

# THE MARCH OF CRIME

MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA — SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

## Killer Shrinks on the Silver Screen

Two iconic images, from two memorable films: In *Now, Voyager*, kindly therapist Claude Rains walks in the garden with troubled patient Bette Davis. He's paternal, insightful, and obviously knows what's good for her.

In *The Three Faces of Eve*, Lee J. Cobb helps Joanne Woodward parse out the three distinct personalities tormenting her. Like Claude Rains before him, he's a model of the patriarchal culture, a therapist of unquestionable motives and unimpeachable authority. One of the good guys.

How did we get from there, to Hannibal Lecter?

Look at how male therapists are currently depicted on film and television. Instead of being caretakers, they're troubled, predatory, even psychotic: Richard Gere in *Final Analysis*. Bruce Willis in *The Color of Night*. Robert DeNiro in last year's *Hide and Seek*.

On TV shows like *Law and Order* and *CSI*, a male psychologist or psychiatrist is as liable to be the bad guy as any garden-variety contract killer or spurned lover.

Now I know enough to be skeptical about Hollywood's notion of any profession, but I can't help wondering what's going on. How did the on-screen image of male therapist go from father figure to the most likely suspect?

Maybe this change simply reflects one that's occurred in the culture at large. After all, the past forty years has seen a challenge to the

whole idea of male authority. In terms of image, professors, doctors and scientists of the male persuasion have suddenly gone from being saints to sinners. Same with therapists. No wonder today's TV and film writers find them irresistible as villains. All that education, respectability and power, turned to the Dark Side.

But it wasn't just society's growing mistrust of male authority that turned Lee J. Cobb's gray suit

**...to the hallowed images of "tough" private eye, "brilliant" physician and "ruthless" attorney, we can add the unethical, manipulative, and frequently homicidal male therapist.**

and pipe into Anthony Hopkins' face muzzle and leather restraints. There was also a trend, starting in the 50's, of popular films that threw cold water on the whole idea of psychological treatment as a positive tool to alleviate suffering. Films like *The Manchurian Candidate*, *The Snake Pit*, and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* suggested the nefarious ways psychology could be exploited or used for evil.

Even such recent films as *A Beautiful Mind* depicted the horrendous misuse of electro-convulsive therapy--at the hands, of course, of a coolly assured male psychiatrist. A real Poster Boy for the clueless patriarchy.

Let's face it: the world's a pretty treacherous, confusing place nowa-

days. Our most sturdy institutions—government, the church, education—traditionally headed by men, seem to be letting us down. It's no different with therapy. Whether fair or not, I believe the way in which male therapists are portrayed on screen reflects a similar disenchantment with both the profession in general, and its male practitioners in particular.

Nowadays, much like priests, male therapists suffer from the failed expectations of a disillusioned public. Our distrust and suspicion buffed to a stereotypical finish by the narrative demands of TV and film.

So now, to the hallowed images of "tough" private eye, "brilliant" physician and "ruthless" attorney, we can add the unethical, manipulative, and frequently homicidal male therapist. Coming to a theater — or TV screen — near you!

Hmm. Sounds like we could all use a walk with Claude Rains right about now.

—**Dennis Palumbo**  
Formerly a Hollywood screenwriter (*My Favorite Year*), Dennis is now a licensed psychotherapist in private practice in Los Angeles. His latest book, a collection of mystery short stories, is called *From Crime to Crime* (Tallfellow Press). For more info, visit [www.dennispalumbo.com](http://www.dennispalumbo.com)

Our February SoCal MWA meeting was the best-attended in recent memory, with almost double the usual crowd. A cynic might say that the draw was the lavish buffet at the Sportsmen's Lodge, but in truth, it was the panel of experienced literary agents that drew the audience. The focus was not only on the usual topics of finding an agent and selling your book but also included what services from your agent to expect *after* sale.

As you may expect, a popular topic was what sells. With a mystery marketplace filled with protagonists (one hesitates to even call them all detectives!) of every stripe, from soccer moms to ex-cops, from ethnic minorities with weird occupations to white-shoe gumshoes (to coin a phrase), what's the latest trend? The agents' answer was unanimous and unequivocal: Quality sells. Uniformly, the advice was: Write the best book you can, and don't worry about the market. The market will *always* buy a great book, regardless of the latest fashions.

Each agent's answer to the perennial "how do I get an agent" was similar: Wow me! Thrill me! Excite me! Grab me! The agents aren't interested in who you think will buy the book or how you think it can be marketed or packaged or sold to Hollywood. They're interested in being enthralled, entertained, and enlightened.

These weren't popular answers: We're all looking for the "secrets" to success. It's disappointing to hear that there aren't any secrets, because if *we* learn the secrets (and others don't)—like, by attending MWA programs that others miss—then we can succeed while watching others fail. (And isn't that the oldest saying in Hollywood? "True success is only achieved by watching one's friends fail.") If *quality writing* is



L-R: Betsy Amster, Ken Sherman, Les Klinger, Carolyn Grayson & Ashley Grayson.

what's required,

## The President's Rap Sheet

why, that means we have to *work hard* at our craft, to do the best we can.

At the same time, these answers should be heartening, for they mean that "success" (if publication is any indication of success) can be achieved by anyone, even those who weren't the first to think of the idea of a gay Eskimo weightlifter who detects during bodybuilding competitions (I'm still trying to sell it). If what publishers want is an original voice telling a deeply-felt, mesmerizing story, why then, by gosh, each of us has a chance!

There's ample evidence that this is so. For example, last year's Edgar™-winning best novel was *The Janissary Tree*, about a eunuch-detective in the 19<sup>th</sup> century—go figure! Among this year's best novel nominees is a Yiddish-speaking cop in Alaska (in an alternate universe, too). For more eclectic writing, check out the entire crop of nominees: not a copycat in the bunch!

So buck up, bunky. Instead of fretting about why your version of Sherlock Holmes or Harry Bosch or Elvis Cole isn't selling, make your next book your own—filled with passion, honesty, and sharp, clear writing. See? It's simple!

Les Klinger, Chapter President  
[mail@lesliesklinger.com](mailto:mail@lesliesklinger.com)

### **FRESH BLOOD**

**New Active Members:** Lois A. Du Lac (Hesperia, CA), Kerrie Droban (Anthem, AZ)

**New Affiliate Members:** Kate Reynolds (Tucson, AZ), Mark Hosack (Glendale, CA)

## Hang out with people who share the same dark, obsessive thoughts as you

No, not serial killers... Crime writers!

I'm Dianne Emley and I'm delighted to serve as your Program Chair this year.

Your SoCal MWA Board has planned a great mix of events to elucidate and to celebrate, to deliver the four-one-one and to party on! This schedule is evolving, and events will be added.

We've already had a well-attended hands-on seminar in January about book marketing and the new media. In February, our annual Agents Panel was again a hit. We toured the L.A. County Forensics Lab in March.

We're also drinking. Don't forget **MWA: Drinks!** In this no-host event, we pick a place to meet, usually on the last Thursday of the month, raise a glass, have pub grub, and gripe!

Would you like to see your name in print? I'm recruiting members to cover and take photos at our events and write a summary for our newsletter. If you'd like this opportunity, drop me an email.

I hope you'll find something to inspire you to come out and join us. If you have any suggestions, please contact me: [Dianne@DianneEmley.com](mailto:Dianne@DianneEmley.com).

Good writing,  
Dianne

### SoCal MWA 2008 COMING ATTRACTIONS

#### April: Party!

*Friday Evening, April 25:* SoCal MWA will co-host a cocktail party at the Mystery Bookstore (in Westwood).  
*Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27:* L.A. Times Festival of Books. We will staff a booth (shared with the Mystery Bookstore).

#### May: Party!

*Friday Evening, May 30:* SoCal MWA will co-host a cocktail party in downtown L.A. with MWA National during Book Expo America. For this special event, we have reserved a private room at The Edison in downtown L.A. (<http://www.edisondowntown.com/>). You really need to see this place!  
MWA will have a booth at BEA, and our members will be able to sign up for times in the booth.

#### June: Panel!

*The Gentle Art of Poison, Sunday, June 22. 11:00 a.m.* Champagne Brunch., Sportsmen's Lodge, Studio City  
Our own medical forensics specialist, Doug Lyle, M.D., novelist and author of the Macavity Award-winning *Forensics for Dummies*, will be in discussion with David Ciambone, novelist and author of *The Poisons Handbook for Writers*.

#### August: Party!

*Saturday evening, August 23:* Bill Fitzhugh will host a gumbo party at his house in the San Fernando Valley. If you missed this fantastic party in 2006, don't miss this one!

**Arizona Event!:** *Friday, August 1. Sedona, Arizona.* Kris Neri is organizing a reception and panel discussion in conjunction with the Sedona Public Library's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration.

#### September: Party!

*Saturday, September 13. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.* Reception at the UCLA Faculty Center. If you missed this terrific and popular party last November, don't miss this one!

*Sunday, September 28.* The West Hollywood Book Fair SoCal MWA will coordinate an MWA booth.

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## October: Panel!

*Lawyers (hyphen) Writers, Sunday, October 26. 11:00 a.m.* Champagne Brunch., Sportsmen's Lodge, Studio City, Pamela Samuels-Young is planning an event featuring lawyer-writers.

## November: Panel!

*From the Page to the Screen. Going from Books to Film. Sunday, November 16. 11:00 a.m.* Champagne Brunch., Sportsmen's Lodge, Studio City, Bill Fitzhugh will moderate a discussion with producer Trevor Albert ("The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen," "Because of Winn Dixie," "Bedazzled," "Groundhog Day" and actor/writer/producer James Keach ("Walk the Line").

## December: Party!

Last year, the holiday party was at the Jonathan Beach Club in Santa Monica and it was great. What? You missed it because of a little rain? Don't miss it this year. Location and date to be announced.

**Be there, or be square!**

## Sleuthiness: Shanghai From My Desktop

I'm working on a book that's set in Shanghai, in 1997. I've been in Shanghai twice—in 1978 and in 2006. The place probably didn't change all that much from 1978 to, oh, say, 1989 or so, but then it went berserk. In the last 20 years Shanghai has changed on a near daily basis. My advance on this book might just about cover a discount airfare and a really lousy hotel for a research trip. I'd still need to hire someone to walk around town with me to translate and help me find the answers to questions like: was that building here in 1997? What was the hot disco in town then? Were those hookers in front of the barber shops in the Muslim district as blatant then? All the little details that I like to get right in my books.

Luckily, the internet is helping. I've got [MySpace](#) and [FaceBook](#) pages and just a little bit of searching around on those sites led me to

a large number of Shanghai-oriented groups, people with a variety of interests and knowledge about the place, some who were there in 1997 and are happy to answer questions. I tend to ask the same questions of several people, then compare the answers.

On [Amazon](#), I found a picture book published by the Chinese government, of Shanghai in 1997. It's out of print, but I found a copy on [EBay](#) for cheap. Being a government publication, it doesn't have much on some of the more down and dirty neighborhoods in which I like to set scenes, but it's helpful in a general way.

I also found some old guidebooks to Shanghai on Amazon and EBay. They were one cent apiece—plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling, but they're coming in handy.

A great deal of the commercial development of the internet has

been driven by sex. So finding archives of old newsgroup posts and sex travel advice columns from even the late 1990s, just isn't all that difficult. (And boy howdy, but those "mongers" like to give out with the details.) [Google](#), or any other search engine, can work wonders.

I don't find [Wikipedia](#) all that useful, or trustworthy, but it does tend to have a lot of links that have led me places I can make use of.

And who knows, maybe I still will make a trip to Shanghai. At least it will be tax deductible. And with everything I've been finding out I'll have some pretty good leads on where to go. If those places still exist. Which they probably don't.

Best of all, if I do go, in the course of my research I've encountered [Kayak.com](#), which is about the best, most comprehensive—cheapest travel site I've found. [ES](#)



## POWER LUNCH: Murder on the Menu at Cerritos Library

What do a surgical pathologist, a cardiologist, a paralegal, and a Special Reserve Officer with the LAPD with an MBA have in common? They and eleven other mystery writers were featured guests at the fourth annual Murder on the Menu luncheon at the magnificent Cerritos Library.

Held on January 26, in the Skyline Room, 170 guests ate a delicious meal and listened to some of the best mystery authors in the field. Three panel discussions allowed these talented authors to talk about their books, their craft, and themselves.

The first panel featured the sparkling Harley Jane Kozak (*Dead Ex*)

surrounded by the comic Goldberg Brothers, Lee and Tod, who took good-natured pot shots at each other, and the ultra-charming Steven J. Cannell (*Rockford Files*, *Wiseguy*, *The Commish*). Moderating the panel was Doug Lyle (*Forensics for Dummies*), every writer's go-to guy when they need to know how to murder somebody...and get away with it.

Stephen, author of fast-paced novels like *The Viking Funeral*, too, along with Lee, (TV shows *Monk* and *Diagnosis Murder*), and his brother, Tod (*Living Dead Girl*), prolific writers all, mentioned they had to make sure they didn't use an old plot.

When asked where they get their

ideas, Harley said she got hers from listening to NPR. Tod just wondered where would you put a dead body? And then came up with a plot. When asked how do they overcome writer's block, Harley said chocolate helped. Tod said he tries to get into the mind of his characters; the meaner the character, the better. Lee said chocolate helped him, too, but he had a differ-



ent outcome. He patted his ample belly to prove it. Doug Lyle mentioned when he writes, he'll start with the premise: What if... and they story would follow.

The second panel consisted of Robert Greer, that surgical pathologist I mentioned earlier and author of *Limited Time*, along with Sue Ann Jaffarian (*Thugs and Kisses*) the paralegal, Jerrilyn Farmer (*Dim Sum Dead*), Rita Lakin (*Getting Old Is To Die For*), and Camille Minichino (*Murder in Miniature*), another Ph.D in Physics and the moderator of the group.

Camille (writing as Margaret Grace) asked why the panel wrote mysteries. The irrepressible Sue Ann said it was always better to kill

on paper those you can't kill in real life. But she did agree that one could always find justice on the printed page. Rita knocked 'em dead when she explained her characters were called "the oldest living private detectives," and then paid homage to her late mother on whom she based her main character. Jerrilyn whetted everyone's appetite with her discussion of the

clever use of food allusions in her delectable books. In discussing his excellent use of multiple POVs, Robert mentioned he started out as a short story writer where

he learned to hone a character's personality in succinct sentences.

The final panel brought us Earlene Fowler (*Tumbling Blocks*), Hailey Lind (half of a sister writing team with her book *Brush with Death*), Kirk Russell (*Dead Game*), Patricia Smiley (*Short Change*) who is a Special Reserve Officer with the LAPD, and moderator Ann Parker (*Iron Ties*).

When asked why they wrote mysteries, Patty said each of the stories in her Tucker Sinclair series was triggered by personal experiences from her actual job as a business consultant, and now from her duties with the LAPD. Hailey (her real name is Julie Goodsen-Lawes)

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is a professional muralist and so is her lead character. Research into art forgery opened up new contacts and great Internet sources. Earlene mentioned her main character got to experience things she only dreamed of. Kirk said originally his main character was a minor player, but the research he did and the contacts he made with actual game wardens led him to a deeper under-

standing of the job and the mind-set of eco-warriors.

When asked what is the hardest and easiest part of a story to write, Hailey dislikes violence, but loves dialogue. Patty doesn't care for emotional scenes, but loves action scenes, and she loves writing quirky character traits.

Another great tip was where they got the names for their characters. Earlene collects names from obituaries, especially from regional

areas so a guy from Kentucky has a name suitable for that neck of the woods.

The Cerritos event was fun and entertaining and there was a lot of great information to be had from these talented folk. Padmini Prabhakara, the library coordinator, always does a superb job of setting up these events. Watch for it next year.

—Gayle Bartos-Pool

## CRIME LAB TOUR

A lucky group of SoCal MWA members recently toured the Hertzberg-Davis Forensic Science Center--the largest of its kind in the country. The LAPD, the LASD, and the Crime Justice Program for Cal State LA all utilize the Center. The facilities include the tools to investigate arson, firearms, questionable documents, trace evidence, biology, and some DNA. Staff members explained some of the amazing things that their sophisticated equipment can prove, such as which line of ink appeared on a document first or if a suspect has been in the vicinity of a fired weapon.

Although Hertzberg-Davis and other similar facilities have the potential ability to solve crimes, Edgar-



award-winning author Jan Burke pointed out that they seldom have the funding needed to do so. Jan is a major advocate of the Crime Lab Project. What can we as writers do to help? Join the fight to fund crime labs at

[crimelabproject.com](http://crimelabproject.com). Petition your representatives to fund the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Act of 2000. Download a free Crime Lab Project logo to your website to promote awareness. And, finally, use your power as a writer to reflect the reality of under funded crime labs in your books. Without proper

crime lab funding, we might have to rewrite the end to a lot of our novels.

--Jackie Vick



MWA Drinks, at Ye Olde King's Head in Santa Monica. L-R:

Bill Fitzhugh, Les Klinger, Dianne Emley & Jeff Boxer.

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## DON'T GET BYTTEN: Forensic (Computer) Files

There are computer-centric forensic experts, much the same as there are those who have knowledge of biological remains or vehicular particulars or every other subject in human knowledge.

And, like any other illicit activities, computer crimes require law enforcement to follow a rigid, methodical procedure for determining what material can be used for evidentiary purposes, and how to assess and display it.

But, of course, because computers are involved in computer crimes, the procedure is that much more difficult.

Strangely, it seems as if the real problem of collecting computer-based information in a manner that will stand up in court is not one of technical capabilities...it's the same problem faced by all evidence collection experts: demonstrating physical evidentiary chain, from seizure through testimony.

This is nuts and bolts stuff (as opposed to bits and bytes). Law enforcement personnel must account for the whereabouts of any computer or hard drive or data storage media *at all times* throughout the duration it is in their possession. If it can ever be shown to be outside the control of law enforcement personnel AND the suspect, doubt can be cast on the prosecution's case. Imagine if the police misplace the gun used to commit a murder the night *before* fingerprints are taken off of it...that's a pretty big amount of doubt. More than a shadow, anyway.

And you can imagine the difficulty in proving any information belonged to a specific person if the machine where the data resided was hooked to the Internet for any length of time after it was taken or before it was analyzed by law enforcement.

As for the actual, geekoid way to lift information out of a computer (or computer-related storage), well, that's pretty straightforward, as well. There are many commercial hardware-and-software packages designed specifically to extract information from information technology resources, and to protect that data both as it is analyzed and in its former state. Perhaps the best known and currently widely-used is EnCase,

made by Guidance Software. Simply put, if an investigator has a hard drive or storage media in their possession, or access to it, EnCase can take a snapshot of the data from that device...and authenticates the capture and display of that information, without modifying, harming, or otherwise manipulating the suspect data in any way. The authentication is the key component of the process: without that, it would be difficult to convince a court that the information truly belonged to the suspect, and did not get there by some other means.

So it's safe to say that for all the sophistication of information technology it is the old questions of possession, access, and timing that play the biggest part in crimes and charges and trials involving computer crimes. With good reason, too: once that computer leaves your possession --or is hooked to anything that

shares possession, like the Internet-- you can no longer be assured of your privacy or the security of your data.

It wasn't long ago that Best Buy Geek

Squad employees were busted by TheConsumerist.com, a customer-advocacy website; Geek Squad employees were caught, on film, copying files off customers' hard drives, for their personal use. If you can't trust geeks....Well, suffice it to say: you can't trust geeks.

*Again, if there's any particular topic you'd like to see addressed in these pages, or if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me, via the information posted on my website: [www.benmalisow.com](http://www.benmalisow.com).*

—Ben Malisow

*Ben's first book is **1,001 Things To Do If You Dare**. His second, a book on counterterrorism from Chelsea House, is due out next year. He has provided security services to DARPA, the Department of Homeland Security, and the FBI, among other customers. He holds an MBA, a CISSP, and a CISM, among other alphabet-soup-flavored goodies.*

**If you can't trust geeks....Well, suffice it to say: you can't trust geeks.**



**Transom Notes****Awards**

And the Eppie goes to... **Robert L. Hecker** for *Murder by Proxy*. Although his wife's illness prevented him from collecting his award in person, Hecker took 1st place in the prestigious EPPIE awards (electronic and print). <http://www.ebookmall.com/ebooks-authors/robert-l-hecker-ebooks.htm>. And congratulations and good luck to **Phil Hawley**, who has been nominated for a Gumshoe for best first novel, for *Stigma*. After Broadway Books declined to continue her series, **Jennifer Colt** entered *The Hellraiser of the Hollywood Hills: A McAfee Twins Novel* in the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Awards. Her manuscript was selected as a Top Ten Finalist, out of 5,000 entries from 20 countries. The excerpt with the most votes (4- or 5-star Amazon reviews) wins a contract with Penguin. **Robert S. Levinson** has been nominated a second consecutive year for an "Angie" award of the International Mystery Writers Festival, in a stage category that includes nominees Ray Bradbury, Rupert Holmes, Mary Higgins Clark, and **Lee Goldberg**.

**Deals and Coming Releases**

**Doug Lyle's** latest Writers Digest Book: *Howdunnit: Forensics: A Guide For Writers* is coming in May. [www.dplylemd.com](http://www.dplylemd.com). *Hollywood Crows*, **Joe Wambaugh's** new novel and a sequel to *Hollywood Station* will be out March 25<sup>th</sup>. **Gwen Freeman's** second Fifi Cutter mystery, *Crazy Fool Kills Five*, (Capital Crime Press) was just released to strong reviews in Publisher's Weekly and will be reviewed in Kirkus in April. **Dianne Emley's** Nan Vining trilogy will come out with Ballantine in November, December, and January, <http://dianneemley.com>. In April, look for **John Shannon's** 10th Jack Liffey mystery, *The Devils of Bakersfield*, from Pegasus Books. It's already collected a starred review and a rave in Booklist. Simultaneously, they'll release the trade paperback of the previous Liffey, *The Dark Streets*. John welcomes all MWA members to the *launch party Sunday April 20* from 2-5 pm at the Tara Hill rec center in Culver City. [www.thrillingdetective.com/liffey.html](http://www.thrillingdetective.com/liffey.html). **Elizabeth Gunn** sends word she just signed on for two more books for Severn House—one each of her Minnesota and Tucson series. <http://home.comcast.net/~pgunn18/ElizabethGunn.html>. If you believe there's more to 911 than we've been told, you'll want to read *No Place to Run*, **Tom Sawyer's** new thriller, scheduled for release this Fall by Sterling & Ross Publishers. [www.thomasbsawyer.com](http://www.thomasbsawyer.com). **Susan Cummins Miller's** fourth Frankie MacFarlane mystery, *Hoodoo*, has just been released by Texas Tech University Press. <http://hometown.aol.com/stmiller46/myhomepage/index.html>. **Baron R. Birtcher's** new hardboiled mystery, third in the Mike Travis series, *Angels Fall*, to be published by IOTA Publishing and on bookshelves on April 2, 2008. [www.BaronRBirtcher.com](http://www.BaronRBirtcher.com). **Robert S. Levinson** launches his seventh novel, *In the Key of Death*, at Skylight Books, Los Angeles, on Tuesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m. He'll be signing all around SoCal. Check his web site for info. <http://robertslevinson.com>. Capital Crime Press has just released the third in **Robert Fate's** acclaimed Baby Shark series. *Baby Shark's High Plains Redemption* has drawn rave reviews from the Big Three: Kirkus, Publisher's Weekly, and Library Journal. St. Martin's has just pegged December 9 as the on-sale date for *Spider Season*, **John Morgan Wilson's** eighth Benjamin Justice mystery. [www.johnmorganwilson.com](http://www.johnmorganwilson.com). **Bruce Cook**, writing as Brant Randall, has a new book from Capital Crime Press. Library Journal described *Blood Harvest* as a dark drama with plenty of intrigue, conflict, and secrets. **Betty Webb** has sold a new series to Poisoned Pen Press, under the pen name Jo Howell. The new series is based in a fictional zoo, with *The Anteater of Death*, coming out in February, 2009. "The first and last chapter of each book will be told through an animal's point of view," Betty tells us. "And they tend to look upon their human keepers through a jaundiced eye." [www.bettywebb-mystery.com](http://www.bettywebb-mystery.com). Pre-order sales of **Dorothy Howell's** debut mystery *Handbags and Homicide* are now available at Amazon.com. This is the launch book for her new series that will be released in hardcover in July from Kensington Publishing. [www.DorothyHowellNovels.com](http://www.DorothyHowellNovels.com). **Eric Stone**, has finally inked the contract for the next two books in his Ray Sharp series of detective thrillers. *Flight of the Hornbill* will be out from



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Bleak House in October this year, and the next book, tentatively titled *Shanghaied*, will be out at the same time next year. [www.ericstone.com](http://www.ericstone.com).

### Foreign Sales

*The First Cut* and *Cut to the Quick*, **Dianne Emley**'s first two titles in her series featuring police detective Nan Vining have been sold for translation to Italy, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. *Cut to the Quick* came out this week in Australia to rave reviews. The Courier-Mail calls it "an autumnal beach read if ever there was one." <http://dianneemley.com>. New member **Ashley Gardner** sold the German rights to her first three Captain Lacey Regency mysteries (Berkley) to a German publisher for a nice amount of Euros. The books will be published first in serial form, then in mass market paperback. <http://gardnermysteries.com>.

### Events

**Anthony Flacco** has been invited to speak at the Brandeis University Women's Book Club Annual Book and Author Luncheon in San Diego on March 25th, along with authors Carolyn See, Lisa See, and Gayle Brandeis. [www.anthonylflacco.com](http://www.anthonylflacco.com). **John Morgan Wilson** has begun his fourth year on the planning committee of the West Hollywood Book Fair, which is scheduled for Sunday, September 28. John just completed writing an instructional audio CD on back pain (something a lot of us writers are all too familiar with) and was also hired to do the voice-over. **Gay Toltl Kinman** will be the assistant on the first CSI Los Angeles four-day program put on by Elderhostel in March in downtown Los Angeles that will incorporate mystery writers. Then she will be the Group Leader for those in June and August. <http://elderhostel.org>. **The Poisoned Pen** has set up a program with the Phoenix Public Library system and other libraries in the Phoenix metro Area to host authors. The store sets up the programs and does the book sales, the libraries do PR and provide venues. Authors booked at The Poisoned Pen might consider if some extra time is available to add one or more library events when they're in the area. Phoenix is the second largest city geographically and fifth in population, so the broader the reach, the better. Contact [Lorri@poisonedpen.com](mailto:Lorri@poisonedpen.com).

### Classes

**John Morgan Wilson** has just set two new classes that he'll teach for the UCLA Extension Writers' Program this summer: "What Kind of Writer Am I?," a one-day course on Saturday, July 12, and "Developing Your Inner Editor," eight Wednesday evenings on rewriting and polishing, beginning July 16. [www.johnmorganwilson.com](http://www.johnmorganwilson.com). **Kris Neri** will be offering two classes for the Writers' Program of the UCLA Extension School this spring: a one-week mystery marketing class, "Approaching the Mystery Marketplace," and her popular writing class, "Committing the Perfect Crime: Writing Your First Mystery." [www.krisneri.com](http://www.krisneri.com). **Sheila Lowe** is scheduled to teach an Introduction to Questioned Document Examination course in the CSI certificate program at UC Riverside this summer. She'll also be appearing on Sisters in Crime Panels, talking about how her protagonist Claudia Rose helps solve crimes with her handwriting analysis expertise: March 24 at Thousand Oaks B&N and March 25 at Simi Valley Cultural Center, April 20 at Camarillo Library. [www.claudiaroseseries.com](http://www.claudiaroseseries.com). **Eric Stone** will also be at the Thousand Oaks B&N on Monday March 24. [www.ericstone.com](http://www.ericstone.com)

### Short Stories

**Paul Marks**' short story *Three Strikes and Yer Out* will be appearing in the next issue of *Crimestalker Casebook* due this spring. <http://pauldmrks.com>. **Twist Phelan**'s short story "Floored" will appear in the June issue of *Ellery Queen Mystery magazine*. <http://twistphelan.com>. **Gay Toltl Kinman**'s short story, "iRomance," which will be in the *Medium of Murder* Anthology just published by Red Coyote Press. The story is about a

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(Transom Notes Continued from page 9)

hot internet romance that ends up in the deep freeze. [www.Gaykinman.com](http://www.Gaykinman.com). **John Morgan Wilson** has just sold two new short stories to *EQMM*: “City in Fog” and “The Camera Never Lies,” for publication later this year. [www.johnmorganwilson.com](http://www.johnmorganwilson.com). **C. Rochelle Weidner**’s short story “Twice Killed” is in the March issue of *Crime & Suspense*. [www.crimeandsuspense.com](http://www.crimeandsuspense.com). **Deborah J. Ledford**’s short story, “The Troublesome Drawer,” has been picked up for print publication by *Twisted Dreams Magazine* for their June 2008 issue. [www.deborahjedford.com](http://www.deborahjedford.com). **Kris Neri**’s story, “Hocus-Pocus on Friday the 13th,” will debut in the *Medium of Murder* anthology from Red Coyote Press. [www.krisneri.com](http://www.krisneri.com). **Michael Mallory**’s latest “Scotty” kids mystery, *Scotty Tracks a Rabbit*, appeared in the March 23rd Kids Reading Room page of the *Los Angeles Times*. His article on that great sleuth Scooby-Doo also appears in the current (Winter 2008) issue of *Mystery Scene*. [www.michaelmallory.com](http://www.michaelmallory.com)

## Short Story Collections

A new edition of **Susan Cummins Miller**’s anthology, *A Sweet, Separate Intimacy--Women Writers of the American Frontier, 1800-1922* was released by Texas Tech in December. <http://hometown.aol.com/stmiller46/myhomepage/index.html>. **Politics Noir: Dark Tales from the Corridors of Power**, an anthology of original short stories edited by **Gary Phillips** will be out this April from Verso. MWAers **Ken Bruen**, **Michelle Martinez** and **John Shannon** have contributed to this collection of politicians doing bad, bad things. [www.gdphillips.com](http://www.gdphillips.com). Former Hollywood screenwriter (My Favorite Year; Welcome Back, Kotter, etc.), **Dennis Palumbo**, is now a licensed psychotherapist specializing in creative issues. His new book, due out in hardcover in mid-April, is a collection of mystery short stories called *From Crime to Crime: Mind-Boggling Tales of Mystery and Murder* (Tallfellow Press, Los Angeles). [www.dennispalumbo.com](http://www.dennispalumbo.com). **Michael Mallory**’s latest Amelia Watson collection, *The Exploits of the Second Mrs. Watson*, will be published this summer by Top Publications. [www.michaelmallory.com](http://www.michaelmallory.com). A.S.A.P. Publishing will be publishing a collection of short stories by **Gar Anthony Haywood**. *Lyrics for the Blues* will feature Aaron Gunner. Gar wrote all the stories, Lawrence Block the introduction, and Jeffery Deaver the afterword. Award-winning illustrator Phil Parks will provide a front cover and 17 full page illustrations. Expected release date: late summer. [www.garanthonyhaywood.com](http://www.garanthonyhaywood.com)

## Stage and Screen

**Andrew Neiderman**, has contracted with a London production company to develop his libretto of *the Devil’s Advocate* (the music composed by Sarif Tribou of Holland) into a stage musical. The Rival Theater company will develop the project with Neiderman and Tribou to begin a regional theater and move to the West End. [www.neiderman.com](http://www.neiderman.com). **Bill Fitzhugh**’s *Pest Control, The Musical* will go up for a month long preview run on April 18 at the NoHo Arts Center (a small, nonequity theatre in North Hollywood) as they develop the show. Separately, Brooks & Dunn have decided to include an exclusive CD in *The Adventures of Slim and Howdy*. It’s a song called “Gotta Get Me One of Those.” <http://billfitzhugh.com>. “An American Crime”, starring Catherine Keener and Ellen Page, and written by **Irene Turner** will premiere on Showtime on May 10th. This true crime drama takes place in 1965 Indianapolis, and is a terrifying tale of how quickly human beings can turn on each other—even children. “Murder Times Two” comprises two one-act plays **Bob S. Levinson** adapted from stories acquired earlier by *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*. They’ll be performed several times during the two-week Festival at RiverPark Center in Owensboro, KY, June 12-22. The Malice Theatre of the Air will present the radio play “The Adventure of the Murdered Ship”, by Ellery Queen, on Friday April 25th at the Malice Domestic Mystery Convention. Originally broadcast in January 1943, at the height of World War II, it plunges Ellery into the mystery of whose “loose lips” really did “sink ships.” The cast includes David Skibbins as Ellery Queen, Tom O’Day as his father, Inspector Queen of the NYPD, Parnell Hall as Sgt. Velie, NYPD, and Pari Noskin Taichert as Ellery’s secretary Nikki Porter. Carole Nelson

Douglas, Kate Flora, Jack French, Dan Stashower and Hal Glatzer round out the cast. The Malice Theatre of the Air is performed in classic radio drama style, script-in-hand, and is one of the most popular features of the annual Convention. This year, as for the past three years, the Theatre of the Air is produced and directed by Hal Glatzer.

*Compiled and edited by Sheila Lowe*

## **The Crime Calendar**

**Fact Meets Fiction**— Apr. 3-5, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA [www.duq.edu/factmeetsfiction.com](http://www.duq.edu/factmeetsfiction.com)

**NoirCon**— Apr. 3-6, Philadelphia, PA [www.noircon.com](http://www.noircon.com)

**Kansas Writers Association's Scene of the Crime Conference**—Apr. 11-13, Wichita, KS <http://www.kwawriters.org/sceneofthecrime.htm>

**Malice Domestic** - Apr. 25-27, Arlington, VA, [www.malicedomestic.org](http://www.malicedomestic.org)

**Los Angeles Times Festival of Books**— Apr. 26-27, UCLA, Los Angeles [www.latimes.com/extras/festivalofbooks](http://www.latimes.com/extras/festivalofbooks)

**Festival of Mystery**—Apr. 28, Oakmont, PA <http://www.mysterylovers.com/books/events/20080428festival.php>

**Edgars® Banquet**—May 1, New York, NY <http://www.mysterywriters.org/pages/awards/index.htm>

**Mayhem in the Midlands**—May 22-25, Omaha, NE, <http://www.omaha.lib.ne.us/mayhem/index.html>

**Crimefest**— June 5-8, Bristol, UK [www.crimefest.com](http://www.crimefest.com)

**Murder in the Grove**— June 6-7, Boise, ID, [www.murderinthegrove.com](http://www.murderinthegrove.com)

**Bloody Words**—June 6-8, Toronto, Canada, [bloodywords.com](http://bloodywords.com)

**International Mystery Writers Festival**—June 12-22, Owensboro, KY <http://www.newmysteries.org/>

**Hardboiled Heroes & Cozy Cats**—June 13-14, Dallas, TX, <http://www.mwasw.org/>

**Deadly Ink**—June 20-22, Parsippany, NJ, [www.deadlyink.com](http://www.deadlyink.com)

**Book Passage Mystery Writers Conf.**—June 26-June 29, Corte Madera, CA <http://www.bookpassage.com/content.php?id=44>

**Thrillerfest**—July 9-10, New York, NY, <http://www.thrillerwriters.org/thrillerfest/>

**West Hollywood Book Fair**—Sept., W. Hollywood, CA, [www.westhollywoodbookfair.org/](http://www.westhollywoodbookfair.org/)

**Killer Nashville**—Aug. 15-17, Nashville, TN, [www.killernashville.com](http://www.killernashville.com)

**Bouchercon 39**—Oct. 9-12, Baltimore, MD, <http://www.charmedtodeath.com/>

**Cape Fear Crime Festival**—Oct., Wilmington, NC, [www.capefearcrimefestival.org/](http://www.capefearcrimefestival.org/)

**Magna cum Murder**—Oct. 24-26, Muncie, IN, [www.magnacummurder.com](http://www.magnacummurder.com)

**The Great Manhattan Mystery Conclave**—Oct. 31—Nov. 2, Manhattan, KS, [www.manhattanmysteries.com](http://www.manhattanmysteries.com)

**New England Crimebake**—Nov. 14-16, Lowell, MA, <http://crimebake.org/index.htm>

**Tony Hillerman Writers Conference**—Nov., Albuquerque, NM

# THE MARCH OF CRIME



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