



THE MARCH OF CRIME

MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2012



Men of Mystery

CELEBRATING MEN WHO WRITE MYSTERIES



Saturday, November 17, 2012

Irvine Marriott Hotel

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THE PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET **GARY PHILLIPS**

As we move toward what passes for Fall and Winter here in the Southland, I wanted to go over a couple of important items.

Now, obviously if you're getting this edition of the newsletter, you've renewed your dues. But if you know someone who hasn't renewed, would you please remind them to do so. And if they're adamant about not doing so, let me know why. We want to make this chapter and our organization as responsive as we can to what people want to get out of it.

Know too the election for new So Cal MWA board members is fast approaching. Ballots will be mailed out after National elections results are announced in mid-November and due back by mid-December. As per our bylaws, I'll be stepping down as president along with several others who have served their terms. If you have an interest in serving, or know of someone else who has an interest—they must be an active status member—let me and the board know at: contact@socalmwa.com.

That's about it for now but let me say it's been a blast being president of the chapter and I look forward to many more years being involved in making our chapter grow and contribute to the betterment of the Mystery Writers of America as a whole.

Here's hoping there's speedy recovery for those affected by Super Storm Sandy. Until next time.

Gary

BANK OF BOOKS MALIBU GRAND OPENING

Malibu's own Bank of Books is celebrating its grand opening November 2 - 11, 2012. They have an incredible selection of new and rare books. Come by and check out the \$45,000 book!

Bank of Books
Point Dume Village
29169 Heathercliff Rd. #109
Malibu CA 90265

YOUR EDITOR SPEAKS

DAVID J SHERMAN



Welcome to the October/November issue of TMOC. This issue debuts John Morgan Wilson's new column, *The Pro Shop*. See his first interview with T. Jefferson Parker on Page 11. John's no stranger to TMOC, having served in the past as Editor. Welcome back, John.

Thanks to all who submitted articles. If I haven't already told you that your article is not a good fit, expect to see it published soon.

Have a wonderful fall season, and I'll see you again in December.

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.



PO Box 55215, Sherman Oaks CA 91413 - www.socalmwa.com, info@socalmwa.com



www.ccwconference.org

The CCWC committee is excited about the way this conference is shaping up. Not only do we have two of the biggest names in crime fiction giving the two keynote addresses (Sue Grafton and Elizabeth George), but thanks to the tireless work of our committee chairs, we are attracting an equally illustrious group of faculty members. Here are just a few:

Elizabeth George: Sunday's keynote speaker but she will also lead a workshop on "Finding Your Process" on Saturday from 10:30 a.m. To 11:45 a.m.

Michael Levin: "Take Your Manuscript From Good To Great: 12 Things You Must Do To Make Your Novel "Unrejectable"! Everybody knows that rewriting is the key to success in fiction writing, but exactly what does rewriting mean? Join New York Times best selling author, Shark Tank contestant and Huffington Post blogger Michael Levin for a fascinating, clear, and concise checklist to get your book to the best seller list!

Adrienne Lombardo, literary agent: a rising star at Trident Media Group in New York and **ACTIVELY** looking for clients who write crime fiction.

T. Jefferson Parker: multiple Edgar award-winning and bestselling author.

Kristen Weber: former Senior Editor at Mysterious Press/Warner Books and NAL/Penguin. Now freelance editor and partner in the upcoming online booklovers site www.shelfpleasure.com.

Hank Phillippi Ryan: award-winning author, multiple Emmy-award winning news reporter, MWA national board member and incoming President of national Sisters in Crime.

Marcia Clark: former Los Angeles County Deputy D.A. Lead prosecutor in the OJ Simpson trial and crime fiction author.

Anthony Manzella, former Los Angeles County Deputy D.A., Major Crimes division who specialized in prosecuting Mexican Mafia murder cases. He and his partner were profiled in

Mexican Mafia by Tony Rafael. He spoke at the 2009 conference and people are still talking about his presentation.

Don't miss out. Sign up now while the early bird rate is still in effect. While you're at it, book your hotel reservations through our private online page, located on our website at www.ccwconference.org, and follow #CCWC13 on Twitter for updates.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

You've all had an opportunity now to see the exciting California Crime Writers Conference program that Sisters in Crime/LA and the Southern California Mystery Writers of America have put together for you on June 22-23, 2013, at the Hilton Pasadena. The conference will be headlined by Sue Grafton and Elizabeth George, and with two full days of workshops and break-out sessions in each of the four separate tracks: Nuts & Bolts; Craft; Crime; Business, and an agent cocktail party, it's going to be tough to make choices where you're going to be for each session. No question, of course, that you'll be there. You absolutely can't miss this event.

Sisters in Crime/LA and So Cal MWA can't do all this without help from their memberships. We need volunteers to help the conference run smoothly: help with registration on Saturday morning, two volunteers for each of the break-out sessions, and volunteers in the main room, not to mention the people needed to fill the goodie bags on Friday night. That's a lot of people to help get this conference underway and keep it running smoothly.

Sisters in Crime/LA and So Cal MWA need your help. We can't offer you free admission or other perks, but we can offer you the satisfaction of helping us put on a terrific conference. We can't do it without you. Below is a detailed list of times and number of volunteers needed for each item. If you're willing to help—and I'll bet you will be—please indicate your preferred time and duty. We'll take it from there.

Send your responses to SistersinCrimela@gmail.com to let us know your preferences. Tell us your name, e-mail address and cell phone number. We'll do our best to coordinate you with your preferences and let you know.

We need your help. We can't do it without you.

VOLUNTEER TIMES AND PREFERRED LOCATIONS

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

Volunteers to fill goodie bags prior to the conference, including meal tickets and attendee badges. The more volunteers, the faster the job will go.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

REGISTRATION: Lobby, Three Volunteers - 8:00 A.M. TO 9:30 A.M.

TWO BREAK-OUT SESSIONS (MORNING): Two volunteers for each session: One will introduce the speaker/presenter (Introduction information will be provided to you); one will check room setup, place name cards, get water for the speakers, keep track of time.

CRAFT: 9:00 – 10:15 and 10:30 – 11:45
MATTERS OF CRIME: 9:00 – 10:15 and 10:30 – 11:45
BUSINESS: 9:00 – 10:15 and 10:30 – 11:45
NUTS & BOLTS: 9:00 – 10:15 and 10:30 – 11:45

MAIN ROOM DURING BREAK-OUT SESSIONS: One volunteer from 9:00 – 10:30 and another from 10:30 – 12:00 to sell raffle tickets, monitor the raffle baskets, answer questions and be available for other help as needed.

LUNCHEON: Two volunteers in the main room before and after the luncheon to sell raffle tickets and answer questions.

TWO BREAK-OUT SESSIONS (AFTERNOON): Two volunteers for each session: One will introduce the speaker/presenter (Introduction information will be provided to you); one will check room setup, place name cards, get water for the speakers, keep track of time.

CRAFT: 2:00 – 3:15 and 3:30 – 4:45
MATTERS OF CRIME: 2:00 – 3:15 and 3:30 – 4:45
BUSINESS: 2:00 – 3:15 and 3:30 – 4:45
NUTS & BOLTS: 2:00 – 3:15 and 3:30 – 4:45

MAIN ROOM DURING BREAK-OUT SESSIONS: One volunteer from 2:00 – 3:15 and another from 3:30 – 4:45 to sell raffle tickets, answer questions and be available to offer help.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

TWO BREAK-OUT SESSIONS (MORNING): Two volunteers for each session: One will introduce the speaker/presenter (Introduction information will be provided to you); one will check room setup, place name cards, get water for the speakers, keep track of time.

CRAFT: 9:00 – 10:15 and 10:30 – 11:45
MATTERS OF CRIME: 9:00 – 10:15 and 10:30 – 11:45
BUSINESS: 9:00 – 10:15 and 10:30 – 11:45
NUTS & BOLTS: 9:00 – 10:15 and 10:30 – 11:45

MAIN ROOM DURING BREAK-OUT SESSIONS: One volunteer from 9:00 – 10:30 and another from 10:30 – 12:00 to sell raffle tickets, monitor the raffle baskets, answer questions and be available for other help as needed.

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SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP

CRAIG FAUSTUS BUCK

The SoCal MWA September 8 luncheon with Secret Service Special Agent Brian V. Hunter was a smash hit with those lucky enough to be there. For those who missed it, since it took us "Deep Inside the U.S. Secret Service," we were not allowed to record the event so you won't find it on the website in the archives. I'm sure the luncheon will be reported elsewhere in this issue, so I won't go into specifics on that, but when I introduced our speaker, I teased a story that he never told. So I feel duty-bound to reveal the sordid details here in The March of Crime.

For those who may not remember (and for those who didn't attend), I reported that Special Agent Hunter calls his tour of duty in the Clinton White House the highlight of his career, leading the Advance Teams for both the Summit of the Americas in Santiago and the World Trade Organization Meeting in Geneva, coordinating the logistics for Clinton's 2nd Inauguration and driving the President's armored limo for seventeen months (which included the Monica Lewinsky mess).

I went on to note, "And the low-light of his career? Maybe it was when he and President Reagan got their butts kicked out of the ranch house when Nancy caught them... well, it may still be classified, so I won't spill the beans."

Now's the time to spill those ranch-style beans. I know this story is true because Special Agent Hunter--hereafter referred to as Brian, seeing as he's my next-door-neighbor--still has the incriminating evidence.

Brian was on "ranch duty" at the time, which is what the agents used to call guarding President Reagan when he was at Rancho del Cielo, his 688-acre "Western White House" atop the Santa Ynez Mountains in Santa Barbara. While it wasn't your average working ranch, Reagan did have horses and cattle. One day he and Brian were in the living room of the ranch house and Reagan said he wanted to display his gratitude for Brian's service by giving him a cowhide rug from the Presidential herd. Brian was appropriately thankful but Reagan wasn't finished. He wanted to put his personal brand on the rug, an unofficial Presidential seal, so to speak. So he stuck a branding iron in the fireplace and a few minutes later it was hot enough to trot. Reagan spread the rug out on the floor, took the iron from the fire and proceeded to brand. As the cowhide began to smoke, Nancy walked in. She took one look at her husband wielding a red hot iron over her living room floor and detonated, throwing both the President of the United States and his attendant Special Agent out of the ranch house on their asses.

And that, my friends, is the story you missed, proving once again that where there's smoke, there's ire.

MEN OF MYSTERY 2012

Gather 50 of the best male mystery writers in North America
Mix generously with hundreds of devoted readers
Stir in the thrill of each guest being seated at a table with an author
Sprinkle in an often hilarious one-minute "commercial" from each author
Fold in three first-class major speakers
Toss in an amazing bookstore and a lively autographing session
Blend four outstanding male high school writers chosen by their schools
Coat with the Irvine Marriott's mushroom soup (and other delights)
Simmer from 8:30a to 4:0p until thoroughly gratified

The result?

Men of Mystery 2012

Saturday, November 17, 2012
at the
Irvine Marriott Hotel

Everyone will share a table with one of our authors who come from all over the US: California, Arizona, Illinois, Kentucky, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, and Canada, too.

Many of our favorites from Southern California will be featured: Tylet Dilts, Joel Fox, Thomas Greanias, Bob Hamer, Darell James, Les Klinger, Ken Kuhlken, Dick Lochte, Dennis Palumbo, Gary Phillips, James R Preston, Thomas Sawyer, Stephen Jay Schwartz, and Stephen Woodworth.

Also featured are several local debut authors: Bob Davey, David Freed, Andrew Kaplan, Christopher Alan Poe, Travis Richardson, and William Sewell.

Previous headliners will also honor us with their presence: Robert S Levinson, Thomas Perry, and Sheldon Siegel.

We can have you among us. To learn more and register,
visit:

www.menofmystery.org

\$70 (\$75 with PayPal) to join this unique adventure

Joseph Finder. A NY Times bestselling author—described by the Boston Globe as “the master of the modern thriller”—he is a former Intelligence officer who does write about espionage but has created a compelling series with his hero Nick Heller, a former Special Forces operative now a “private spy” featured in *Vanished* and his latest, *Buried Secrets*.

John Lescroart. This author of twenty-three NY Times bestsellers has been designated “a national treasure” and acclaimed as a “writer's writer” with his beloved San Francisco-based characters Dismas Hardy, Abe Glitzky, Wes Ferrell and Wyatt Hunter in his legal and crime thrillers including *Damage*, *A Plague of Secrets*, *Treasure Hunt*, and *The Hunter*.

James Rollins. The creator of NY Times bestselling “scientific thrillers”—named “a top crowd pleaser”—he is lauded for sharing historic secrets at breakneck speed with his standalones as well as his series starring members of the Sigma Force, an elite team of covert operatives assigned to protect the US against global enemies in *Bloodline* and *Map of Bones*.

TOM PAISLEY (AKA T ERNESTO BETHANCOURT) DEAD AT 79

A few days after a massive stroke, Tom Paisley died in Monrovia, California on September 12, 2012.

Tom started life as Thomas E. Passalaigne on October 2, 1932 in Brooklyn, New York. His father, who had migrated from Puerto Rico, moved the family to Tampa, Florida in 1942. They returned to Brooklyn in 1944 and some years later, Tom fictionalized the experience in the book *New York City Too Far from Tampa Blues*, his first novel for young people written under his pseudonym T. Ernesto Bethancourt.

As Bethancourt, he followed with *The Dog Days of Arthur Cane* (1975). Amazingly enough, his first two books were adapted for TV (Tampa by NBC in 1979 and Cane by ABC in 1984). In all, Tom authored more than 20 novels for young people, including eight books in his widely-acclaimed Doris Fein Mystery Series. In addition, his numerous short stories have been printed and reprinted in many anthologies.

Tom Paisley's musical career went on hold in 1974. Tom and Nancy had two daughters by then and Tom wanted to share his heritage with them. So he started writing his *New York City Too Far from Tampa Blues*. It was published the following year by unknown author T. Ernesto Bethancourt, the latter being a name from Tom's family history.

As Bethancourt, Tom succeeded just as he had as Paisley and Passalaigne. In his late sixties, Tom acquired an aggressive case of macro degeneration. Ever the tough kid from Brooklyn, he acquired a computer with extra enlarged type and continued to tap out wonderful stories, but he reluctantly confessed that he had more use than usual for the other pair of eyes which had taken the journey with him. They belonged to Nancy.

“He was a remarkable man,” Mel Cebulash, a writer, said about his long-time friend. “Child performer, veteran, musician, author, writer, composer – he had many titles, but the one he truly deserves is raconteur.”

Paisley is survived by his wife of 42 years, Nancy Yasue Soyeshima, two daughters and several grandchildren.

NOVEMBER MEETING

THE FUTURE OF PUBLISHING...

Please join this intriguing and engaging cross-section of writers and book people who have experience doing e-books, self-publishing physical units, Kickstarter campaigns to fund their projects, print on demand, marketing small press books and more.

Panelists

James Scott Bell (traditional & e-books)
Christa Faust (traditional, e-books & Kickstarter)
William Goldstein, marketing, Red Hen Press
Diane Vallere, Polyester Press

Moderator

Gary Phillips (traditional, POD & Kickstarter)

Saturday, November 3, 1-2:30 pm
Sherman Oaks Branch Library
14245 Moorpark Street
Sherman Oaks, 91423

Free and Open to All

CHAPTER NEWS

Jennifer Moss's debut novel, *Town Red*, was released by Black Opal Books on September 22nd, 2012. *Town Red* is a new kind of mystery set in Chicago with a metaphysical twist.

Andrew Kaplan's new novel, *Scorpion Winter*, was published by HarperCollins in August. Debuting at #5 on the Amazon Movers & Shakers list and #10 ebook on BooksonBoard, it currently remains on the Amazon Spy Thrillers bestseller list.

Wendy Hornsby's new novel, *The Hanging*, is now available. Said *Publishers Weekly*, "Hornsby's well-constructed eighth Maggie MacGowen mystery. . . offers a nuanced glimpse of campus life in the budget-crisis era, a plot with a nicely topical twist, and a cast of smart, appealing characters. Readers will cheer Maggie on as both new romance and fresh career opportunities beckon."

Gay Tolti Kinman's new short story "The Duchess" is a Tony Reynolds CIA Agent Mystery set in 1985. The story is about letters stolen from Wallis Warfield, the Duchess of Windsor in the 1930s, and just recently (1985) found. Since they are valuable, more than one person wants them. Published on Kindle Shorts. This follows her short story "London Spy" and both are a prequel to her novel "Death in Covent Garden" featuring the same hero.



THE PRO SHOP

JOHN MORGAN WILSON

In each Pro Shop, John Morgan Wilson interviews a chapter member about a particular aspect of crime writing and writing in general. This month, T. Jefferson Parker discusses "Creating Effective Settings."

T. Jefferson Parker's nineteen novels include *Silent Joe* (2001) and *California Girl* (2004) both winners of MWA's Edgar Award for best novel; *Silent Joe* also won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize in the mystery-thriller category. Jeff is now completing his four-book Border Quartet that deals with the impact of Mexico's drug wars on the U.S. The first, *Iron River*, was published in 2010, followed by *The Border Lords* (2011) and *The Jaguar* (2012). The final novel in the series, *The Famous and the Dead*, will be released in April of 2013.



JMW: In a nutshell, tell us how important settings are to your novels (or any good novel) and why.

TJP: As a reader, I've always loved a good strong sense of place. It can be any setting, really, a small town or a big city or the jungles of Yucatan. If the atmosphere is strong and the details are convincing, I'm sold.

JMW: From your first novel, *Laguna Heat*, to the more recent *The Jaguar*, has your approach to creating your settings changed or evolved?

TJP: You know, I get inspiration from certain places, and those are the places I write about. I was completely captured by the natural beauty and charm and social eccentricity of Laguna Beach when I moved there in 1980. That city inspired two or three of my novels. Then, as I wrote about places outside of Orange County, such as L.A. and San Diego and Mexico, I got inspiration from those places, too. One of the real benefits of being a writer is that, really, the whole world is there for you to enjoy and to use.

JMW: For me, the opening chapter of *California Girl* is a real gem—in succinct but vivid fashion it introduces your main characters, sets the hook with a hint of suspense and intrigue, and strongly establishes time and setting in Orange County. When you crafted this chapter, how conscious were you of how vital the setting was to the unfolding story?

TJP: I wanted California Girl to be a big fat slice of history, served up with a generational crime story. So setting was crucial. Once again I came back to Laguna Beach for part of it. The other place was Tustin, where I grew up. I patterned that first chapter after the opening of the best modern day crime novel I've ever read, John Gregory Dunne's True Confessions. I wanted that same elegiac tone, that sense of time having passed. California Girl was a funny book to write, in the sense that, because the story spanned some fifty years and had so many characters and contained so much specific Southern California history, my attempts to outline the novel failed utterly. I couldn't foresee it. So I just started writing and let the story tell itself. I got lucky.

JMW: One often hears that setting reveals character. Can you talk a bit about that?

TJP: Setting can certainly help reveal character. In *The Famous and the Dead* I bring three badasses from Missouri to California to sell stolen guns and drugs along the border. They are very much fish out of water there, much more a part of backwoods Missouri than the gritty border town in which they find themselves. So in that sense, the setting shines a rather glaring light on these men, because they are not of that setting other than temporarily, as tourists, if you will. I guess it's like bringing the Granny Clampett from Tennessee to Beverly Hills. It's that dissonance again, creating a spark of illumination.

JMW: As in *California Girl*, though, I guess much the same can be said for more personal and familiar settings, such as the region or neighborhood a character has chosen to live in – or can't escape. That might include their home environment, down to concrete details that reveal so much about a person, such as what books are on the shelf, what style of furniture they've chosen or scavenged, whether the window coverings are plush curtains or cheap blinds, and so on. How do you decide how much detail to include and what to leave out, so the details serve the story and don't call undue attention to themselves or weigh the story down?

TJP: That question of how much detail is one that I ask myself about a thousand times a day when I'm writing. I guess it's mainly a matter of choosing the right details, but then how do you know? Avoid clichés, certainly. That alternating current of detail and generality is what gives narrative passages their tempo, so in that sense, setting is subordinate to the atmosphere you're trying to establish.

JMW: When you create settings, how aware are you of authenticity and accuracy in the context of a fictional story? Where does dramatic license fit in?

TJP: Any time you set a story in a real place, you're obligated to stick to the general truths of that place. If you've created a city, say, as I have in my last five novels, then you can tailor its geography and history to suit your purposes. You can name your own streets and politicians, put the zocalo [needs accent mark over the first o] exactly where you want it! I'm a firm believer in dramatic license, which is my excuse for setting a bloody serial killer story in bucolic Laguna Beach. Sometimes that kind dissonance can work for you.

JMW: When I'm doing research for the backdrops in my novels, I like to immerse myself in

specific locales, hanging out, taking notes, using all my senses to get a feel for the place. I also rely on illustrated guidebooks and Web sites, regional architectural guides, and the like. What techniques or tools do you use to flesh out your settings?

TJP: I love going to a place and taking pictures. I've got thousands of them. I took my family to Veracruz to research *The Jaguar* and we had a great time. We stayed in a 17th century convent that is now a Holiday Inn. It was just before the bad violence there. I made a ton of notes, too. I easily fall back on my reporter days and ask questions of people. People will open up if you listen, don't interrupt or put words in their mouths. People love talking about what they do.

JMW: What's next for you after *The Famous and the Dead* is published in April?

TJP: I'm going through my clip files and photos now, casting about for something that inspires.

John Morgan Wilson, a former MWA So Cal board member and TMOC editor, is the author of eight novels in the Benjamin Justice series, including Simple Justice, which won an Edgar for Best First Novel. John's short fiction has appeared in EQMM and several anthologies.

MWA LITERACY COMMITTEE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE NAVAJO NATION BOOK DRIVE

In 2007, MWA teamed up with Reader to Reader, a non-profit organization that donates free books to libraries in the nation's most underserved communities. This partnership, which evolved through our mutual involvement in the Reading Promotion Partners program sponsored by the Library of Congress's Center for the Book, has resulted in MWA members donating thousands of books to the Navajo Nation and, most recently, the Mississippi Library System. We have again been paired with the Navajo Nation for 2012.

Contact us at mwa@mysterywriters.org and tell us approximately what you have to donate. Next, pack your books in sturdy boxes and weigh and measure each box (length, width, height). Send us that information, and we'll e-mail you the UPS account information. Log into MWA's UPS account and arrange to have them pick up your books. If you need a tax donation receipt, let us know and we'll contact Reader to Reader, who will provide it for you. Chapter book drives and conference book drives are encouraged.

Here's what we want: New or used books in these categories: fiction of all kinds, (including mysteries and thrillers), children's books, "big reader" storytime books, how-to non-fiction, cookbooks, gardening, landscaping, decorating, home repair, medical reference books newer than five years old, true crime, and history. Any other subject that is contemporary and of general interest to a library is welcome.

CALLING ALL PUBLISHED AUTHORS

MWA is partnering with a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-funded project called Educurious. Educurious reaches out to at-risk 9th & 10th-graders and keeps them invested in school by providing material that combines real-world skills, teachers as coaches, and experts. You can find out more here: <http://educurious.org/> and by checking out the following YouTube clips:

1. What problem are we trying to solve: <http://youtu.be/Ee--vKj53eY>
2. Why Educurious: <http://youtu.be/KCmkEbi4kXo>
3. Expert Story: <http://youtu.be/fdyot9foSEk>
4. Value of the Expert from a student Perspective: <http://youtu.be/ANBm6UVek2c>

Here's where MWA comes in

Educurious is seeking published mystery/thriller writers willing to participate as experts over a period of six weeks, starting in January 2013. If you're interested in helping (make a difference with kids AND connect with readers), all you need to do is fill out a brief online questionnaire at <http://tinyurl.com/bwn9ka8>, and Educurious will get back to you. (Because the Experts will be working with minors, Educurious does need to perform a background check on all accepted applicants.)

Each "expert" will be expected to devote less than 3 hours of their time each week for three of those six weeks. They will not be expected to grade or leave their homes, only to provide expert, asynchronous feedback on student thriller/mystery writing via computer. This could be an ongoing partnership, or a one-time opportunity--it's up to the expert. We hope all of our published members take advantage of this chance to make a difference. Educurious is teaching courses throughout the year so if you interested in starting sooner please indicate this on your questionnaire.

educurious.org

The deadline for the next issue is December 1, 2012. If you have news you'd like to share, or have an interest in submitting an article, please do so by then.

Have a great fall, gang!