

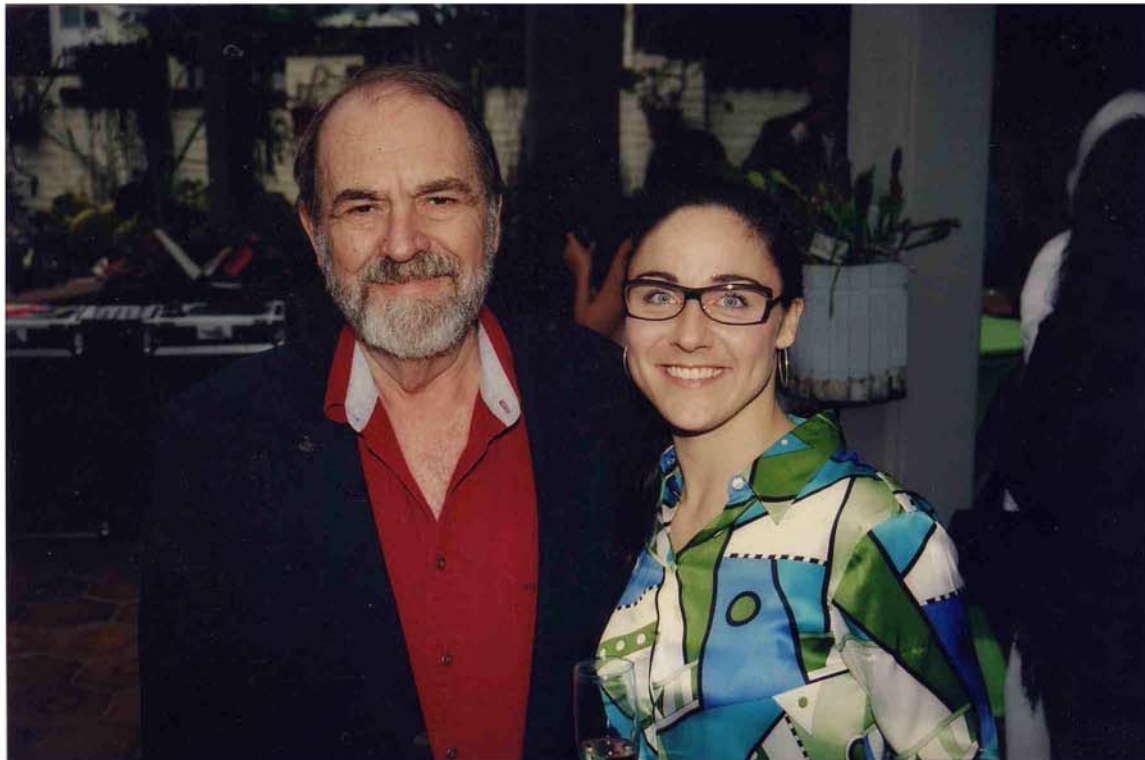


THE MARCH OF CRIME

MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2012

GOODBYE TO AN OLD FRIEND



Gary Amo and friend. Photographer unknown.
Provided by Gary's friend, Sunshine, and used with her permission.

GARY AMO
06.23.39 - 07.14.12

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THE PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET GARY PHILLIPS

Well I don't know about you but it seems to me late summer is full of crime and mystery – fiction-wise that is. *Savages*, the film version of Don Winslow's novel came out with a screenplay co-written by the novelist – and a return to energetic form as far as I was concerned by the director, Oliver Stone. *Breaking Bad* is back for its fifth and last season on cable. By the time you read this several episodes of the bifurcated season will have aired.

There was this great little scene in the second episode of this season; Walter White, high school chemistry teacher turned meth kingpin; Jesse Pinkman, slacker, junkie, and Walter's surrogate son; and Mike Ehrmantraut, former cop, PI, and enforcer for the late crime lord Gus Fring; sit around Mike's modest kitchen table to discuss their future and the money to be made. You just know things are not going to go right.

I also get daily doses of murder and mayhem on the page via several websites/blogs I frequent for news, reviews, excerpts and other such fare on sites such as Spinetingler, Thrilling Detective, the Rap Sheet and Criminal Element. I'm sure you have your favorite sites as well that keep you in the loop on the creative and business aspects of what's happening in our field.

Speaking of sites, I was at my desk the other day working on this action-adventure e-novella I've been writing and heard the versatile Tom Hanks on the Madeline Brand Show on KPCC. Seems the once Michael Sullivan (the family man-hitman he played in *Road to Perdition* – based on the graphic novel by Max Allan Collins and Richard Piers) talking about one of his latest ventures called *Electric City*. It's an animated web effort on Yahoo set in a dystopian future, is there any other kind? He's the voice of one Cleveland Carr, a brutal, yet introspective, enforcer for, well, some older ladies who sit around knitting and overseeing the course of the aforementioned Electric City.

I mention all this to remind us as writers and fans that there are various venues and outlets these days for us to enjoy various stories and ways in which we can get our stories out there. While it's great to get that big advance from a traditional publisher, and there's less of that

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HELP MAKE OUR CHAPTER EVEN BETTER

The March of Crime accepts submissions from members in good standing. If you would like to write for us, please email themarchofcrime@gmail.com. The only requirements are that your piece is well-written and is valuable to your fellow members.

Whether you're an Active, Associate, Affiliate, or Corresponding Member, we welcome your participation.

YOUR EDITOR SPEAKS

DAVID J SHERMAN



It is with deepest regret that I must inform you my partner and friend, Natascha Jaffa, has resigned as co-editor of The March of Crime. It has been my privilege to work with her these many months and I wish her the utmost success in her new ventures as a published author and copy editor extraordinaire. I will continue as your sole editor, and I hope I am able to live up to the high standard she helped set.

Would you like to help TMOC? If you're a member in good standing, please step up. We are looking for a Meeting Correspondent, Meeting Photographer (can be the same person), Events Coordinator, and a Regular Columnist.

Don't be shy. Email themarchofcrime@gmail.com and let's talk.

Thanks,

Dave

The March of Crime is the newsletter of the Southern California Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America. TMOC Editor: David J Sherman; Chapter President: Gary Phillips; Board of Directors: Richard Brewer, Craig Faustus Buck, Tyler Dilts, Darrell James, Sue Ann Jaffarian, Gay Toltl Kinman, Paul Levine, Marilyn Meredith, Rochelle Staub, Jeri Westerson; Ex-officio: Naomi Hirahara. Opinions expressed herein are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Mystery Writers of America, or the Southern California Chapter. National Office: Mystery Writers of America, 1140 Broadway #1507, New York NY 10001, 212.888.8171, mwa@mysterywriters.org, www.mysterywriters.org.



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I AM SORRY I WILL NEVER KNOW YOU

BY DAVID J SHERMAN

I had nearly finished mocking up this issue when I received an email from our President, Gary Phillips, announcing the death of a well-respected journalist, editor, novelist, and from all accounts, wonderful human being—Gary Amo. Since that email, I have learned much about the man, albeit too late.

Gary enjoyed a long career at Palos Verdes Peninsula News as a reporter, political editor and managing editor during the 90s. Before that, he did stints in the Peace Corps in Malawi, as an English instructor in Ethiopia, as a creative director for an ad agency, as editor of *The Firing Line*, and as a tank commander for the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

He made his presence felt in our little corner of the world as both an accomplished mystery author and as past MWA SoCal President. His novel *Come Nightfall* was nominated for an Edgar in 1991. Later, under the pen name Garrison Allen, he wrote cozies featuring a feline protagonist, including *Baseball Cat*, *Desert Cat*, and *Movie Cat*.

As if that weren't enough, Gary somehow shoehorned into his full life the time to become a ranked sharp-shooter in high-power rifle competition.

Our own Susan Goldstein told me, "Gary was an amazing man and incredibly supportive to me when I first dreamed of writing a murder mystery."

His dear friend, Sunshine, explained Gary's response to critics of his editorials: "You get a balanced report on the front page. If you do not like what is on the editorial page, publish your own newspaper."

The obituary that ran on July 26, 2012 in the Palos Verdes Peninsula News was filled with heartfelt quotes from people with whom Gary worked, and on whose lives he made a lasting impression.

I am sorry I will never know you, Gary Amo. Rest in peace.

WE HEARD YOU

Thanks to all who voiced their opinions about *The March of Crime*. We heard your comments and are making some changes. First, we are evaluating new software which will allow us to embed hyperlinks into the newsletter so you can simply click a link rather than having to cut and paste it into the address bar of your favorite browser. We are also going to bring back the Calendar of Events... just as soon as someone steps up to help (hint, hint, see page 3).

Please keep the feedback coming. We appreciate your comments as we work to improve the newsletter for you. Thanks!

PREZ...

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going around these days, from self-publishing e-books, Kickstarter campaigns to raise money for projects, to serializing a novel online, we can get our work out there. Sure, we still need to get folks to notice our stories, but it's got to be available to market the goods.

On a related note, I note the closing of Mysteries to Die For in Thousand Oaks and the impending closing of Partners & Crime in Greenwich Village. That bookselling in this age of the electronic frontier has never been harder we all know. But we also know that nothing compares to the depth of knowledge the staff of indie mystery bookstores command and how much this plays a part in the hand-selling of our books to the public. Please urge your friends to support the indie bookstores in the Southland.

Lastly I'm saddened by the passing of Gary Amo. When I first joined the chapter in the early '90s I had the pleasure of talking with him at several events. He will be missed.

Keep writing...keep reading...keep supporting our independent bookstores.

Until next time,

Gary

CCWC 2013

Registration for the California Crime Writers Conference is now open!

We're excited about how the program is shaping up. We have two international bestselling authors as keynote speakers. Sue Grafton on Saturday and Elizabeth George on Sunday. Ms. George will also lead a workshop on the craft of writing. She is a phenomenal teacher and well known for nurturing aspiring writers. You won't want to miss out.

We have also tapped some high-profile agents, as well as bestselling authors, editors, academics and forensics experts to teach an array of workshops on the business and craft of writing. A limited number of manuscript critiques are available, so snap them up before they disappear.

Hilton Pasadena, June 22-23, 2013

Until 02.28.2013, \$265
03.01 - 05.31.2013, \$300

Manuscript critiques of five double-spaced pages will be offered at \$50. Registration will soon be open.

Register now at:
ccwconference.org

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHOPS

In an age where bookstores are vanishing at an alarming rate, Bank of Books has just opened a new shop at:

Point Dume Village, Heathercliff Rd. #109, Malibu

Grand opening is September 6 - 17.

Don't Forget

MEN OF MYSTERY

This year, the headliners are the Three J's
Joseph Finder - John Lescroart - James Rollins

(Details to Follow in Next Issue)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOAN



More than a hundred of her friends recently gathered to celebrate the birthday of Joan Hansen, creator of the annual "Men of Mystery" gathering in Irvine, CA, among them authors (from left): Stephen Jay Schwartz, Robert S Levinson, (the birthday girl), Thomas B Sawyer, Darrell James, and Gary Phillips. Joan's support of the mystery genre has won her numerous honors, including a Raven Award from Mystery Writers of America.

CHAPTER NEWS

Steve Hodel's third book, *Black Dahlia Avenger II: Presenting the Follow-Up Investigation and Further Evidence Linking Dr. George Hill Hodel to Los Angeles's Black Dahlia and other 1940s Lone Woman Murders* is now available as a trade paperback on Amazon and on Kindle. BDA II is the sequel to his NYT's bestseller which was a MWA Edgar nominee for Best Fact True Crime.

John Shepphird's short story "Ghost Negligence" was published in the July/August Summer Double-Issue of Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine. And please keep an eye out for Jersey Shore Shark Attack, a Syfy Channel original TV film John directed.

JoAnna Senger's *Betrothal, Betrayal, and Blood*, a mystery set in the fictional city of San Tobino on the central California Coast, is now available as paperback and ebook from amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, and bloodredshadow.com.

Gay Tolti Kinman's "Neither Tarnished Nor Afraid", "Mean Streets", "The Locked Car", and "The Fall Guy" are available on Amazon as Kindle Shorts. And Gay is teaching a Journaling Class at the Atherton Baptist Home in Alhambra for six weeks that began on July 26.

William Burton McCormick's debut novel *Lenin's Harem* will be published on December 6th 2012 by Knox Robinson Publishing. The book has already garnered early praise, including an endorsement by Daniel Wagner, former Dean of the CIA's Sherman Kent School for Intelligence Analysis, who said "Enthralling, reads as true as my grandfather's letters." www.leninshare.com.

Connie di Marco, writing as Connie Archer, is happy to announce that the debut novel *Spoonful of Murder* was published by BerkleyPrime Crime August 7.

THANK YOU, NATASCHA



OUR NEXT MEETING

SATURDAY, SEP 8TH

12P - 3P

BILLINGSLEY'S
11326 W PICO
WEST LA

(JUST WEST OF THE 405)

Luncheon With
Secret Service Special Agent

BRIAN V HUNTER

Special Agent Hunter recently retired after 23 years in the Secret Service and Homeland Security, protecting Presidents including Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton, Presidential candidates including Jesse Jackson and John Kerry, dignitaries including Pope John Paul and Hosni Mubarak and Benjamin Netanyahu, events including the '84 Olympics and the Millennium Celebration on the Washington Mall and, of course, as a former arm of the Treasury, the U.S. monetary system. He's been a Criminal investigator, driven armored limos, worked every kind of security detail and suffered the wrath of Nancy Reagan (that story alone is worth the price of admission).

socialmwa.com/home.htm
(more info and reservations)