsletters and networking to promote the work of our members, educate and generally have a good time.



Camille Minichino (Ada Madison) THE PROBABILITY OF MURDER

March 6, 2012 (*Berkeley Prime Crime*, \$7.99)

The second in the Professor Sophie Knowles Mysteries by Ada Madison (Camille Minichino).

Sophie investigates the death of the college librarian who may or may not have been her friend.

Patricia L. Morin CRIME MONTAGE

March 2012 (*Top Publications Ltd.*, \$14.99)

This crime collection is the second book in the short story series and includes: cozy, humorous, chick-lit, young-adult fantasy, paranormal, and a historical novella.

The stories are as unique and different as human personalities and motives.

"...each story immerses the reader in a new world...her characters jump off the page." SF Book Review.

Robert Baty: THE GIRL IN THE MGA

April 2012

In the second of Baty's Classic Car series, Connor gets more than he bargained for when a mobster named Tomas Papadopoulos, aka Tommy P, hires him to find a vintage MGA for his girlfriend, Candy Marlowe. Connor finds the MGA, but then the car disappears along with Candy and the washed-up quarterback who sold it to her turns up dead.

Rhys Bowen: HUSH NOW, DON'T YOU CRY

March 13, 2012 (*Macmillan/Minotaur: Hardcover, Kindle, Nook etc*)

Eleventh in the Molly Murphy mysteries. When Molly and Daniel spend a belated honeymoon at one of the "cottages" in Newport, R.I. it's out of season and they expect to have the place to themselves. But the family that owns the mansion arrive unexpectedly and it seems that one of them will do anything to keep dark family secrets.

Jonnie Jacobs: PARADISE FALLS

March 2012 (*Five Star*, \$23)

Paradise Falls is the riveting and provocative tale of a family torn apart by divided loyalties and a dedicated detective who meets her worst fears head on. The razor sharp twists and turns will hold readers captive until its final, explosive conclusion.



Left Coast Crime 2012

There's still time
to
be part
of the fun!

MINING FOR MURDER

March 29 - April 1 2012
Sacramento - Sheraton Grand Hotel

Guests of Honor: John Lescroart & Jacqueline Winspear

The original intent of having a regional convention was to accommodate local writers and fans and to emphasize the uniqueness of the region, but many of the same writers and fans attend this regional convention from outside their own region. Besides multi-track author/reader paneling, there are “fireside” chats, 15 minutes of fame, police lab visits and forensic lectures. The small nature of this convention creates a relaxed atmosphere that gives fans ample time to get together and chat about favorite books, meet new friends and visit with old ones.

\$225.00 - To sign up online, go to www.leftcoastcrime.org/2012

... And there's more!

WRITERS' WORKSHOP

Sign up now - space is limited!
<http://www.leftcoastcrime.org/2012/program.html>

Left Coast Crime 2012 is pleased to announce a workshop for writers (published or not) interested in perfecting their craft. The workshop will be held on Thursday, March 29, 8 AM-2 PM, just before the start of LCC proper, and will be at the Sacramento Sheraton Grand Hotel, the home of LCC 2012. The cost for this workshop will be \$40 for LCC registrants and \$80 for non-LCC registrants.

The workshop will be divided into two sessions:

Jennifer Sawyer Fisher—former editor at Kensington, Penguin, Morrow/Avon and HarperCollins, will teach a session on self-editing.

Alexandra Sokoloff, current author, former screenwriter, will teach a session on using screenwriting techniques to enhance your novel-writing.

Sisters in Crime & Northern California Chapter

It's All About YOU!

Make the most of your membership. Your Board of Directors are working hard to present the most interesting, educational, useful and entertaining programs to our members. We invite your participation regarding ideas for speakers, events, and potential meeting locations.

Please send your ideas and comments to **Camille**, Speakers Bureau, (camille@minichino.com) or **Terry**, Events Coordinator, (tmshames@pacbell.net).

The Stiletta Newsletter

is published quarterly by the **Sisters in Crime Northern California Chapter**. For newsletter requests and submissions, contact Julie Benbow (jambow99@sbcglobal.net).