

The MARCH

of CRIME

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"East Meets West" at local OC Crime Writers Meeting by Jackie Houchin

SoCalMWA joined Sisters in Crime Orange County on August 24 for a dive into Asian culture. The "East Meets West" meeting began with an Asian buffet, followed by a lively author discussion panel.

SinC-OC President Gayle Carline and MWA President **Jeri Westerson** briefly highlighted upcoming events for their organizations. Carline then introduced president emeritus of SoCalMWA moderator **Naomi Hirahara** who presented the panel. Each set their crime fiction in the Far East or had an Asian protagonist.

Hirahara asked about settings and characters.

Kim Fay's Edgar-nominated novel The Map of Lost Memories is set in Colonial Cambodia. Her protagonist is a Western woman who, true to the mindset of the era, "came to Cambodia and took what she wanted." **Steph Cha's** two contemporary noir mysteries Follow Her Home and Beware Beware are set in L.A.'s Korea town and feature Juniper Song, a struggling novice P.I.

Continued on page 9

Mext Meeting:

October 15, 2014

Noir Night at the Movies

More information: Page 13



L-R: Jeri Wesetrson, Gayle Carlene, Lisa Brackmann, Tim Hallinan, Naomi Hirahara, Steph Cha, and Kim Faye. Photo by Jackie Houchin



The PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET

Jeri Westerson

Dear Members,

As we make a beeline toward the end of the year, I'd like to go over a few upcoming things.

This September, Bill Fitzhugh has graciously offered the use of his lovely home and yard for our "summer" <u>Gumbo Party</u> on September 20, for which he slaves over a hot stove to cook up some smashing food. My hubby Craig is also brewing up some homebrew, three kinds, for your enjoyment. Please RSVP at <u>contact@socalmwa.com</u> to let us know if you and a guest will be attending. Did I mention that it was free to members and their one guest? The address is in this newsletter. Also, if you can come early and help set up, that would be swell. And if you'd like to bring an appetizer to share, even better. Wine, beer, soft drinks, and water will be provided. Anything harder, bring it...and share.

Also we are in the process of revamping our website. She was a good old work-horse for many years but now it's time to let it out to pasture. It will be cleaner and easy to navigate. Members will be able to reload their info as well as a book cover, which will be in rotation with other members' bookcovers as part of the design. Looking forward to that.

We are in the planning stages of sponsoring a Librarian Luncheon at Bouchercon this November, something that will get our name out there in a positive way. We are working with a publisher to offer free audiobooks to give-away to our attendee librarians as well as getting authors in there to schmooze at the tables. Also at Bouchercon, we will have a table for our brochures and swag in the bookroom. We will need volunteers to man the table, but we're also offering additional signing time to our members at the table. Let's not let that space go to waste! Sign-ups soon.

In Arizona, our far flung members are working on a chapter event, perhaps in January. I look forward to what they might have planned.

And finally, be prepared for our Holiday Party at Golden Road Brewery again right outside of Glendale. This time I promise to provide a good map on how to get there. This event is also free to our members and a guest, except for the bar. The date is Sunday December 14, so mark that date on your calendars.

As always, keep writing and keep it mysterious.

Your prez, Jeri Westerson

Chapter Officers

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The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

Awhile ago, I made a vow to myself not to judge other writers for the decisions they make with regards to their own careers. It seems like an obvious course of action, right? But there are so many opinions out there about what writers should and shouldn't do, what sets legitimate authors apart from mere posers, and whether one particular path is superior than another. It's hard sometimes not to take a side. The way I see it though, we're all doing the best we can to pursue our writing dreams. I really can't judge how that plays out for others, only for myself.

This summer, with the dispute between Hachette and Amazon in full swing, all of those arguments cropped up again. While I do sympathize with the authors and businesses affected by the dispute, some of the rhetoric and hyberbole thrown around was so alarmist and extreme I had to shake my head. The fact is, both sides have valid points but it's just so easy to get caught up in the noise.

I have opinions on these matters, sure, but mostly, they'll be exercised in the choices I make as a writer, or perhaps more importantly, as a consumer. Apart from that, my own time is better spent keeping my head down and my fingers on my keyboard, working on my latest WIP.

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

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

Some housekeeping: I'm still receiving content that is not ready for inclusion in the newsletter. It's important that your announcements are written in the third person and worded as you'd like to see them in the newsletter. Include hyperlinks where applicable (if you'd like) and cover images, if you have them.

Holly

FRESH BLOOD

SoCal MWA welcomes its new and returning members:



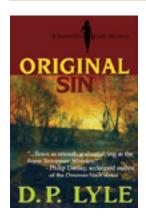
Tuscon Festival of Books

The Tucson Festival of Books, happening in March 2015, is a splendid opportunity to meet and greet the public. In many ways, it's much better than the LA Times Festival of Books, because it gives more authors a chance to be on panels than does LATFOB.

Sign up here before Oct 1.

SoCalMWA will have a booth there as well. Another opportunity for authors to sign books.

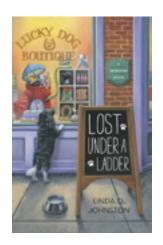
OVER the TRANSOM



Member News

D.P. Lyle's latest Samantha Cody thriller, <u>ORIGINAL SIN</u>, was released by Reputation Books on August 15.

Shamus-winner **Paul D. Marks'** short story, "Howling at the Moon" will appear in the Black Mask section of the November 2014 issue of Ellery Queen Magazine. Death Valley, no place could be more appropriately named. And just like the desert sticks to you, memory is something else that doesn't go away--doesn't leave you alone, even if you want it to. Find Paul at PaulDMarks.com.

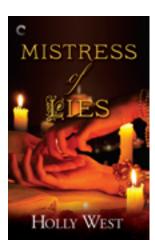


Travis Richardson's short story, "A Bro Code Violation," is up Spinetingler Magazine. His story "The Proxy" will be in the 13th issue of Thuglit on September 1 and his rock 'n' roll LA riot story, "Not Sure Where I'm Headin" will be in the 4th issue of All Due Respect coming out in September.

The final book in **Michelle Gagnon's** award nominated PERSEFONE trilogy, DON'T LET IT GO, was released on August 26th. See Member Appearances for more information.

Linda O. Johnston's first Superstition Mystery, LOST UNDER A LADDER, will be an October release from Midnight Ink. It'll be good luck to read Linda's Superstition Mysteries!

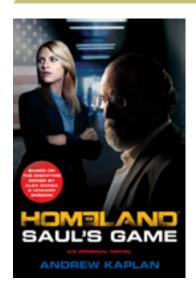
Holly West's latest novel, <u>MISTRESS OF LIES</u>, the second in her Mistress of Fortune series featuring amateur sleuth Isabel Wilde, a mistress to King Charles II who secretly makes her living as a fortunteller, will be released on Setember 29 by Harlequin's Carina Press. Available wherever ebooks are sold.

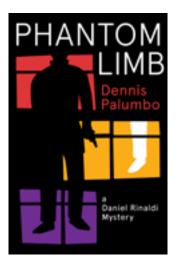


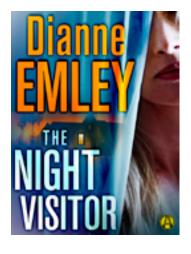
Along with a shelf full of excellent crime novel revivals, <u>Brash Books</u> is releasing on September 1 handsome new trade paperback editions of **Dick Lochte's** SLEEPING DOG and LAUGHING DOG, including new afterwards. SLEEPING was nominated for Edgar, Shamus and Anthony Awards, won the Nero Wolfe Award and was picked up as one of the hundred favorite mysteries of the century by the Independent Mystery Booksellers Assocication. The books are also available in Kindle format, as is "Rappin' Dog," a short story featuring the series' sleuths, Leo Bloodworth and Serendipity Dahlquist.

In September, Suspense Publishing will release a new edition of **Sheila Lowe's** WHAT SHE SAW, the story of a young woman with amnesia. Imagine the terror of waking on a train and realizing that you don't know who you are or where you're going. All you know is that you can't go to the police. Available as ebook and trade paperback.

OVER the TRANSOM







Kris Neri will be repeating her popular online mystery and thriller writing class, COM-MITTING THE PERFECT CRIME: WRITING YOUR FIRST MYSTERY, for UCLA Extension, starting Wednesday, October 10. Designed for beginners as well as those with a work-in-progress, this course is a supportive, results-oriented workshop that guides you in planning your mystery or suspense novel, or revising some of the choices made in your work-in-progress. You learn the fundamentals of crime writing, including structure and pacing, point-of-view, setting, character development, dialogue and voice, and clues and red herrings, as well as self-editing techniques. Course #495.5 Registration #24977. Go to www.uclaextension.edu for more information.

The next novel in **Andrew Kaplan's** bestselling HOMELAND series, <u>HOMELAND: SAUL'S GAME</u>, will be released by William Morrow/HarperCollins on October 7. In this second official prequel novel to the award-winning hit TV series, Homeland, CIA operations officer Carrie Mathison discovers a dangerous threat inside the Agency. To expose the double agent, her boss, Saul Berenson devises an elaborate ruse that will send her on the most dangerous mission of her life.

Gay Totl Kinman has two new short stories on Kindle: "Death in St. Moritz," set in winter during the Polo on Ice Games and "Magestic-12," set in New Mexico in October 1973. A professor may have found proof that extra terrestrials exist--but someone wants to keep that proof buried.

Eric Beetner will have four novels coming out in 2015, including the full omnibus edition of his serial novel, THE YEAR I DIED SEVEN TIMES (Beat To A Pulp Press) as well as RUNRUNNERS (280 Steps), a family saga pitting generations of criminal drivers against each other. He will have two novels with Down & Out Books that were co-written. One with author JB Kohl, whom Beetner has collaborated with twice before. This new standalone novel, OVER THEIR HEADS, is a wild adrenaline-fuled calamity about a missing load of drugs, some stolen cash and a lot of bad decisions. Then with THE BACK-LIST, co-written with Frank Zafiro, two assassins must square off for one last job opening within a mob organization. May the best man – or woman – win.

Dennis Palumbo's PHANTOM LIMB, the fourth in the Daniel Rinaldi series that Publishers Weekly calls "Riveting." It's a September release from Poisoned Pen Press.

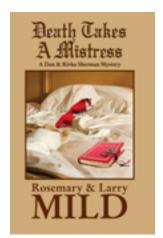
Dianne Emley's standalone paranormal mystery, THE NIGHT VISITOR, published by Alibi/Random House, goes on sale September 16 in a digital-first edition. She'll be signing ebooks for fans everywhere via <u>Autography</u>. More details to come. She'll also be doing a blog tour. Check her website for locations and dates (<u>www.DianneEmley.com</u>).

OVER the TRANSOM



Barry Lancet's sophomore effort after JAPANTOWN is TOKYO KILL (Sept 9, Simon & Schuster). It once again features San Francisco antiques dealer and Japan expert Jim Brodie, who has recently inherited a stake in his father's Tokyo-based private investigation firm. Read an excerpt on Lancet's website at http://barrylancet.com. The Jim Brodie character and JAPANTOWN have been optioned for TV by J. J. Abrams's Bad Robot Productions, in conjunction with Warner Bros.

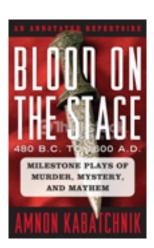
New editions of books by SoCalMWA members **Dick Lochte** (see announcement on page 4) and **Gar Anthony Haywood** (MANEATER and FIRECRACKER) are among the "best crime novels in existence" that are being published in September by Brash Books, co-founded by **Lee Goldberg**.



THE JOB, **Lee Goldberg's** third collaboration with Janet Evanovich, comes out on November 3 from Random House.

Shirley Rousseau Murphy's THE CAT, THE DEVIL, AND LEE FONTANA will be published in paperback in October by Avon.

Rosemary and Larry Mild have published two new books: DEATH TAKES A MISTRESS, the 2nd Dan & Rivka Sherman Mystery. A married man kills his mistress because she bore his child. Her grown daughter seeks revenge, putting her own life in jeopardy. The Misadventures of Slim O. Wittz, Soft-Boiled Detective, 8 Short Stories originally published in Mysterical-E magazine. Visit the Milds at www.magicile.com.



Amnon Kabatchnik's BLOOD ON THE STAGE, 480 B.C.-1600 A.D., in which he goes back to dramas of blood, treachery, and horror mounted in Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, the Dark Ages, and Elizabethan England, is now available as an ebook for the Kindle and Nook. Find out more at amnonkabatchnik.com.

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

Member APPEARANCES

Michelle Gagnon will be reading at the Barnes & Noble at the Grove on September 3 (7pm) with NYT bestelling author Madeleine Roux to celebrate the resease of DON'T LET IT GO.

D.P. Lyle's upcoming appearances:

BookTrib Live Chat

September 4, 2014. 1 p.m. PDT

Anaheim Public Library Foundation

Tuesday, September 16, 2014, 6:30-8:00 p.m. 500 W. Broadway

Anaheim, CA

Info: 714-765-1880

Jeri Westerson will be in the following locations to talk about her newest medieval mystery, CUP OF BLOOD:

Saturday, October 11, 2 pm – San Bernardino Library 555 W 6th St, San Bernardino, CA 92410. Books will be available for sale

Saturday, October 18, 1 pm to 3 pm — <u>Tournament of the Phoenix</u> in Poway. Selling books, and being surrounded by medievally goodness, folks in costume, falconers, weapons experts, and jousting!

Saturday, October 25,11:00 am — AAUW Luncheon at Old Ranch Country Club 3901 Lampson Ave, Seal Beach, CA 90740. Contact AAUWLongBeach@gmail.com for more information.

Dorothy Howell will appear at the Vegas Valley Book Festival in Las Vegas which runs October 16-18. The festival is in its 13th year and is the largest literary event in Las Vegas. Dorothy will participate on a mystery and a romance panel.

Members are invited to the launch of **D.J. Adamson's** new novel, ADMIT TO MAYHEM. The celebration will be held on October 4 at Flintridge Bookstore and Coffee Shop in La Canada, CA from 5-7pm.

Tammy Kaehler will take part in a cozy mystery panel at the Burbank Library (Buena Vista Branch) on Wednesday, September 10 at 7pm. Tammy will also join six fellow Poisoned Pen Press authors at the Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Scottsdale, AZ, on Saturday, September 13 at 2pm. As part of the group launch party, she'll talk about and sign her newest Kate Reilly Racing Mystery, AVOIDABLE CONTACT.

Marshall Thornton, author of THE BOYSTOWN MYSTERY series, will be reading and signing books at San Gabriel Valley Pride on September 20 in Pasadena.

Member APPEARANCES

In conjunction with OneBook Arizona 2014, **Donis Casey** will be presenting several creative writing workshops around the state in September, including the libraries in Snowflake-Taylor and Holbrook on September 5, Heber-Overgard on Sept 6, Cottonwood on September 9, Lake Havasu City on September 15, and Florence on September 26. For times and program information, see Donis' web site at www.doniscasev.com.



Bill Fitzhugh is hosting our chapter Gumbo Party in his home.It's members only, plus one guest. He's cooking the eats and Craig Wesetrson is providing the homebrew.

If you want anything harder, it's BYOB.

Did we mention it's FREE?

Saturday, September 20
6pm
23062 Sylvan Street
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
RSVP contact@socalmwa.com



The PRO SHOP

John Morgan Wilson

John Morgan Wilson has ended his Pro Shop Q&A column after a two-year run. John is grateful to TMOC for the space and support, and also thanks those who contributed their time and thoughts to Pro Shop, as well as readers who responded positively to it, and looks forward to seeing many of you at Bouchercon in November.

Editor's note: I'd like to personally thank John for his contributions to The March of Crime newsletter. It was a pleasure working with him, both for his professionalism and the thoughtful questions he brought to the Pro Shop Q & A. It is much appreciated.

East Meets West continued from page 1

Lisa Brackmann's series follows Iraq War veteran, Ellie McEnroe in contemporary Beijing. Rock Paper Tiger and Hour of The Rat begin her trilogy. **Timothy Hallinan's** thrillers are set in Bangkok and tell the story of travel writer Poke Rafferty. Sixth and most recent is For The Dead. **Naomi Hirahara's** first series featured a Japanese gardener who worked in and around Pasadena. Murder on Bamboo Lane debuts her new series about Ellie Rush, a young mixed-race bicycle cop in Los Angeles.

The panelists felt it was at least helpful to visit the places they wrote about, if not a necessity. Cha and Hirahara drive through the parts of LA they use in their books. Fay admits, "I didn't realize how the extreme heat in Viet Nam slowed down everything and everyone until I went there myself."

Hallinan needed to stay in Thailand until he understood the language before beginning his books.

Most felt it was okay to use "pigeon-language" in their characters' dialogues if not used in a stereotypical way. Brackmann tries to capture the sentence structure and rhythm more than the sounds. Fay translates her Asian character's thoughts rather than their speech mistakes. "I don't want them to sound less smart because they can't pronounce English. It takes away their power."

Meaningful reasons for their books' settings?

When Hallinan arrived in Thailand, he knew it was home. "It was like a key turned in my chest." Brackmann visited a friend's parents in China and stayed six months. She returns every year. Fay grew up hearing her grandfather's tales of naval life in Asia. She was ready to give her heart to Viet Nam and Cambodia. Cha enjoyed the noir of Raymond Chandler and Philip Marlowe's Los Angeles. Since she grew up in Korea town, she writes what she knows.

A question from the audience about the influence of Dragnet on Cha's writing left her puzzled. When told it was a 1950's TV series, she promised to research it on Wikipedia. Her comments drew chagrined (but kind) laughter from the audience who recognized the clear line between her youth and the others' maturity.

WIP? Most are working on their sequels. Cha was submitting a short story to Asia Pulp. Hallinan's humorous Junior Bender mystery series was picked up by NBC for a weekly show.

Thanks and congratulations to a great panel!



Hollow Points

Gregory Von Dare

The All-American Rifle

Although the English "Brown Bess" musket was probably the most popular firearm in the world during the 18th century, we here in the USA owe a special debt to our homegrown variant of the Bess, the Kentucky or Pennsylvania long rifle. While it was nearly identical to the British musket in its firing mechanism, the long rifle had a much longer, more advanced barrel and a smaller caliber. Eventually, it came to play an important role in shaping the history and character of our country.

As the American frontier moved westward, pioneers, trappers and mountain men delved into dense forests of birch, pine, and assorted hardwoods as they went north, west and south from their base in New England. They needed to kill game such as deer, elk and even moose from a safe distance. And they needed to hit targets in motion as well as small game such as raccoon and beaver. Existing English muskets were — as a whole — not up to the challenge, although they could be effective as a close-on defense against bears and mountain lions if carried loaded and half-cocked.



True to the name long rifle, these guns were up to 70-72 inches in length, while the British "land pattern" musket was about 58-59 inches. Soldiers in the Continental Army using a long rifle could hit British troopers at a range of two hundred yards or more. But the British muskets were limited to a range of less than one hundred yards. The long rifle deserves its place in our story because it was a notable factor in winning the War of Independence, thanks to its light weight and formidable accuracy.

Gunmakers in 18th variant on the flintlock musket that suited the needs of American colonists and frontiersmen. This new rifle was thin, light and easy to carry all day. It had a very long barrel and the German gunsmiths used a special process that cut a series of spiral groves, called "lands", into the bore (inside) of the barrel. The spiral lands imparted spin to the shot and increased stability of flight. Most of the long rifles also had some kind of storage compartment in the stock, which came in handy for carrying pre-cast shot, cloth patches and spare bits of flint.

The long rifle also featured smaller diameter bores than the British muskets: .40 — .50 caliber verses .75 for the Brown Bess. The smaller ball, longer barrel and rifling (the spiral groves) combined to give the American long rifle, now truly called a "rifle", much greater accuracy. In addition, the long barrel allowed the smaller ball ammunition to receive more "oomph" from the exploding gunpowder. This higher muzzle velocity created a flatter trajectory for the shot and made it easier to aim from a distance.



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



Noir panel: L-R: Stephen Jay Schwartz, Christa Faust, Dennis Palumbo, Craig Faustus Buck, and Laurie Stevens. Photo by Jeff Boxer.



Christa Faust and Dennis Palumbo. Photo by Jeff Boxer.



Dennis Palumbo. Photo by Jeff Boxer.



Travis Richardson reads from KEEPING THE RECORD at Noir at the Bar in San Diego. Photo by Holly West.

Do you have event pictures to share with our chapter?

Email them to TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com by October 20 for inclusion in the November/December issue.

Hollow Points continued from pg 10

James Fennimore Cooper's famous character Nathaniel 'Natty' Bumppo, was known as "Hawkeye" for his prowess with an American long rifle. Bumppo was based on many real American woodsmen around the time of the French-Indian Wars, and later in the Revolutionary War. Fennimore Cooper heard tales of these men and their exploits in the wilds of upstate New York, where his father founded the village of Cooperstown. These rough men brought marksmanship to a new level of excellence and made it an integral part of the emerging, self-reliant American character.

I mentioned flat trajectory above and it bears elaborating on the meaning of that term, since some mysteries have hinged on the idea of shooting over an object and hitting something behind it or by using lasers to model the exact flight of a bullet — which is not realistic over more than one hundred feet. A bullet does not follow a perfectly straight path to its target! The longer the distance, the more the track of a bullet drops. A very fast bullet will travel close to a straight line at first, but will progressively slow down and begin to drop near the end of its flight – eventually hitting the ground if it doesn't contact anything in between.

Every bullet fired from every gun is subjected to a 1G gravitational field. In practical terms that means that if you fire a bullet from a rifle that's level and simultaneously drop one from the same height, they will both hit the ground at the same time! Not the same place, but the same time. The dropped bullet goes straight down, like Newton's apple. The fired bullet follows a ballistic, parabolic path. So, if you are firing a long distance, you must aim above the target in order to hit it, allowing for drop. Shooters call this difference "elevation." Contemporary rifles may have adjustable sights (whether telescopic or "open") which can be adjusted for distance and will compensate for the drop of the bullet with no extra input from the shooter.

Long, slender, beautiful and elegant, the Kentucky Long Rifle gave Colonists an edge in their guerilla fighting tactics against the British regulars, and provided a steady supply of venison and bear meat to the stewpots of the nascent United States. The tradition of the American marksman lives on today, as in 2009 when three Navy Seals saved merchant Captain Richard Phillips by firing over forty meters ship-to-ship in rolling seas and taking out three deadly Somali pirates with three simultaneous perfect shots. Hawkeye, indeed.

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.

Join our SoCalMWA Yahoo! Group

Email <u>SoCalMWA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com</u> to join (members only)

Pitch Your Ideas

TMOC is looking for informative articles written by our members. Email us at themarchofcrime@gmail.com with your pitches.

CALENDAR

SoCalMWA Noir Night at the Movies

As the days get shorter and the nights grow longer, it's time for a little film noir. Join us for a members screening of a classic film noir in a **real classic movie house**.

SoCalMWA presents a FREE screening of the Otto Preminger classic **WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS** (1950), starring Dana Andrews and Gene Tierney--the great screen couple from Preminger's other noir classic, LAURA.

This being a vintage movie house built in the 1920s, we will also have vintage film noir trailers as well as a short subject.

A panel discussion about film noir with experts and authors featuring Harley Jane Kozak and others will precede the film.

Snacks and drinks are on the house so bring a date, pull on your finest fedora and trenchcoat and we'll see you at the movies.

October 15
7pm
Old Town Music Hall
140 Richmond Street
El Segundo

FREE ADMISSION Includes snacks and drinks



The March of Crime would like to thank this issue's contributors:

Jackie Houchin and Gregory Von Dare



MORE CRIMINAL HAPPENINGS

September 4-7 - Writers Police Academy, Jamestown, NC

September 20 - Gumbo Party

November 1 - Murder and Mayhem in Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI

November 13-16 - Bouchercon, Long Beach, CA

December 14 - SoCalMWA Holiday Party

Short Story Contest

KINGS RIVER LIFE Magazine would like to announce its first ever mystery short story contest! This one has a theme of Halloween!

Check out our contest page for details





"His favorite saying was a line from Trotsky: 'You may not be interested in war, but war is interested in you'."