



The
MARCH

of CRIME

Inside this issue

[President's Rap Sheet p. 2](#)

[Editor's Corner p. 3](#)

[Fresh Blood p. 3](#)

[Over the Transom p. 4](#)

[Pro Shop: Andrew Klavan
p. 7](#)

[Hollow Points p. 8](#)

[Event Pics p. 9](#)

[Crime Calendar p. 14](#)

[Last Word p. 15](#)

Noir City Wrap-Up by Eric Beetner

On Saturday, March 29th a nearly sold out crowd attended a night in Noir City at the Egyptian theater in Hollywood for a double feature of L.A. Noir co-sponsored by the SoCalMWA chapter and the Film Noir Foundation.

Before the night's screenings of *Southside 1-1000* and *Roadblock*, the crowd was treated to a discussion on Los Angeles's history of noir with authors and MWA members **P.G. Sturges**, **Steph Cha** and **Eric Beetner**. Moderated by the Film Noir Foundation's Alan Rode, the discussion talked about the noir heritage of the city of angels in both novels and on film.

Then the crowd was treated to the first of the night's features taking place and filmed in L.A. *Southside 1-1000* started off as a semi-documentary procedural following a G-man out to bust a counterfeiting ring and then, in the last reel, it turns decidedly noir. Although the filmmakers wimped out at the truly noir ending, it was an enjoyable film nonetheless.

Between screenings the SoCalMWA chapter made their presentation of a donation to the Film Noir Foundation on behalf of all its members in order for the FNF to continue its work in preserving and presenting classic Film Noir on the big screen. The FNF was grateful to have our donation and promised to use the funds to bring new films to town at next year's festival of noir.

The crowd was grateful for the second feature, *ROADBLOCK*, starring noir's most enduring gravel-voiced tough guy, Charles McGraw. This one is noir through and through and doesn't shy away from the downbeat ending we know and love in our noir.

Thanks to the volunteers who manned the information table and the authors who came out to speak.

Next Meeting:

May 31 - 3pm
BIOANALYSIS:
Psychology in Mystery
Writing

More information:
[Page 14](#)



The PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET

Jeri Westerson

Dear Members,

I've been thinking about some of you out there, those of you on your search for agents. Take heart. Sometimes it's easy. Sometimes it means trying a few agents. I'm on my fourth. Yeah, I chew them up and spit them out like sunflower seeds.

The thing of it is, there's a lot an agent can do for you that you might not be able to accomplish on your own. Foreign sales, audio sales, getting your rights back—these are all a bit easier with the help of a competent agent. And the reality is that you might have to get used to the idea of this kind of business partnership. I did. After all, there you are, working alone, slogging away, no one telling you what to do, and suddenly here you are with this person who is taking a percentage of your babies, making suggestions you may not wish to hear, trying to ferret out what you should do with your career and in which direction you should take it. You don't have to invite this person for Thanksgiving. You don't have to be pals. This is business! You're taking it to the mattresses. You need to let your business partner be the professional he is and he will let you be the professional you are so that you can both make money.

Sometimes these relationships fall apart, for whatever reason. Then you have to look long and hard on what it is you can do for each other. If it isn't working out, you have to let it go. This is your career you're talking about. Don't settle. Find the right fit. It's agonizing, but in the long run you'll be glad you made the tough decisions early on.

I wish you luck out there. It's tempting to rush out and simply press that "publish" button, but I urge you to take it a bit slower, take some time to think about it, and most importantly, discuss with other authors about their experiences and suggestions. Your fellow MWA members have lots of wisdom to share with you. Take advantage of this opportunity to network, to chat. Get on that yahoo list and use us! Isn't that why you became a member of MWA?

Keep writing.

Jeri Westerson
Your president

Chapter Officers

President: Jeri Westerson
VP: Craig Faustus Buck
Treasurer: Eric Beetner
Secretary: Terri Nolan

Board of Directors

Matt Coyle
Jessica Kaye
Dennis Palumbo
Deborah Coonts
Susan Goldstein
Susan Miller
Charles Rosenberg

Mystery Writers of America
Southern California Chapter
P.O. Box 55125
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

info@socalmwa.com
<http://socalmwa.com>
[Like us on Facebook](#)

Join our SoCalMWA Yahoo! Group

Email SoCalMWA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
to join
(members only)

NATIONAL OFFICE

Mystery Writers of America
1140 Broadway #1507
New York, NY 10001
t. 212.888.8171
f. 212.888.8107

mwa@mysterywriters.org
<http://mysterywriters.org>



The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

Recently, I was reminded about one of the greatest things about being a member of SoCalMWA: the opportunity to network with and learn from writers who have far more experience in the publishing industry than I do. Their generosity and willingness to share information is not only appreciated, but it's oh, so valuable. I'm only sorry it took me so long to start participating in the organization so that I could benefit from it.

In the first "editor letter" I wrote, I mentioned that though I'd been a member of SoCalMWA for a few years, I hadn't really attended meetings or gotten involved in anyway. Thankfully, that's changed for me, but what about you? Are you a member who, for whatever reason, hasn't participated beyond paying your membership dues? If so, I encourage you to change that. Our president, Jeri Westerson (with the help of board members and volunteers), makes an effort to ensure that events occur in various Southern California locations and the other regions our chapter covers. If one is happening near you--and if not, take advantage of the train--why not attend? You'll be glad you did.

Holly

FRESH BLOOD

SoCal MWA welcomes its new and returning members:

Steve Coulter, Affiliate
 Jonathan Maberry, Active (reinstatement)
 Michael A. Jacobs, Affiliate
 Diann J. Adamson, Affiliate (reinstatement)
 Attica Locke, Active (reinstatement)
 Gwendolyn Womack, Active
 Corey Lynn Fayman, Affiliate
 Rebecca Lyles, Affiliate



The March of Crime is the newsletter of the Southern California Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America.

Editor: Holly West

Columnists:
 Gregory Von Dare
 John Morgan Wilson

Opinions expressed herein are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter.

Contact us at:
themarchofcrime@gmail.com

Crime & Science Radio with DP Lyle, MD & Jan Burke

4-19-14: When Disaster Hits: Naming The Dead: An Interview With NTSB's Paul Sledzik

5-3-14: A New Lab, A New Approach to Forensic Science: An Interview with Dr. Max M. Houck, Director of the Washington D.C. Department of Forensic Sciences

5-17-14: Dealing With the Dead: A Life in the Morgue: In Conversation with Dr. Cyril Wecht

5-31-14: Deadly Doctors, Killer Nurses and other Medical Miscreants

crimeandsciencerradio.com
 All shows air at 10am PST
 Listen live or later to archived shows

OVER the TRANSOM

Member News

Gay Toltl Kinman has two new short stories available on Kindle: In [ISABELLA'S STOLEN VERMEER](#), a female sleuth and problem solver finds the person who stole Vermeer's "The Concert" from Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and in [THE GHOST IN THE GRAPEVINE THEATER](#), an 86-year-old newspaperman solves the murder of a man who haunts the San Gabriel Mission Theater and the gigantic grapevine next to it.

Lynne Kennedy's latest work, [DEADLY PROVENANCE](#), a mystery about the Nazi confiscation of art and a missing Van Gogh painting was featured in the March issue of the [San Diego Jewish Journal](#). Lynne is on the hunt for the missing Van Gogh and updates the ["hunt" page](#) on her [website](#) regularly.

Craig Faustus Buck's short story, BUCKSHOT, has been accepted for publication in the premiere issue of [Crooked/Shift](#), a quarterly literary publication dedicated to "works saddled deep within literary tropes that give the typical MFA editor pause--possibly to reach for the desk drawer Xanax or handgun."

Neil Russell's third Rail Black action thriller, [BEVERLY HILLS IS BURNING](#), is now available on Amazon. It's about the movie business, of which Neil is third-generation. Violent, sexy, and duplicitous, the story is not through some Hollywood keyhole. It's all the way in. The first two Rail Black novels, CITY OF WAR and WILDCASE, are edgy. This one... hide the picture of your priest.

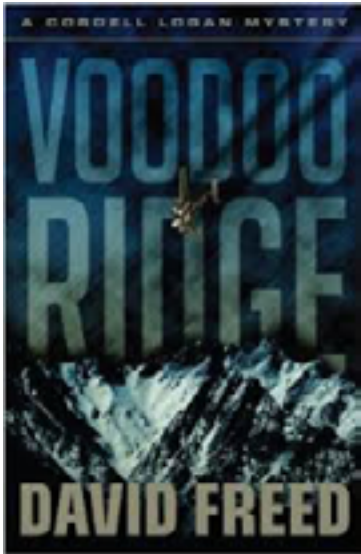
SoCalMWA member **Lee Goldberg** and author Joel Goldman have formed a new publishing company, [Brash Books](#), that brings back award-winning, highly-acclaimed books that have fallen out of print and some new novels as well. Their motto is "We Publish the Best Crime Novels in Existence." It's a brash claim, but they believe their authors back it up. And those authors include locals like Maxine O'Callaghan and Dick Lochte.



The Ed Wood of comics, Fletcher Hanks, was a miserable human being, an alcoholic abuser and bastard of a father who wrote and drew his weird and odd stories for a brief period of time from 1939 to 1941. Then he disappeared for decades, dying from exposure a broke old man, brozen on a New York City park bench in 1976. With that in mind, **Gary Phillips** is pleased to have a prose short story in the SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON! anthology from Flinch books, wherein today's writers penned tales in the fevered and bothered Hanks' style using his characters. Phillips' story, written with a Scotch hangover in one sweated-out sitting, is about Space Smith, replete with Leopard Woman of Venus and their head guns, quick shrink grenades and the Maggot Brain.

Do you have writing news to share with our chapter? Email it to TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com by June 20 for inclusion in the July/August issue.

OVER the TRANSOM



[VOODOO RIDGE](#) (The Permanent Press), the third installment in former Los Angeles Times reporter **David Freed's** critically acclaimed mystery series featuring sardonic pilot, struggling Buddhist and former government assassin Cordell Logan, debuts May 23. The book has garnered strong early reviews. He'll be doing double-duty June 7 at Anne Saller's Book Carnival in Orange, speaking and signing his own book, then, later, interviewing Australian Terry Hayes, author of the best-selling thriller, I AM PILGRIM. You can learn more about David at [David-Freed.com](#).

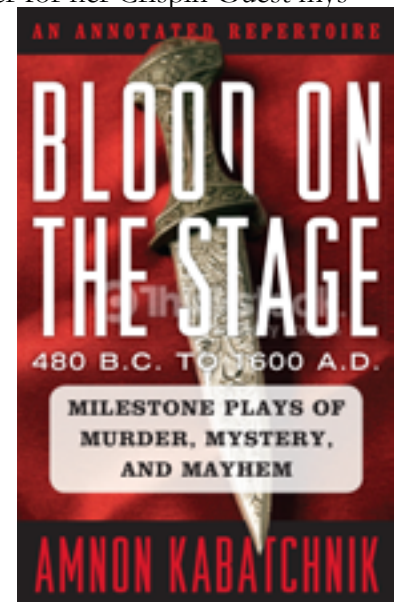
Jeri Westerson will be at the following locations: **Wednesday, May 7, 7 pm** — Foreign Locales panel at the Burbank Library, with **Kim Fay** and **Lisa Brackmann**. 300 N. Buena Vista, Burbank, CA 91505 --**Saturday, May 10, 10-10:30 am (EST)** — Skype Chat with readers at the Bettendorf Library 2950 Learning Campus Dr, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722. Call for info and to get in on the chat! (563) 344-4175 ---**Saturday and Sunday, June 28 and 29** — American Library Association Convention in Las Vegas! Jeri will be at the Sisters in Crime booth, signing and giving books away. <http://ala14.ala.org/>

Additionally, Jeri recently chronicled the photoshoot of the creation of the latest book cover for her Crispin Guest mystery series on her blog, [Getting-Medival](#).

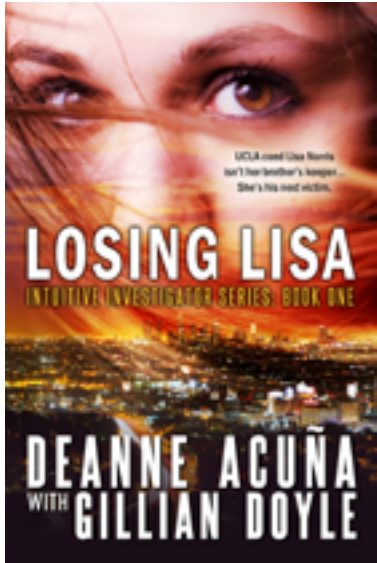
In four volumes of BLOOD ON THE STAGE, published during the last several years, **Amnon Kabatchnik** examined hundreds of crime-tinged plays produced in the 20th century. In his latest book, BLOOD ON THE STAGE, 480 B.C.-1600 A.D., he goes back to dramas of blood, treachery, and horror mounted in Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, the Dark Ages, and Elizabethan England. From the killing of Abel by his brother Cain to Hamlet's revenge of his father's murder, the book provides a thorough view of some of the most significant representations of criminal behavior on stage. It will be published in hard-cover by Scarecrow Press in June 2014. Find out more at [amnonkabatchnik.com](#).

Travis Richardson's story, "Lily-Beth's a Whore" was published on [Shotgun Honey](#) on March 21. He was also featured on [Books and Booze](#), where he chatted about crime, drugs, baseball, small towns, the media, etc.

Barry Wiley will have a major article, DOCTOR OF IMAGINATION, in the Summer issue of *Gibeciere*, the journal of the Conjuring Arts Research Center in New York. Also, Wiley relates, he recently received an e-mail from an enthusiastic reader of his *Adventures in Second Sight* trilogy, demanding to know where he could buy the second and third books. The fan added that he was 85 and wanted to read them "on this side of eternity." As the second volume is finished but not yet released, and the third is still in-progress, Wiley sent the fan the edited manuscript of the second novel, THE SHADOW OF THE TIGER. Four days later the fan e-mailed saying he had finished Shadow and now was ready for the third volume. Every writer needs as many fans like this as possible.



OVER the TRANSOM



Sue Phillips, writing as Gillian Doyle, is pleased to announce the release of a true crime novel, *LOSING LISA: Intuitive Investigator Series, Book One*, by Deanne Acuña with Gillian Doyle. Available in eBook and paperback on Amazon.com. Sue has also re-issued two time-travel romantic suspense novels as Gillian Doyle: *MYSTIC MEMORIES* and *THIS TIME TOGETHER*.

Tom Sawyer's latest mystery-thriller, *CROSS PURPOSES*, will be released in June by Suspense Publishing. Here's some of the buzz already starting: "*Tom Sawyer's inaugural Barney Moon P.I. novel, Cross Purposes, is the best thing to spread shoe leather on the wise-cracking streets of La-La Land since Bogey and Bacall. And Cross Purposes has Sawyer's larger-than-life characters, refreshing humor, Hitchcockian plot twists, and his great, so-authentic dialogue.*" - Andrew McAleer, Author of *101 Habits of Highly Successful Novelists*. Also, "*Not since Elmore Leonard's seminal Get Shorty has a book so brilliantly skewered all things Los Angeles than does Tom Sawyer's Cross Purposes.*" John Land, Bestselling author of *The Tenth Circle* and *Strong Rain Falling*.

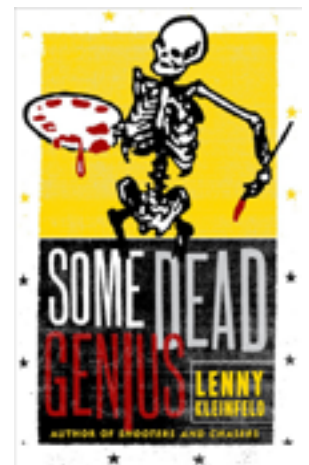
HELL WITH THE LID BLOWN OFF, the seventh installment in **Donis Casey's** award winning Alafair Tucker historical mystery series will be released by Poisoned Pen Press in June, 2014. In the summer of 1916, a big twister cuts a swath of destruction around Boynton, Oklahoma, killing several people, including Jubal Beldon, who had made it his business to know the ugly secrets of everyone in town. But it seems that Jubal had already met his maker when the tornado struck, and when the town sheriff and his deputy begin to investigate the circumstances, they discover that even in death, troublemaker Jubal isn't going to leave his neighbors in peace. Alafair Tucker has her own suspicions about how Jubal Beldon came to die. What if the truth of it hits very close to home? Readers can enjoy the first chapter all seven Alafair Tucker Mysteries at www.doniscasey.com.

INKSLINGER'S BALL, the next book in **Sheila Lowe's** Forensic Handwriting series, will be released by Suspense Publishing on June 10th. You are all invited to her book launch party in Ventura: sheila@sheilalowe.com. On May 18th, Sheila will make a presentation at the Romance Writers of America SoCal chapter in Studio City. Her topic is "What Your Handwriting Says About You--And Your Characters."

Sybil Johnson recently signed a 3-book deal with Henery Press for the Aurora Anderson Mystery series set in the world of decorative painting. The first book in the series is scheduled to be released November 2014.

SOME DEAD GENIUS by **Lenny Kleinfeld**, the sequel to the Kirkus-starred *SHOOTERS AND CHASERS*, will be published May 30 by Niaux-Noir Books. It's a black comedy procedural about a serial killer, marketing fine art, and how Chicago works. Trade paperback and eBook.

Barry Lancet's *JAPANTOWN*, already selected as a Best Debut of 2013 by Suspense Magazine and Oline Cogdill, has been nominated as for a Barry Award for Best First Novel. For more info, visit barrylancet.com.





The PRO SHOP

John Morgan Wilson

In each installment of The Pro Shop, John Morgan Wilson interviews a chapter member about crime writing and writing in general. In this issue: Andrew Klavan.

Andrew Klavan, a five-time Edgar nominee and two-time winner, is the author of thirty novels. Many have been international bestsellers, including two that were turned into high profile films: TRUE CRIME (1999) directed by and starring Clint Eastwood, and DONT SAY A WORD (2001), starring Michael Douglas. Andrew's latest novel for adults is KILLER IN THE WIND (2013). Andrew has also published The Home-lander series of thrillers for young adults, following a patriotic teenager's battle against jihadists. A widely-published essayist on politics, religion, movies and literature, he can be seen in the video features "Klavan on the Culture" at [PJTIV](#) and "The Revolting Truth"



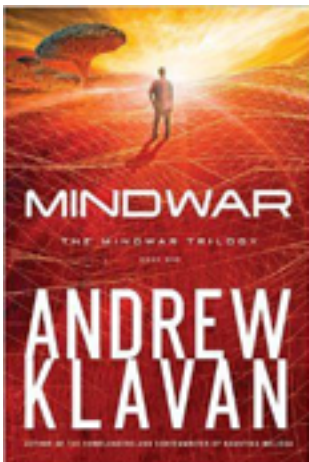
Photo by Kristyn Kimball

JMW: You won your two Edgars in the 1980s, writing as Keith Petersen and Margaret Tracy. Why the pseudonyms?

AK: In part, it was contractual. I was writing small press books at the time and had a contract that bound me to give that press my next Klavan book for very little money. But in part, I just hadn't found my identity as a writer yet. I didn't know what I wanted to do. Pseudonyms were a way of compartmentalizing my various efforts.

JMW: You're a self-identified and outspoken political conservative, though not on all issues. To what extent do your political positions influence your choice of story material and theme? Does it vary from book to book?

AK: I would say I give voice to characters that don't get much of a chance to speak anymore: the patriot, the believing Christian (who's not a gay-hater or a child molester or a Ned Flanders saint), the homemaker who actually likes her work, or just the woman whose strengths are feminine rather than imitation manly. People who have been edited out of our collective imagination. I also abjure political correctness. If a terrorist would be Muslim, I make him Muslim. We've been taught that there's a virtue in lying about such things, that lying somehow makes you a better, more tolerant person. It just isn't so. It's the truth that sets you free.



JMW: Whatever our leanings, many of us have to fight the urge to preach and pontificate in our fiction. How do you approach that potential problem?

AK: By making all my characters flawed and their points of view unreliable. In Empire of Lies [2008] (one of my favorite books), the hero is a Christian conservative – so leftists go nuts and call it propaganda. You can see some of their raging in the Amazon reviews. Personally, I think they're not reading carefully enough, or simply can't stand the idea of such a man being portrayed positively. The book dissects the guy in such a way that it leaves you free to dismiss all his opinions as false.

Continued on pg 12



Hollow Points

Gregory Von Dare

Rifles and Shotguns, Early Days

As I mentioned in a previous column, the modern rifle began as a miniature cannon and was as effective in terrifying one's enemies as hurting them. Maybe more so.

Those booming, smoking, horse-spooking hand cannons dated to the 1200s in Europe and Asia and it would take another three hundred years for the first real long gun, the arquebus, to evolve. The distinguishing features of the arquebus included a much longer barrel for range and accuracy (of a sort), a wooden grip or stock to mount the weapon to the shoulder and the brilliant match-lock mechanism, which inspired the internal mechanics of all rifles and pistols yet to come.

A spring loaded device, the lock, swung a curved metal arm holding a slow burning fuse called the match into a sprinkling of black powder in a small priming pan next to the barrel. This powder went off and ignited the main charge of black powder inside the barrel, through the touch hole, a very small opening in the side of the barrel, thus firing the gun.



The term lock seems to invoke the similarity between the gun's firing mechanism and the rotating latch of a common gate lock. In both devices, iron was used for strength, bronze for longevity. And, a cam in the firing mechanism was called a tumbler. It's possible that pieces from a door or gate lock may have, at some unknown date, been adapted as the works of an early long gun by a blacksmith, tinkerer or clockmaker.

In later versions of the match-lock, the metal arm which held the match was shaped with an "S" curve and had sharp metal teeth at the top to firmly grip the cloth or string match. When loading the gun, this arm was swung back till it locked in place. This arm was called the serpentine--but some wag noticed its resemblance to the curving breast, neck, head and comb of a rooster and it was also called the cock. So, a gun, ready to fire, is *cocked*.

The arquebus was a smooth bore gun and a muzzle loader, the barrel a simple tube of iron, sealed at the back end, with that tiny touch hole on the side for igniting the powder charge. There were no standard calibers. Barrels came in all sorts of sizes from about 1/2 inch or 12mm to well over one inch or 30mm. The arms from one country were useless to another country without a bullet mold that exactly matched the inner diameter of the barrel, the bore--in actuality the bullet needed to be slightly smaller as you'll see.

These muzzle-loaders required a precise, labor-intensive sequence of steps to prepare them for firing. First, you stood the rifle on its butt or stock, the muzzle (front of the barrel) pointing skyward. Then black powder was measured and poured into the barrel. Then a square of paper or cloth was placed over the muzzle and the lead ball set on top of that. The lead ball was driven down the barrel, wrapping the paper or cloth around it, with a ramrod that was either flat or concave on the flared, business end. It better be a tight fit, so some muscle was needed to ram the ball home. A second piece of paper

Continued on pg 13

You Ought to be in Pictures
SoCalMWA members out on the town

Left Coast Crime Awards Banquet



Jeri Westerson with fans



Gary Phillips



Naomi Hirahara with fans



Diann Adamson, Laurie Stevens and Holly West



David Corbett and Lisa Brackmann



Daryl Wood Gerber (aka Avery Aames) (c)

You Ought to be in Pictures
SoCalMWA members out on the town

Los Angeles Times Festival of Books



LATFOB Pre-Party at The Last Bookstore in Downtown LA



Robert Levinson, Stephen Jay Schwartz, Darrell James



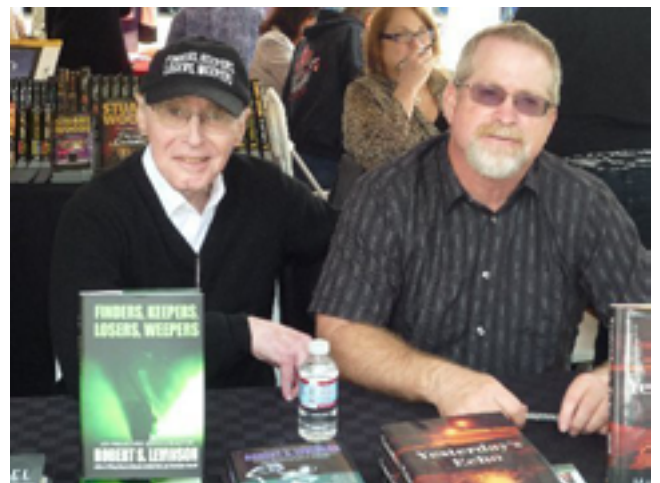
Laura Levine, Robert Levinson



Terri Nolan



Jeri Westerson



Robert Levinson, Matt Coyle

You Ought to be in Pictures
SoCalMWA members out on the town

Los Angeles Times Festival of Books



Rochelle Staub, Robert Levinson



Linda O. Johnston, Robert Levinson



Robert Levinson, Tod Goldberg

Do you have event pictures to share with our chapter? Email them to TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com by June 20 for inclusion in the July/August issue.

The Pro Shop *continued from page 7*

JMW: TRUE CRIME (1995) is a ticking clock thriller about a wrongfully-convicted man about to be executed. THE IDENTITY MAN (2010) revolves around a wrongly accused man on the run, and features corrupt cops. How deeply flawed do you find our justice system?

AK: Well, any system can be corrupted, but that's not my theme. My theme is human corruption and the difficulty of knowing what's real and what's not. In TRUE CRIME, the system's not really flawed at all. Everyone's trying to do what's right. They just make a mistake! In IDENTITY MAN, the corruption's endemic. But that's not the system per se, just an inevitable product of human sinfulness. Which is why limited government is a good idea!

JMS: You've moved from the more conventional mystery to the more modern thriller. What do aspiring thriller writers need to understand about the difference between the two genres?

AK: Mysteries depend on what's hidden to provide tension; thrillers depend on what's known. That's an oversimplification because each genre includes portions of the other. But the point is, to create suspense, you have to let the reader see the danger coming whereas to create mystery you have to keep something under wraps. In either case, the trick is to make it matter emotionally to your characters and your readers both.

JMW: You're nothing if not prolific, including some produced screenplays. Besides the paycheck, what drives you to keep writing, and what should we look for next in book form?

AK: I love what I do. I wouldn't do it otherwise – it's too hard. And up next... I'm moving into an entirely new area for me: the supernatural. I find I can no longer express my view of the world in entirely realistic terms, so I'm still writing suspense and crime stuff but I'm adding another level. My new young adult novel, MINDWAR [due out in July], has a science fiction premise, but that's really just a backdrop for its fantasy element. My new adult novel won't come out till next March, but that really turns the corner. Writing-wise, it's been a very exciting time.

John Morgan Wilson is the author of ten mystery novels, including eight in the Benjamin Justice series. *Simple Justice*, which launched the series, was awarded an Edgar for Best First. John's short stories have appeared in EQMM, AHMM, and several anthologies. He is a former board member of MWA So Cal and a recipient of the chapter's Distinguished Service Award.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

KINGS RIVER LIFE Magazine is looking for submissions of mystery short stories. We prefer no longer than 3000 words--but we will consider longer. We do take reprints as well, though new stories have a chance at being submitted for a Derringer. There is no pay, but you do get a mini bio where you can promote your latest works and website/blog. We publish short stories all year long, but also do a lot of holiday related stories. Submit to krlmagazine@gmail.com in either Word or pasted into an email.

You can find us at <http://KingsRiverLife.com>.

Hollow Points *continued from pg 8*

or cloth might be added on top to keep the ball in place. These were called wads and their purpose was to make a more perfect seal between the often irregular barrel and the often irregular spherical bullet. The wad helped build up enough gas pressure to drive the ball far down field and hopefully into the corpus of your enemy. Lard, bear grease and butter were all used to help lubricate the barrel and speed the ball's path from confinement. The cock was rotated back away from the powder tray and locked into place. Finally, some black powder was carefully sprinkled into the priming pan at the touch hole.

The harquebus was then hefted to the shoulder, with a quick blow on the smoldering match to make its ember glow red. The trigger or firing bar was pulled or squeezed, the cock swung through its arc, touched burning match to the priming powder which flared up, ignited the main charge and fired the weapon.

This ponderous sequence of steps for loading a long gun lasted, with a few minor changes, from the 1500s until the U. S. Civil War in the 1860s, when gunmakers invented pre-made cartridges and breech loading. However, it was not till the introduction of the flint-lock mechanism and the improved, rifled barrel in the early seventeenth century that the modern rifle took shape and became the weapon of choice for armies and hunters worldwide. Next time, we'll look at the more advanced flint-lock musket and consider its enormous impact on military strategy, food supplies and geopolitics.

Gregory Von Dare *comes from Chicago and was raised on crime, corruption and clout in the big city. He has written non-fiction books, magazine articles and radio scripts, as well as stories, plays and screenplays. He once worked as a pyro detonator and talent manager for Universal Studios Hollywood.*



The March of Crime would like to thank this issue's contributors:
John Morgan Wilson, Gregory Von Dare and Eric Beetner.

Crime CALENDAR



May 31 - 3pm

BIBLIOANALYSIS:

Psychology in Mystery Writing

Learn how crime writers use psychological perspectives to motivate characters and build suspense, featuring:

Stephen Jay Schwartz

Craig Faustus Buck

Laurie Stevens

Dennis Palumbo (moderator)

[Click here for panelist bios](#)

Free event

Co-sponsored with the Studio City Public Library

Studio City Public Library

12511 Moorpark Street

Studio City, CA 91604

Coffee and snacks will be provided

Non-members are welcome

San Diego MWA Event!

True Cop Stories Turned Into Literary Gold

12:00 pm June 21, La Jolla Library

7555 Draper Ave, La Jolla, CA 92037

Join us as two ex-police officers discuss how they turn their thrilling true life experiences as cops into fascinating fiction.

David Putnam, author of *THE DISPOSABLES*, spent thirty-one years in law enforcement working narcotics, violent crimes, criminal intelligence, hostage rescue, SWAT, and Internal Affairs, to name just a few.

Tom Basinski, author of the upcoming, *THE STALK BROKER*, is a retired Chula Vista Homicide Detective, as well as, a former investigator for the San Diego District Attorney. He has also penned two True Crime books, *NO GOOD DEED* and *CROSS-COUNTRY EVIL*.

Matt Coyle, author of *YESTERDAY'S ECHO*, will moderate the invigorating discussion.

A banner with a light olive green background and a darker olive green ribbon-like border. The word "Crime" is written in a cursive font, and "CALENDAR" is in a bold, sans-serif font.

Crime
CALENDAR

MORE CRIMINAL HAPPENINGS

May 2-4 - [Malice Domestic](#), Bethesda, MD
May 15 - [CrimeFest](#), Bristol, UK
May 31 - SoCal MWA May Meeting ([see pg 14](#))
June 6-8 - [Bloody Words XIII](#), Toronto, Canada
June 21 - San Diego MWA Event ([see pg 14](#))
June 22 - Noir at the Bar ([see pg 13](#))
June 27-28 - [High County Festival of the Book](#), Boone, NC
July 8 - 12 - [ThrillerFest](#), New York, NY
July 24 - 27 - [Book Passage Mystery Writers Conference](#), Corte Madera, CA
August 21-24 - [Killer Nashville](#), Nashville, TN
September 4-7 - [Writers Police Academy](#), Jamestown, NC
November 13-16 - [Bouchercon](#), Long Beach, CA

**Join our SoCalMWA
Yahoo! Group**

Email SoCalMWA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to join
(members only)

A banner with a light olive green background and a darker olive green ribbon-like border. The word "The" is written in a cursive font, and "LAST WORD" is in a bold, sans-serif font.

The
LAST WORD

“You wouldn’t have known it from his movies, but he was a hell of a good actor.”

--Maxine Nunes, DAZZLED