



The  
MARCH

of CRIME

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## Audio Book Creators Reveal Their Secrets

**Sunday, May 17, 2015**  
**11:30am**

Award-winning audio book narrators and producers tell behind-the-scenes tales about the making of best-sellers, the surprising differences between acting & narrating, and how to best tailor your writing the spoken word.

### Featuring:

Kirby Heyborne  
Richard Brewer  
Jessica Kaye

[\(click here for speaker bios\)](#)

These guys are the best in the business!

Tam O'Shanter  
2980 Los Feliz Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90039  
323-664-0228

Your fee includes a three-course lunch, including their famous prime rib for those who indulge.

Members: \$20  
Guests: \$30

**[For more information and to secure your reservation\(s\) visit the SoCalMWA website.](#)**

### Arizona Meeting

Craig Johnson in conversation with J.M. "Mike" Hayes

**Monday, May 18 at Noon**

More information:  
[Page 13](#)



## The President's Rap Sheet

*Craig Faustus Buck*

Seeing as how I'm approaching the end of my first decade as an active member of SoCalMWA, it may come as some surprise to those of you who've known me for a while that *GO DOWN HARD*, coming out this month from Brash Books, marks my debut as a novelist.

How is this possible? How could I have been hobnobbing with crime writers, speaking at mystery conventions, been elected president of this august chapter, been serving on the national board, gotten suckered into co-chairing a crime writers convention, and hugged Sarah Paretsky before I'd published a single novel?

The answer is--as strange as we crime writers may be--MWA is an inclusive group of folks. Though we are an organization of professional writers, we are also an organization that embraces those who aspire to be professionals (thus, affiliate memberships). When I first joined MWA, I'd written for a number of detective shows, which technically qualified me for active member status. But in my mind I was still aspiring. My brass ring was that first novel, and the Writers Guild didn't rope that calf. The people who knew how to write, sell and market a novel were in MWA. This organization gave me access through the looking glass into the world I wanted to inhabit.

Coming from the cutthroat world of Hollywood, I was surprised at how welcoming crime writers were. I didn't need a book under my belt to be accepted, I just needed to go to events and hang out. The process really got jump-started when I began to volunteer. I'd offer to man the door at events, to take on organizational tasks, to help out at conventions, and eventually to serve on the board. The family feeling started to snowball.

These days, I'm having a hell of a time finishing up my second novel because of the time devoured by my volunteer gigs, not just for MWA, but for Sisters in Crime LA and for CCWC 2015. The loss of writing time is killing me, but I don't regret a moment because I love being a part of the community of crime writers. The trek from "The End" to publication took years, but with the support and guidance of the friends I've made through MWA, the path was lit.

Craig Faustus Buck  
Author, *GO DOWN HARD*

## Chapter Officers

**President:** Craig Faustus Buck  
**VP:** Sue Ann Jaffarian  
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Mystery Writers of America  
Southern California Chapter  
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Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

[info@socalmwa.com](mailto:info@socalmwa.com)  
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Email [SoCalMWA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:SoCalMWA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)  
to join  
(members only)

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<http://mysterywriters.org>



## The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

Craig mentions something in his Prez Rap this month that I've been struggling with for the last few months: balancing my actual writing with the non-writing (but writing-related) volunteer work I do. Like Craig, I'm also on the Sisters in Crime LA board and I'm actively involved in the planning for the upcoming 2015 CCWC. It's a lot, and it's a challenge.

I know I'm preaching to the choir here. The benefits I've received from SoCalMWA and my involvement in the writing community at large are a direct result of the hard work of the many individuals who've come before me and serve beside me. Not only do I consider this work paying my dues, but I truly enjoy it.

But the writing must always come first. Tempting as it sometimes is, I try never to let my volunteer work get in the way of why I'm here in the first place. This determination has served me well so far and I hope that it will allow me to keep me volunteering for awhile to come.

This month, we've got some great events coming up in Los Angeles and Tucson. I hope you can attend if you're in the area. And if you're not signed up for CCWC yet, we've only got a few spaces left. Finally, I'd like to thank this month's contributors, especially Gregory Von Dare, for his recent Hollow Points column.

Holly

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

Editor: [Holly West](#)

Contributors:  
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:  
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**Pitch Your Ideas**

TMOC is looking for informative articles written by our members. Email us at [themarchofcrime@gmail.com](mailto:themarchofcrime@gmail.com) with your pitches.

## OVER the TRANSOM

*Member News*

Just released – THE MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA COOKBOOK features recipes from SoCal MWA members **Connie Archer, Dianne Emley, Kim Fay, Bill Fitzhugh, Daryl Wood Gerber, Tammy Kaehler, Gigi Pandian** and **Gary Phillips**.

**Marilyn Meredith**, writing as **F. M. Meredith's**, latest mystery in the Rocky Bluff P.D. series, VIOLENT DEPARTURES, is now available in trade paperback and on Kindle. Starting May 1, the first in the series, FINAL RESPECTS, will be free on Kindle.

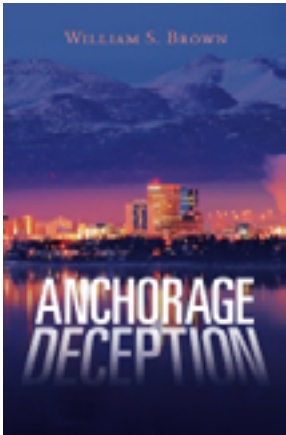
A MATCH TO DIE FOR, a comedic mystery by **Ellen Frank Mathews**, now available on Amazon in paperback and as an e-book. Kirkus calls it “Thrilling, escapist fiction that will keep readers turning pages. An entertaining, fast-paced mystery.”

**Rosemary** and **Larry Mild** announce their new book: MURDER, FANTASY, AND WEIRD TALES, a collection of 18 short stories. These stories explore the strange obsessions and compulsions gnawing away inside most of us. Whether to commit murder, dream wildly, or just wander out of the box, we're all tempted. But who acts on these urges and why? Perhaps you have already dipped one toe in to test the waters. Do you dare to go any farther? Available on Amazon.com and as an ebook.

Before Bauer and Bond, there was Jimmie Flint. This linked anthology was inspired by the historic “Business Plot,” a purported scheme involving extremist politicians and moneyed interests who sought to “take back” the country from FDR. Each short story in DAY OF THE DESTROYERS is part of the larger story arc wherein Jimmie Flint, Secret Agent X-11, battles across the country to defeat the coup plotters, the Medusa Council. The Depression-era set stories includes one by **Jeri Westerson**, who guest stars the real life journalist Martha Gellhorn in her tale, and was conceived and edited by **Gary Phillips**. From Moonstone Books.



## OVER the TRANSOM



**William S. Brown** spoke April 12, 2015 to the Flagstaff, AZ Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa women's group, on his recent mystery thriller, ANCHORAGE DECEPTION. The story is set against the harsh Alaskan backdrop of glaciers and a wild-west sense of justice. Alpha Delta Kappa is an International honorary organization of women educators dedicated to educational excellence, altruism and world understanding.

**Craig Faustus Buck's** debut novel, GO DOWN HARD, a wild, hard-boiled journey through the noir worlds of aging rock-and-rollers, live Internet sex shows, abusive psychiatrists, Slavic mobsters, child molesters, emotional betrayal, deceit, arson, murder and estate planning, will be published on May 5 by Brash Books. The American Library Association's Booklist said: "It's a crime novel dream."



**Caitlyn Willows'** latest romantic suspense, WRAPPED IN FLAME, was released on April 21. Nothing like being suspected of murder to destroy unfettered bliss. Giving over control isn't so easy when you know doing so could very well cost the woman you love her life.

**Robert S. Levinson** will have a new short story, "Little Miss Somebody," in the July/August issue of *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, which goes on sale May 26. The story features ex-cop Chris Blanchard, a trouble-shooter for MGM, who previously appeared in AHMM in "Regarding Certain Occurrences in a Cottage in the Garden of Eden" and "In the Land of Make-Believe" after making his hardcover debut in A RHUMBA IN WALTZ TIME.



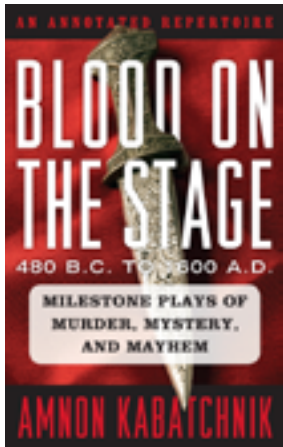
### Short Story Contest

King's River Life Magazine has a new mystery short story contest. This one has a Father's Day theme and you can win a \$65 Amazon gift card. Penny Warner, Sunny Frazier, and Cindy Sample will judge.

More info:

[kingsriverlife.com](http://kingsriverlife.com)

## OVER the TRANSOM



**Annon Kabatchnik's** BLOOD ON THE STAGE, 480 B.C. to 1600 A.D. won a Gold Medal (first place) at the Benjamin Franklin Awards (IBPA) in the category Reference – “An extraordinary reference guide, Blood on the Stage, 480 B.C. to 1600 A.D. analyzes more than fifty of those blood-splattered plays that have withstood the test of time.”

In April, the Black List rated the screenplay of HARD BITE with an 8% review evaluation. The novel was adapted to script by author Anonymous-9 (**Elaine Ash**). Less than 5% of screenplays reviewed by the Black List network of script buyers, reps, and writers receive a ranking of 8% or higher.



Do you have writing news to share with our chapter?  
Email it to [TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com](mailto:TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com)  
by May 20 for inclusion in the June 2015 issue.

### 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

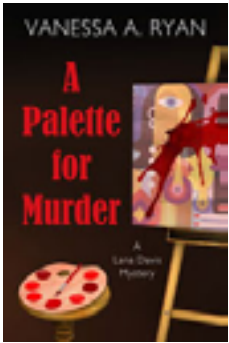
#### Featured Authors

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>

## Member APPEARANCES



**Vanessa A. Ryan** will be signing her cozy mystery novel, *A PALETTE FOR MURDER*, at Mystery Ink Bookstore, 8907 Warner Avenue #135, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 May 16, 2015, at 3PM.

**Sheila Lowe** is slated to be a guest speaker at OPEN (Outstanding Professionals) at the Camarillo Library on May 1st, and at the Acton Library Authors Luncheon on May 16th. She'll then head to the New Orleans Writing Instrument Manufacturer's Association Conference on the 20th. On the 28th she'll be sharing panel space with **Connie Archer** and George Fong at Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church.

**Jeri Westerson** will be at the following locations in May:

Thursday, May 7 — Ridgecrest Writers. "Read the Book, Meet the Author" tea at 2 pm, and then at 6:30 pm a more general discussion on the "Writing Life," discussing finding an agent, self publishing, research, writing historical mysteries, and other things. Go to [www.JeriWesterson.com](http://www.JeriWesterson.com) for details.

Saturday, May 16, Noon to 3 pm — Historical Novel Society Los Angeles Chapter meeting. Free to the public. She'll be speaking about the "Writing Life" including agents, self-publishing, writing tips, research, and more! Fairfax Library 161 S. Gardner Street Los Angeles, CA 90036. Phone: (323) 936-6191. Books available for sale.

**DP Lyle** and **Jan Burke** will talk Forensic Science at the Brea Public Library, Saturday, May 30, 2015, 11 a.m. PDT, 1 Civic Center Circle, Brea, CA. For more info: 714-671-1722 or <http://ocpl.org/libloc/brea>.

**Laurie Stevens** will be reading at the Sisters in Crime Los Angeles meeting on May 3 at 2pm in Pasadena and will be on the Platt Library's Annual Author Panel May 23 at 1:30pm in West Hills.

**Craig Faustus Buck** will be speaking with **Les Klinger**, **Gary Phillips**, **Naomi Hirahara** and **Jeri Westerson** at the Beverly Hills City Council Chambers on June 1, 7pm on crime writing today. Admission is free.

**Kim Fay** will be one of four featured Breakout Authors at the Literary Guild of Orange County's 22nd Annual Festival of Women Authors on May 8th and 9th. This event will be held at the Irvine Marriott Hotel and includes headline authors Karin Slaughter and Jane Smiley. For more information, go to the event website: <http://www.lgoc.org/>



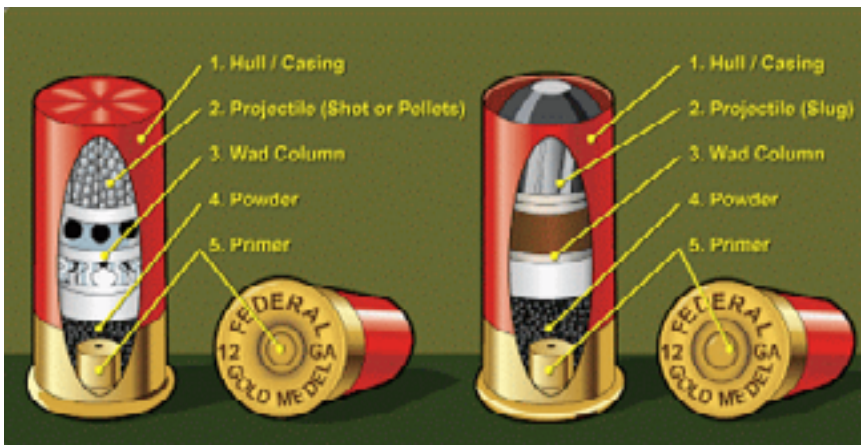
## Hollow Points

Gregory Von Dore

### ...And Two Smoking Barrels

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, shotguns increased in popularity and the gauges we described last time became an international standard. Shotgun ammunition was notable for being easy to reload at home, unlike some pistol and rifle cartridges. This was largely due to the structure of the shotgun shell, which is worth exploring. Unlike rifle cartridges, the shotgun shell was composed mostly of paper. This made them economical and, as mentioned above, easy to reload. For the last thirty years, paper has given way to durable plastic.

From bottom up, a shotgun shell has a brass collar, contains smokeless powder, a wad or spacer of some kind and then the loose shot – or in extreme cases a single lead slug. The wad may be a simple plug of organic material – like the cork in a wine bottle. Or it may be a complex, high-performance plastic shape that cushions the recoil of the firing and then herds the shot into a specific pattern, finally, opening like a parachute, it drops down so that the pellets can go on their way without interference. Some shells have a final, thin wad above the shot, to form a compressible layer against the closing or crimping of the shell during loading.



Even within the same gauge, shotgun shells can differ in length. In 12 ga. especially, a variety of shells are used for various tasks. The smallest shells, 2 ¾” are mostly used in sheet shooting, an up-close sport. The largest, 3 ½” are magnums designed for bigger game hunting or longer range sport shooting, such as sporting clays. Most modern shotguns are chambered for up to 3” shells.

“Shot” is the generic term for the small pellets, usually spherical, that go at the top of the shell, and what is ultimately fired by the gun. In the 19th

century, shot was made by pouring molten lead from the top of a several story tower through a grid of wires. This grid sized the shot as it fell and on the way down the lead turned into tiny balls. Shot comes in many sizes, from the tiny 1/10” birdshot, to the heavy ¼” buckshot and shells are purchased by the kind of shot they contain. Lead ore is known as “Galena” and there is a town in Illinois of that name where lead shot was made in large quantities for decades.

The sawed-off or sawn-off shotgun is a powerful and compact weapon which has been used extensively by criminals, law enforcement and the military. While the exact origin of this modification is unknown, there are short-barreled shotguns from Sicily, going back to the mid-1800s known as “lupara” or “wolf guns”, used by shepherds to protect their flocks from local wolf packs. Since accuracy was not an issue, the fairly simple task of sawing off a piece of the barrel was easily done at home. The wooden stock was often sawed off at the same time, leaving only a pistol-grip.

[Continued on page 12](#)





## 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!](#)

## You Oughta Be In Pictures

Photos Submitted by **Lee Goldberg & Robert Levinson**

SoCalMWA members were out in force at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books.



**Craig Faustus Buck** and Phoef Sutton signed their new books, *GO DOWN HARD* and *15 MINUTES TO LIVE*, at the Mystery Ink booth.



**Lee Goldberg** moderated a panel with **Thomas Perry**, Stuart Woods, Joseph Kanon and Lisa Scottoline.



Cara Black, **Lee Goldberg** and TC Boyle met up at the Mystery Ink booth.



**Brett Battles**, **Lee Goldberg**, Mark Haskell Smith and Paul Tremblay also got together to talk shop and buy books.



SoCalMWA authors and fellow Prospect Park authors **Naomi Hirahara** and Phoef Sutton.



**Robert Ward**, **Bob Levinson**, **Craig Buck**, **Gary Phillips** and Phoef Sutton chatting and signed books at the SoCalMWA/Mystery Ink booth.



Craig Buck, Gar Anthony Haywood, Stephen Jay Schwartz and Phoebe Sutton at the Mystery Ink booth to plot new schemes.



Robert S. Levinson catches up with buddy Cara Black during a signing stint at the Mysterious Galaxy booth.



Three past chapter presidents and pals, (from left) Lee Goldberg, Gar Anthony Haywood and Robert S. Levinson.

**We want your pictures!**

Book events, appearances, SoCalMWA meetings, conferences... start snappin'!

Email them to [TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com](mailto:TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com)  
by May 20 for inclusion in the June 2015 issue.

## Hollow Points - [Continued from pg 8](#)

Short barrel shotguns or “coach guns” were popular from the birth of the weapon and our popular term “riding shotgun” refers to the armed guard on a coach, sitting to the right of the driver, whose job it was to defend the passengers and cargo from robbers and bushwhackers. During the Great Depression era, the sawed-off became a weapon of choice for bank robbers. You might be able to dodge a bullet, but you weren’t going to evade a scatter of buckshot – especially at close range.



Law enforcement has used shotguns for riot duty and crowd control for well over a century and low-cost shotguns, such as the 12 gauge Mossberg 500 “Persuader” with an 18.5 inch barrel and pump action, is standard equipment in nearly every patrol car in the USA. A typical SWAT weapon, a 500 with bird shot loads, can immobilize a suspect without killing him. Police also use shotguns as non-lethal weapons, firing shells loaded with rock salt or “beanbags” – a fabric sack with plastic or other pellets in it, designed to bruise but not even break the skin. Shells with rubber buckshot, designed for use at about 10 yards distance, are also available.

Military use of shotguns goes back to the blunderbuss, which was popular with cavalry troops, sailors and pirates, and some infantry squads. Shotguns with shoulder straps were used by American forces in WWI as close-range weapons in the trenches but by WWII they had mostly given way to sub-machine guns. Some medium length Browning shotguns were used in the Pacific theatre and a few, with perforated barrel guards were used in Europe as well. But the numbers were small, and the supply of ammunition limited. Military shells were all brass, to combat the weakness of paper shells – rain and humidity.



Next time, we’ll wrap up our examination of shotguns with a look at shotgun sports: trap, skeet and clays. We’ll touch on shotguns in the Olympics. And we’ll crash the heady world of custom made shotguns. These beauties are fitted to the shooter’s body, entirely hand-made, spectacularly engraved and can cost up to a quarter-million dollars for a single gun.

*All images used in this article are courtesy of [Wikimedia Commons](#).*

**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.

A decorative banner with a central rectangular box containing the text "Crime CALENDAR". The word "Crime" is in a cursive font, and "CALENDAR" is in a bold, sans-serif font. The banner has a ribbon-like shape with pointed ends.

Crime  
CALENDAR

*Craig Johnson in conversation with J.M. "Mike" Hayes*

Monday, May 18, 2015, 12pm  
Clues Unlimited  
3146 E. Fort Lowell  
Tucson, AZ  
RSVP to 520-326-8533

Our Chapter members in Arizona present yet another stellar FREE author spotlight and light lunch at Clues Unlimited in Tucson. If you live in Arizona or are going to be passing through, you won't want to miss this one. Open to the public.

**More Criminal Happenings in 2015**

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

A decorative banner with a central rectangular box containing the text "The LAST WORD". The word "The" is in a cursive font, and "LAST WORD" is in a bold, sans-serif font. The banner has a ribbon-like shape with pointed ends.

The  
LAST WORD

“Except for the body washed up on the sand, conditions were perfect for surfing.”

--F.M. Meredith, WORST DEGREE