



The
MARCH

of CRIME

Inside this issue

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

[Fresh Blood p. 3](#)

[Over the Transom p. 4](#)

[Member Appearances p. 6](#)

[CCWC Info p. 8](#)

[Meeting Wrap-Up p. 9](#)

[Crime Calendar p. 11](#)

[In Memoriam p. 12](#)

[Last Word p. 12](#)

Inside Law Enforcement: The Road From Beat Cop to SWAT

SoCalMWA is proud to present

**31-year Veteran Detective David Putnam
in Conversation with Author Eric Beetner
About a Cop's Crazy Career Path**

On the beat, as a Sergeant, in Vice, on Homicide, on SWAT, and more.

Join us for lunch and wild stories.
Audience Q&A to follow.

**Sunday, March 8 at 11:30am
The Tam O'Shanter
2980 Los Feliz Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90039**

Your admission includes a three-course meal with choice of entree:

Prime Rib
Roast Chicken
Seasonal Vegetarian Entree

\$20 for MWA members

\$25 for non-members

\$35 for attendees at the door without RSVP (space permitting)

[**CLICK HERE TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE AT THIS EVENT**](#)

**Hard-boiled Sex:
Exploring the outer limits
of sex in crime fiction**

**March 29, 2015
at 7pm**

More information:
[Page 11](#)



The President's Rap Sheet

Craig Faustus Buck

I'm not sure why, but a lot of writers have been asking me the same question lately: "Why should I renew my MWA membership? I'm not getting anything from my membership dues." My response is always the same: "What have you put into MWA? Do you go to events? Do you attend our luncheons? Do you volunteer to help your chapter out at mystery conventions or book festivals?" And then I tell them my own story.

When I decided to try my hand at prose, my inclination was to write a crime novel, my favorite thing to read. But my previous fiction writing experience had been in screenwriting. All my writer friends were screenwriters. I soon discovered that writing a novel had surprisingly little in common with writing a script. I had no idea where to start and no one to ask. The books on writing all seemed elementary and, by definition, devoid of the ability to give me feedback. I tried some UCLA extension classes and found them helpful, but at ten pages a week, the critiques I was getting were more about style than structure or process, and those were my weak spots.

What I craved was the company of published crime writers, writers who'd been in my shoes before, who could sit with me over coffee or a glass of wine and talk about what it was really like to slog through a brain-loop or crawl out of a black hole in the second act. Someone who could appreciate the pros and cons of outlining vs seat-of-the-pants.

That's when I decided to check out MWA. I knew nothing about the organization except that its members were actively involved in the process of writing novels and many had been doing it for years.

I went to a luncheon at Tom Bergin's and sat between two authors who's discussion of series v standalone novels was a breath of fresh air. I met my first homicide cop and asked him one question that turned my WIP around.

The next week, I volunteered to work the MWA table at the West Hollywood Book Fair. I wound up spending an hour chatting with Les Klinger and Pamela Samuels Young. Being a huge Sherlock Holmes fan as a kid, Les had been one of my heroes with his New Annotated Sherlock Holmes. I couldn't believe I was actually chewing the fat with him. I'd never read Pamela Samuels Young, but have since become a fan and her experiences gave me an eye-opening lesson about self-promotion. One after another writers I'd read but never seen stopped by to say hello. I had found my peeps.

[Continued on page 3](#)

Chapter Officers

President: Craig Faustus Buck
VP: Sue Ann Jaffarian
Treasurer: Eric Beetner
Secretary: Terri Nolan

Board of Directors

Matt Coyle
 Susan Goldstein
 Jessica Kaye
 Paul D. Marks
 Susan Miller
 Maxine Nunes
 Charles Rosenberg

Ex Officio: Jeri Westerson

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>

[Continued from page 2](#)

I began attending every event I could and met new authors at each one. Many I already admired and many I'd never heard of but now call friends. But all were amazingly supportive as I struggled to finish my debut novel, made short story submissions, and became more involved in the organization. When I went to writers conferences I could always count on these friends to introduce me to their friends and my network quickly spread. When I volunteered at writing conferences, this networking magic increased tenfold. It was through this volunteering that I met writers like T. Jefferson Parker and Thomas Perry, both of whom blurbed my debut novel, not to mention Lee Goldberg and Joel Goldman, who are publishing it.

Without MWA, I'd still be taking Novel V at UCLA. So when someone asks me why they should be in MWA, I can only tell them that it makes the serious writer's journey a lot easier and infinitely less lonely. But you only get out of it what you put into it.

Craig

P.S. Our chapter also uses our dues to give back to us. For example, if you're coming to the Tam O'Shanter on March 8 to hear law enforcement veteran David Putnam in conversation with author Eric Beetner, you'll be spending \$20 for a \$35 meal. The chapter picks up the balance to make sure these luncheons are accessible to all. Chapter events are loss leaders with the exception of our big biennial fundraiser in conjunction with Sisters in Crime, the California Crime Writers Conference. This year's conference, BTW, could use more volunteers.

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

Editor: [Holly West](#)

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

FRESH BLOOD

SoCalMWA welcomes its new and returning members:

Phyllis Humphrey, Affiliate
Gary Inbinder, Active
Liz Martinez, Active, Reinstated
Jan Neuenschwander, Affiliate



Like us on Facebook

OVER the TRANSOM

Member News

Connie di Marco, writing as **Connie Archer**, author of the Soup Lover's Mystery Series, is one of many contributors to **THE MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA COOKBOOK**, to be released on March 24, 2015. Needless to say, hers is a soup recipe. She can also be found in **THE COZY COOKBOOK** from Berkley Prime Crime to be released on April 7, 2015. Additionally, Connie's fourth book in the Soup Lover's Mystery series, **LADLE TO THE GRAVE**, will be released on March 3.

Dianne Emley has signed a contract with Alibi/Random House for books #6 and #7 in her L.A. Times Bestselling series about Detective Nan Vining, an intrepid, haunted homicide detective and single mom. The series fifth, **KILLING SECRETS**, will be published July 21, 2015. Dianne's standalone paranormal mystery, **THE NIGHT VISITOR**, was named one of the best books of 2014 by Kings River Life Magazine.

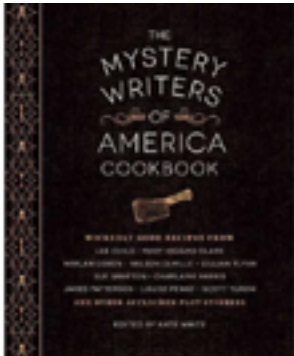
Jeri Westerson's first book in her Crispin Guest Medieval Noir series, **VEIL OF LIES**, just got a contract to go paperback in Italian.

Holly West's debut novel, **MISTRESS OF FORTUNE**, is nominated for the Rosebud Award for Best First Mystery at the upcoming Left Coast Crime Conference in Portland. The winners will be announced at the awards banquet on March 19th.

A MATCH TO DIE FOR, a comedic mystery by **Ellen Frank Mathews**, will be available on Amazon.com. beginning March 2015.

Mary Wickizer Burgess has received copies of **HANGOVER HILL**, the 3rd book in her Gail Brevard Mystery series published by Wildside Press and featuring a young attorney who becomes embroiled in seemingly unsolvable murders. Burgess has also received copies of **GRAVE WATERS: A DAVID SPAULDING MYSTERY**, co-authored with A.R. Morlan and featuring a troubled police officer confronted with an attack at sea that threatens the lives of all the ship's passengers. The Gail Brevard series and **GRAVE WATERS** have also been sold to British publisher F.A. Thorpe for their Linford Mystery series.

Craig Faustus Buck's short story **HONEYMOON SWEET** (Bouchercon 2014 Anthology) was reprinted by Plan-B Magazine, who also produced it as a [podcast](#) and selected it for their latest anthology.



OVER the TRANSOM



William Burton McCormick's short fiction thriller BLUE AMBER has been re-released in e-book. The story of a desperate escape from a Russian prison on the Baltic Sea in 1910 was originally published in Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine and later a finalist for a Derringer Award. Novelist Jon Land called it "Pure storytelling magic," while the Historical Novel Society summed "Blue Amber" up as "Stunning." The e-book is available on Amazon kindle worldwide.

They keep piling on, the glowing reviews of **Annon Kabatchnik's** BLOOD ON THE STAGE, 480 B.C to 1600 A.D.," the latest by Glenn Dallas in the San Francisco Book Review: "The evolution of theater action and tragedy comes alive for the reader, thanks to Kabatchnik's impressive efforts." Additionally, at the 2015 Los Angeles Book Festival, the book was judged a Runner-up in the compilation/anthology category.

Gay Toltl Kinman has two new short stories available on the Kindle: In "Stand-Down" (Stand-Down series #2), a friend, LAPD Sergeant Gabe Roca, helps Char, an Afghanistan vet who lost her legs, get a temporary job in a P. I. Agency based on her experience as a Military Police Investigator (MPI) in the Army. In "The Last Audition," Amy Lendroth is casting a part for a daytime soap opera. For his audition, Dean Hanson dresses for the part and brings his own special 'props.' Problem!

Do you have writing news to share with our chapter?
Email it to TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com
by March 20 for inclusion in the April 2015 issue.

**Join our SoCalMWA
Yahoo! Group**

Email
SoCalMWA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
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.



Member
APPEARANCES

D.P. Lyle, M.D. is making several appearances in March:

Saturday, March 7, 10:30am to 2:30pm: Placentia Library Annual Author's Luncheon along with author **Jan Burke**. Alta Vista Country Club, 777 E. Alta Vista Street, Placentia, CA. Ticket info: Bunny Lynch (714-933-2287) or Marian Kalman (714-996-8682).

Saturday, March 21, 2:30 to 4:30pm: La Habra Public Library, 221 E. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, California. [Click here](#) for more info or call 562-694-0078.

Sunday, March 29, 1:30pm: "Crime and Science: How Do Scientists Solve Crimes and How Does Hollywood Get it Wrong?" along with author **Jan Burke**. 253 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA. [Click here](#) for more info or call 714-738-6383.

Holly West will be appearing on two panels at the upcoming [Left Coast Crime Conference](#) in Portland:

Friday, March 13, 1:30 to 2:15pm (Multnomah Room): "Is That a Gun in Your Pocket?: The Sex Panel," along with authors Jess Lourey (moderator), Chelsea Cain, Linda Joffe Hull, and Simon Wood.

Saturday, March 14, 11:30am to 12:15pm: "Long Ago & Far Away: How to Bring History to a Contemporary Audience," along with authors Carola Dunn, Yves Fey, Sharan Newman, and John Maddox Roberts. Holly will moderate this panel.

Jeri Westerson will be at several events in March:

Saturday, March 7, 10:15am to 2pm: She'll be a featured speaker at the American Association of University Women (AAU) Luncheon at Old Ranch Country Club, 3901 Lampson Ave., Seal Beach, CA.

Saturday, March 21, 12:30 to 2:30pm: She'll be a featured speaker at the Friends of the Duarte Library Author Luncheon. 1301 Buena Vista Street, Duarte, CA. (626) 358-1865.

Tuesday, March 24, 6:30 to 8:30pm: She'll be lecturing on writing, research, and medieval history at Santa Monica College, English Department. Free to the public. 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405.

Connie Archer and **Naomi Hirahara** are doing the Mini-Grave Tour: Book Carnival in Orange on April 11 at 2pm and Mystery Ink in Huntington Beach on April 12 at noon.

Member APPEARANCES

Robert S. Levinson is set for a panel discussion about “Hollywood - Past & Present” on Saturday, March 7, 2 p.m., at the Buena Vista Branch of the Burbank Library. Other panelists: **Maxine Nunes, Rosemary Lord, Andrew Jetarski,** and **Stephen Buehler** (moderator). Bob will speak about his time representing the Motion Picture Academy and the annual Oscar show, among other show biz adventures.



Anne Saller getting ready to introduce Robert S. Levinson at her Book Carnival in Orange, when he appeared there last month to talk and take questions about his latest crime novel, *THE EVIL DEEDS WE DO*.

The Independent Writers of Southern California (IWOSC) have invited **Diane Vallere** and **Patty Smiley** to discuss Writing Mysteries, a panel moderated by Bob Birchard. The event will take place at the Veterans Memorial Building, 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City on Monday, March 30, 2015, from 7:30 p.m. To 9:15 p.m. Networking will follow. Parking is free. There is a charge for non members. For more information, visit dianevallere.com, patriciasmiley.com or iwosc.org.

Ellen Frank Matthews will be a panelist at the 2015 Left Coast Crimelandia Conference in Portland, Oregon on March 12, 2015 and sign books at the Los Angeles Festival of Books on April 19, 2015.

Literary Guild of O.C. 22nd Festival of Women's Authors

“Where the West meets the best.”

May 9, 2015

Irvine Marriott Hotel

Tickets: \$80

Featured Authors

Karin Slaughter, finalist for the 2015 Edgar Award for Best Novel

Sena Jeter Nasland

Jane Smiley

Tara Conklin

Susan Elia MacNeal

Candice Millard

Kim Fay

Attendees will select one author to listen to during the breakout session.

For more information:

<http://LGOC.org>



2015 California Crime Writers Conference

Culver City, California
June 6 & 7, 2015 (Saturday & Sunday)
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Los Angeles - Westside
6161 West Centinela Avenue, Culver City, California

SPECIAL GUESTS:



Charlaine Harris



Anne Perry

Sisters in Crime LA and SoCalMWA welcome both members and non-members to the 2015 California Crime Writers Conference. Join us in Culver City, California for a weekend of workshops geared to the needs of both emerging and established mystery writers. Attendees will enjoy tracks on forensics, craft, industry, and marketing, along with other mystery-themed activities. A manuscript critique is available as an add-on option.

[Registration now open!](#)

Meeting Wrap-Up

MWA EVENT IN SCOTTSDALE AZ

by **Fred Andersen**

Arizona members got together Sat., Jan. 17 at the Poisoned Pen bookstore in Scottsdale to hear **Kerrie Droban** and **Deborah Ledford** talk about the Page to Film process. Both the speakers are highly qualified, with experience as producers and writers of mystery and true crime film and TV projects. Deborah is the author of the Inola Walela/Steven Hawk psychological suspense series. She is president and lead producer of the independent media company IOF Productions, Ltd., which produced 2014 Anthony Award nominated audiobook version of her book three CRESCENDO, narrated by Christina Cox. IOF is now planning to develop and produce two feature films and a television mini-series.



Deborah Ledford

Kerrie is an attorney and author of the true-crime books, *RUNNING WITH THE DEVIL: THE TRUE STORY OF THE ATF'S INFILTRATION OF THE HELL'S ANGELS* and *PRODIGAL FATHER, PAGAN SON: GROWING UP IN THE DANGEROUS WORLD OF THE PAGANS MOTORCYCLE GANG*. Her book, *VAGOS, MONGOLS, AND OUTLAWS*, has been made into a television series called *Gangland Undercover*, scheduled to air in March.

Kerrie and Deborah shared similar experiences. They both believe that in order to get a book onto a TV or movie screen, the author has to be very involved in the production, either as an independent producer, or by finding a compatible production company. Kerrie said, "You have to have a skin in the game."

They urged screenplay writers to see their stories in visual terms, to have a dynamic one-page summary, and even a movie poster designed as part of the marketing process.

Deborah urged caution in promoting your product in a world where unscrupulous writers and producers have few qualms about lifting plots, characters, and an author's rights. Probably the best way to avoid such problems, they both agreed, was to seek out reputable people to work with, and to trust your instincts. And get legal help to review all contracts.

And be ready to work just as hard at producing a film as you did in writing a story.



Kerrie Droban

Men of Mystery

On Saturday, the **14th** of November, **2015**, the **16th** Men of Mystery will be held at the Irvine Marriott Hotel.

More info:

<http://menofmystery.org>

Advertising in the 2015 CCWC Program

Want to reach hundreds of readers? Buy an ad in our official California Crime Writers Conference Program, It's the perfect place to promote your books and reach all conference attendees including the key-note speakers, Charlaine Harris and Anne Perry.

The CCWC in Culver City, West Los Angeles, CA on June 6 & 7, 2015, is a joint event of Sisters in Crime Los Angeles and Mystery Writers of America. It is already proving a blockbuster. No budget? No problem. Simply ask your publisher to step up and pay for your ad in the Official Program. All ads are Black and White. The sizes and rates listed below are based on the submission of your camera-ready art:

- \$50 - business card (3.5" x 2.25")
- \$75 - ¼ page (3.5" x 4.75")
- \$100 - ½ page (7.25" x 5")
- \$150 - full page (7.25" x 10")
- ~~\$199 - full pages inside covers (7.25" x 10")~~

To purchase an ad contact [Jill Amadio](#) with the size of the ad you wish to buy. Once your ad space is confirmed you may pay online via PayPal.com to ccwconference@gmail.com. Pay by check made out to: Sisters in Crime Los Angeles CCWC. Mail the check to: Sisters in Crime LA, 1107 Fair Oaks Avenue, PMB 338, South Pasadena, CA 90030.

After the reservation for your ad has been accepted and payment made, your artwork should be in one of the following formats:

- * hi-res jpg image (300 dpi)
- * pdf (black/white)

Send the artwork to Program Editor [Travis Richardson](#). The deadline for copy is April 10, 2015.

We greatly appreciate your support and look forward to our best conference yet. [Click here for more information about CCWC](#).


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

Crime CALENDAR

Hard-Boiled Sex:

Noir Writers Discuss the Outer Limits of Sex in Crime Fiction

Noiristas Christa Faust, Stephen Jay Schwartz, and Craig Faustus Buck explore the ins and outs of getting down and dirty under the tickler whip of moderator Gary Phillips.

Short readings will precede the discussion. Not for the faint of heart.

Sunday, March 29 at 7pm

The Last Bookstore

453 Spring Street

(corner of 5th & Spring, Downtown LA, entrance is on 5th Street)

The Last Bookstore is California's largest used and new book and record store with vaulted columned ceilings, breathtaking art made of books, and 20,000 square feet of books and records. It's an amazing institution in a majestic space designed as a bank in 1914. If you've never been there, the majesty and decor alone are worth the trip. It's just two blocks from the Pershing Square Metro station or there's street parking and a lot next door. Transportation specifics are on their [website](#).

More Criminal Happenings in 2015

- March 8 - [SoCalMWA Luncheon](#), Los Angeles, CA
- March 12-15 - [Left Coast Crime](#), Portland, OR
- March 14-15 - [Tuscon Festival of Books](#), Tuscon, AZ
- March 29 - [SoCalMWA Sex in Crime Fiction Panel](#), Los Angeles, CA
- April 18-19 - [LA Times Festival of Books](#), Los Angeles, CA
- May 1 - 3 - [Malice Domestic](#), Bethesda, MD
- May 9 - [Literary Guild of O.C. Festival of Women Authors](#), Irvine, CA
- May 14-17 - [Crime Fest](#), Bristol, UK
- June 6-7 - [California Crime Writers Conference](#), Culver City, CA
- July 24-27 - [Book Passage Mystery Writers Conference](#), Corte Madera, CA
- September 26 - Gumbo Party at the Fitzhugh's
- October 8-11 - [Bouchercon](#), Raleigh, NC
- November 14 - [16th Annual Men of Mystery Conference](#), Irvine, CA



In
MEMORIAM

It is with much sadness that I am writing to report the passing of my mother: **Dolores Grabitz**, aka Dee Morrison Grabitz, in August of 2014. I know she enjoyed being a member of your literary community.

Leslie F. Grabitz

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



The
LAST WORD

“Curiosity is an odd thing. It will sometimes override shock and horror.
I suspect movies and TV are to blame.”

--D.P. Lyle, MD, RUN TO THE GROUND, a Dub Walker thriller