



The MARCH

of CRIME

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SoCalMWA Event:
Sunday, November 6

**Fall Mystery
Mingler
Scottsdale, AZ**

[More Info](#)

TAM LUNCHEON

TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION

Nonfiction Crime Writing Revealed

Sunday, November 6, 12pm
(doors open at 11:30am)

Moderator: Sue Ann Jaffarian



Cynthia Lea Clark, Psy.D., Ph.D., MHT.
After a psychopath stalked her, Cynthia Lea Clark helped author the California Privacy Law SB 262, which led to her working in forensic psychology with a specialty in stalking, serial killers, terrorism, and body language. [Read more...](#)



Nikki Palomino
Author of the upcoming non-fiction crime book, THE LAST GENTLEMAN SMUGGLER, with former fellow Texan Steven M. Kalish, detailing Kalish's days as the largest pot smuggler in U.S. history and how he helped bring down the biggest bank fraud in history. [Read more...](#)



Caitlin Rother
NYT bestselling author of 11 books, including DEAD RECKONING, about transgender female killer Sylar Deleon. A former investigative reporter, Rother's currently working on a book about Charles Manson. [Read more...](#)

Tam O'Shanter Restaurant
2980 Los Feliz Blvd
Los Angeles
(Valet or street parking available)

You'll place your order at the Tam. Menu choices include their famous Prime Rib, plus vegetarian & gluten-free options.

[For more details and to reserve your spot, click here.](#)



The President's Rap Sheet

Craig Faustus Buck

Forensics Magazine recently interviewed the author of a new book that discusses the fact that our CSI-soaked media has kicked off a spate of murderers staging crime scenes to throw investigators off the scent. Killers are cleaning up fingerprints, blood stains and trace evidence. They're planting false evidence of their own. In her first book, *CRIME SCENE STAGING DYNAMICS IN HOMICIDE CASES*, North Carolina-based forensic criminologist Laura Pettler claims that we've entered the "modern era of kill and cover up." This sort of allegation is manna from heaven for crime writers.

Some 14,000 to 16,000 homicides are committed in the United States every year--that we know of. But how many purported suicides, accidents, fire deaths and missing persons are undiscovered murders? We have about 40,000 reported suicides every year, half of which are firearms-related. There's no telling how many of these are actually homicides. A lot of people are getting away with murder. And increasingly, they're doing it by cleaning up bodily fluids, putting guns in corpses' hands, planting someone else's DNA via hair strands or cigarette butts, etc.

The issue is as old as Cain and Abel ("Am I my brother's keeper?"), one of the first recorded examples of "intimicide"--a crime-of-passion killing between intimate partners. The most common "intimicides" involve males killing females. The most common forms of staging involve making the crime look like a suicide or disappearance. Pettler advises detectives--or crime writers trying to write realistic detectives--to pay close attention to the tone of the 911 caller who reports the body, since stagers will often be those callers. Of course anything that seems awry at the crime scene--indications that the body has been moved, apparent clues that seem out of place and so on--can point to manipulation of the evidence.



Laura Pettler, Forensic Criminologist

But detectives are often misled by tantalizing physical evidence. The "victimology," or inferred psychology from circumstantial evidence surrounding the deceased, can be just as important. "Investigators can get tunnel vision on the forensic evidence," says Pettler. It's seductive to think the solution to your case is right in front of you. But in a crime novel, there's no one smarter than the detective who sees flaws in what appears to be a slam-dunk case.

[continued on pg 11](#)

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The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

It's October 31st and I still haven't decided if I'm going to do NaNoWriMo this year. I have an idea, a brief outline and, to some extent, the time to devote to writing 2000+ words a day to "win." But I'm also a quarter into a major edit of my current WIP and that needs to come first, no matter what. So what's a writer to do?

To any others of you who're doing NaNo this year, best of luck to you. I'll know whether I'm joining you by the end of the day (or maybe tomorrow morning).

As for this issue of *The March of Crime*, hop on over to Craig's [Prez Rap](#) if you haven't already. He highlights an interview with forensic criminologist Laura Pettler, suggesting there may be story ideas lurking in "crime scene staging."

I'd also like to mention that this is this month's [Hollow Points](#) column by Gregory Von Dare is the second to last in his series. I'm particularly interested in 3D printing, so I'm glad Greg chose to devote one of his last columns to this technology and how it pertains to guns.

Finally, please think about contributing an article to TMOC in 2017. With our membership of 300+, it's a good way to get your name out there and a great way to participate in the chapter. Guidelines:

- 1) 750 words or less
- 2) Topics of interest to our members, i.e. crime/mystery authors
- 3) Articles may not be promotional in nature, though some reference may be made to one's own work, where applicable.
- 4) Previously published articles are acceptable, but please notify me when this is the case so I can give proper credit.

Questions? Send them to themarchofcrime@gmail.com.

Holly

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

Editor: [Holly West](#)

November Contributors:
Gregory Von Dare
Paul D. Marks

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

OVER the TRANSOM

Member News

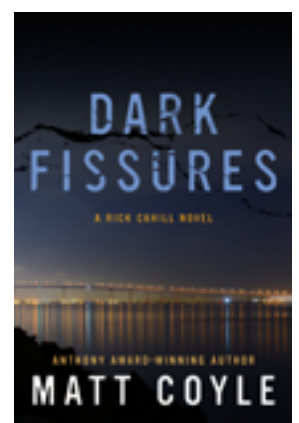
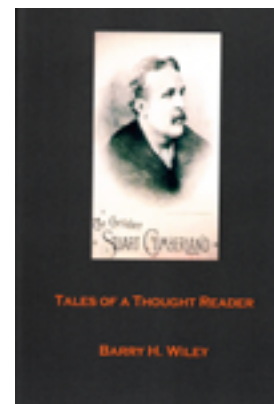
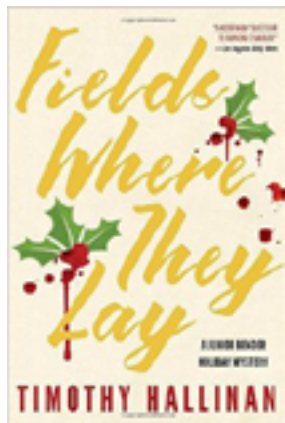
PACIFIC HOMICIDE, **Patricia Smiley's** new hard-boiled police procedural, is set for release on November 8, 2016. [Click here](#) for related author appearances.

Timothy Hallinan's FIELDS WHERE THEY LAY, the sixth in the Junior Bender series (Oct 25), was chosen one of the "Most Anticipated Mysteries" of the season by *Entertainment Weekly*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *BookPage*. It received starred reviews in all four trades: *Publishers Weekly*, which said, "Hallinan deserves to win an Edgar" in its review, *Booklist*, *Library Journal*, and *Kirkus*, which concluded its review with "This is a hell of a Christmas story—one of the very best since [Arthur Conan Doyle's] 'The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle.'" The book has also been named to three "Best of 2016" lists, including *Publishers Weekly*.

THE BIG BOOK OF JACK THE RIPPER, edited by Otto Penzler and featuring **Holly West's** Anthony Award-nominated short story, "Don't Fear the Ripper," is now available.

"Flight of the Purba," the sixth story in **Barry Wiley's** series of the adventures of British thought reader, Stuart C. Cumberland, will appear in the November issue of *Kings River Life Magazine*. Cumberland (1857-1922) who was the premiere thought reader of Queen Victoria's Realm. The stories follow Cumberland's life, but with fictional intrusions, even including a genuine death spell. Cumberland retired a millionaire in 1909, and was a close friend of Harry Houdini. The first five stories are collected in TALES OF A THOUGHT READER on Amazon.

Matt Coyle's DARK FISSURES, the third book in the Anthony Award-winning Rick Cahill crime series, will be published by Oceanview Publishing on Dec. 6. "The vise is tightening around Rick Cahill. The law wants him behind bars. The bank wants his house. His client's motives are sketchy. And shadowy killers want him dead."



OVER the TRANSOM

Sarah M. Chen's short story "Besties & Blow" will be in the anthology FAST WOMEN AND NEON LIGHTS: EIGHTIES-INSPIRED NEON NOIR by Short Stack Books. Release date is November 1. Her short story "Grateful Touring" will be in Level Best Books' anthology WINDWARD: BEST NEW ENGLAND CRIME STORIES. The anthology will be launched at the Crime Bake conference in Boston on November 12.

Gay Tolt Kinman's novella, A MAN OF HONOR, set in 1942, features LAPD Officer Agnes Graham dealing with murder, mayhem and Hollywood stars on the S.S. Rex. Kinman's short story, "Monaco Car Customizing," part of the Stand-Down series, features car customizer Tully, who becomes an unwitting murder suspect when a body is found in a car on his lot. Finally, THE PLAY'S THE THING, a collection of 20 plays encompassing humorous, romance and mystery, is available on Kindle and paperback.

Craig Faustus Buck's Anthony Award-nominated short story, "Dead End," has been purchased by epublisher *The Bride of Chaos* for inclusion in their next edition of their 9tales anthology series.

Rachel Howzell Hall's THE GOOD SISTER, in which two sisters try to stay steps ahead of detectives investigating the suspicious death of a cheating husband, to Trish Daly and James Patterson at BookShots, for publication in 2017.

The comical crime piece "Why Circus Performers Make Perfect Criminals" by **Peter DiChellis** is scheduled for late October to early November publication in the eclectic anthology Freak (Pure Slush Books).

Pat H. Broeske writes about Dashiell Hammett's literary legacy – and the Orange County granddaughter, **Julie M. Rivett**, who helps to oversee it, in the November issue of *Orange Coast*. A longtime contributing writer to the magazine, Broeske first met Rivett at SoCalMWA luncheon meeting earlier this year.

Jonathan Shapiro and David E. Kelley's eight-episode L.A.-based legal thriller Goliath is now streaming on Amazon Prime. Shapiro's first novel, DEADLY FORCE, is also coming out in paperback.

Robert S. Levinson is among those interviewed in WHEN THE SCREAMING STOPS; THE DARK HISTORY OF THE BAY CITY ROLLERS by Simon Spence, newly published in the U.K. The Rollers were among the more than seven hundred clients represented by his firm, Levinson Associates, during Bob's years in public relations. The Spence book calls what happened to the Rollers "one of the great scandals of the music industry."

Michael Thomas Barry, author of IN THE COMPANY OF EVIL: THIRTY YEARS OF CALIFORNIA CRIME, 1950-1980, appears on Investigation Discovery's *True Nightmares* TV series, season 2, episode 5, "The Man Who Died Twice," on Saturday November 5, 2016.

Member APPEARANCES

Phyllis A. Humphrey, from Palm Desert, will be one of the authors signing and selling her books at the Arts & Crafts Fair November 17-19, from 9am to 4 pm for three days. She'll also have her newest paperback book, *HOLMES & HOLMES*, under the name, P.J. Humphrey, available for sale. The book is a collection of the first three *HOLMES & HOLMES* novellas about the ghost of Sherlock living – in the 21st century – in the San Francisco apartment of the young woman who wants to be a detective just like him. These novellas were published first as ebooks. If you can't come to Palm Desert, you can ask Phyllis for a copy of this new print version at phumphrey@dc.rr.com.

The New Short Fiction Series will stage a dramatization of four of **Désirée Zamorano's** short stories, one of which features her private investigator, Inez Leon. It will be at The Federal Bar in North Hollywood on November 13th at 7pm. The guest cast includes: Marina Palmier Gonzalez (*Desperate Housewives*, *The Shield*) Sherry Mandujano (*Shameless*, *Telenovela*) Vanessa Suarez (*The Adventures of Superseven's Madame Wasabi*) as well as the director and founder of the series, Sally Shore. Tickets are available [here](#).

To celebrate the Nov. 8 release of her new novel, *PACIFIC HOMICIDE*, **Patricia Smiley** will be speaking and signing books at the following locations: Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 7pm, Friends of the Crowell Public Library Meet the Author Series, Barth Community Room, Crowell Public Library, 1890 Huntington Drive, San Marino, CA; Sunday, Nov. 13 at 3pm, Book Carnival, 348 S. Tustin Avenue, Orange, CA. Patty will be signing with author **Sue Ann Jaffarian**; Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 7pm, Vromans Bookstore, 695 E. Colorado Blvd, Pasadena, CA. Patty will be signing with author **Naomi Hirahara**.

Craig Faustus Buck will provide introductory remarks at the SoCalMWA luncheon at noon on November 6 at the Tam O'Shanter in Los Angeles on nonfiction crime writing. **Sue Ann Jaffarian** will moderate with authors **Cynthia Lea Clark**, Nikki Palomino and Caitlin Rother. Details at SoCalMWA.com/events.

Crime & Science Radio with DP Lyle & Jan Burke

11/19: Should We Abandon Use of Lie Detector Tests as Junk Science? An interview with Mortan Tavel, MD

12/3: NAMUS: Naming the Unidentified, Finding the Missing: An Interview with J. Todd Matthews

[More Info](#)

Sheila Lowe will be introducing the Forensic Handwriting Mystery series to a PEO philanthropic group chapter in Ventura on November 7th. On the 13th she will be displaying her books at the Camarillo Library Author Fair. She's also speaking to 150 attorneys about being an expert witness, which will give her an opportunity to talk about the court case in one of her books.

Matt Coyle will be talking about his journey to publication (*How To Get Published in Ten Short Years*) at the San Diego Central Library downtown on Nov. 6 at 1:00 pm. He'll be signing and discussing *DARK FISSURES*, the third installment in the Anthony Award-winning Rick Cahill crime series at Vroman's Bookstore in Pasadena on Nov. 28 at 7:00 pm.

THE COUNTDOWN TO

2017

CALIFORNIA CRIME WRITERS CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Saturday & Sunday, June 10-11, 2017

www.ccwconference.org



[Click here for more info and to register](http://www.ccwconference.org)



Hollow Points

Gregory Von Dore

Adventures in the Third Dimension

3D printing will change our lives over the next century as it becomes possible to “make” common items at home as easily as you print a document or graphic today. That includes 3D printed guns made entirely from plastic or resin. These guns will have few or no metal parts and will be invisible to airport and other metal detectors. How do these guns fit into society, locally and internationally?

To start, 3D printing means creating a tangible, fully dimensional, useable object from instructions contained in a computer file. It requires a specialized 3D printer. When done, the thing may be crudely or finely finished. It may be shiny or dull, monochrome or multicolored. But it will be a real item, not a flat picture or other representation. You “print” an object, not a page. From nothing, something.

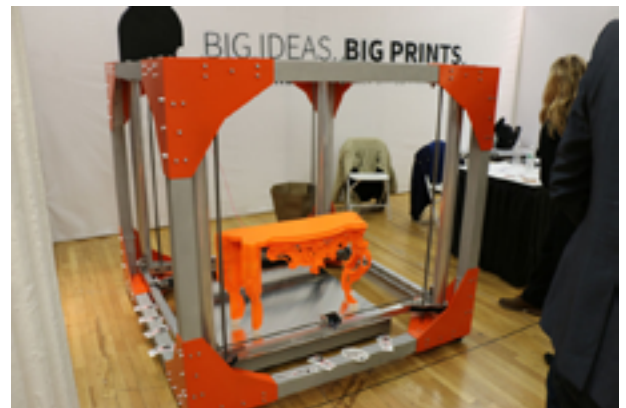


The TAZ 3D printer is a new-generation device that abandons the ‘cage’ structure and prints/builds in the open.

After many passes of the print head, the object is complete. At that point, you reach into the printer’s work area and remove your item—whatever it may be. If you think such a device is fated to make rat-tail combs and souvenirs of the Empire State Building, consider this: given the right raw materials and print-head, a 3D printer can make almost anything. Even bones and body-parts. Doctors currently use this technology to print cloned organs and matrices on which stem cells can grow to produce skin and other tissue. Veins and heart valves are soon to come.

Several approaches to 3D printing exist, as different as using a laser beam to harden liquid resin in a tub, cut out slices of paper or cardboard, or build up an object, bit by bit—like a brick-layer building a wall. The most popular type of 3D printer is related to the ink-jet printer and can be big or small. Most consumer versions are about the size of a large toaster oven. This kind of 3D printer has the ability to deposit a dot of material rather than a tiny splat of ink at a precise spot. That material may be plastic, resin, powdered metal or cake frosting. Uniquely, 3D printers can raise or lower the print head (or the work) as printing progresses.

The 3D print head works much like the one on an ink-jet printer. Instead of a store of ink, one or more thick strands of plastic lead into it. Inside the print head, the plastic is heated till it melts. Then a dot of soft plastic is squeezed out the bottom. Now, the print head moves and another drop of molten plastic is released, and so on. The plastic cools in a moment and solidifies.



Bigger 3D printers, like this one, can make everything from furniture to cars.

[Continued on pg 12](#)

Event Wrap-Up - Demystifying Writing Software

by Paul D. Marks

James Scott Bell, Sharon Goldstein and **Tom Sawyer** presented “Demystifying Writing Software” at the Studio City library on October 22nd for SoCalMWA. James explained the ins and outs of Scrivener, writing software that many love and some just don’t get. But he made it more accessible and maybe inspired a few people to check it out. Sharon talked about Microsoft Word, from the basics to headier stuff like fields and style sheets. And Tom Sawyer presented Storybase, a story development program that he helped create, as well as Final Draft, screenwriting software, and several anecdotes about life in Hollywood. And despite some technical glitches, there was a lot of good information to be had and everyone had a good time.



James Scott Bell makes Scrivener more accessible.



Sharon Goldstein explains how writers can make better use of MS Word.



Tom Sawyer talks screenwriting software and Hollywood.



L-R: James Scott Bell, Sharon Goldstein, Tom Sawyer and Paul D. Marks

You Oughta Be in Pictures

Gumbo Party Pics - Submitted by Jeri Westerson



Appetizers



Travis Richardson wrangles ice in the beer area.



Susan Kosar Berry and Jim



Bill Fitzhugh and Craig Faustus Buck



James Ziskin, Ellen Byron, Patricia Smiley and Paul Bishop were the featured speakers at the American Association of University Women Author's Luncheon in Ventura on Oct 22.

Prez Rap - [continued from pg 2](#)

We've all heard of the "CSI Effect," where popular depictions of criminal investigations on TV and in the media cause juries to expect impossible technical miracles in criminal prosecutions. This effect isn't just seen in juries. Everyone watches TV or streaming video. And this makes crooks and "crime-of-passion" killers alike more aware of the need to tamper with evidence to cover their crimes.

"Most crime-scene stagers are normal people," according to Pettler. But "normal people" are as fearful of prison, if not more so, than career criminals. And because intimicide is a private act that takes place behind closed doors, people who kill a family member or friend often have plenty of time to stage the crime scene.

So the next time you write a crime scene investigation, keep in mind that what you're describing could be your killer's misdirection. Use that deception for a twist and make hay while the sun hides.

Craig

We want your articles!

THE MARCH OF CRIME is always looking for articles written by our members, for our members. With a membership of 300+, it's a great way to get your name out and a good way to participate in the chapter.

Guidelines:

- 1) 750 words or less
- 2) Topics of interest to our members, i.e. crime/mystery authors
- 3) Articles may not be promotional in nature, though some reference may be made to one's own work, where applicable.
- 4) Previously published articles are acceptable, but please notify me when this is the case so I can give proper credit.

Questions? Send them to themarchofcrime@gmail.com.

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

But what about guns? Fortunately, an all plastic gun doesn't work. After two or three shots, the plastic barrel is fouled, pocked and partly melted. Forget about hitting the bulls-eye. This internal damage was actually seen as a plus for 3D printed guns, legally. You can't yet make a durable all-plastic gun. The force of the powder charge going off and the combination of pressurized hot gasses and actual flame erode a plastic barrel so badly with every shot that there's no way the current materials can survive more than a few firings. However, an inventor in Pennsylvania has recently created a bullet-in-a-barrel concept that may allow plastic guns to fire many times. All this ignores the reality that a small, single-shot all-plastic gun would still be a very dangerous weapon.



The infamous 'Liberator' 3D printed gun. Note the added block of metal to 'legalize' this gun.

Fortunately, non-metallic guns which can waltz through the most sophisticated and sensitive metal detectors on the planet are illegal. It's a Federal rap. Currently for a 3D printed gun to be legal in the USA, it must have a minimum number of internal metal parts so it can be detected. Or a standard block of metal must be permanently attached to an all-plastic gun to legalize it. The future of these guns and their place in society is in flux right now—and probably for some time to come. The current law which regulates 3D printed guns ("The Undetectable Firearms Act") is about to expire and may not be renewed by Congress.

Free, open-source plans for a 3D gun called the 'Liberator' were downloaded over 100,000 times before the ATF blocked that website. Later, ATF agents made their own 3D printed guns from those plans. It took a commercial-grade 3D printer 10 hours to finish a gun and cost about \$150 in materials. A gun made from high-quality resin worked well and one from cheap resin exploded after the first shot.

Eventually people may 3D print everything from a driver's license to a wedding ring. From a machete to a violin. Guns will just go with the flow. Manufactured guns will still exist for a premium price and for special purposes. For the moment, there is no practical, rational need for a 3D printed plastic gun. It must be seen as a weapon of stealth and malice, an assassin's tool or a terrorist's. And here's another thought. Disposing of such a weapon would be easy, it would melt down to goo in a pan of gasoline, acetone or other strong solvent.

Next time, we'll dive into the distant future, to a time when gunpowder is obsolete and 'railguns' and 'coilguns' dominate the scene. This may also sound like science fiction but it's with us today and will have an enormous impact on tomorrow.

Photos are courtesy of Wikipedia, used with permission.

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.

Crime
CALENDAR

Fall Mystery Mingler

Sunday, November 6, 2pm
The Poisoned Pen Bookstore
Scottsdale, AZ

**SoCalMWA &
the Desert Sleuths Chapter of Sisters in Crime**

invite you to join
Hank Philippi Ryan and Linwood Barclay



For an afternoon of Mystery & Mingling!

Immediately following their presentation, members and their guests are invited to 5th and Wine, a short walk from the bookstore, to continue the conversation. Appetizers will be provided by SoCalMWA and Desert Sleuths, and there will be a cash bar.

Come on out, meet Hank and Linwood and mingle with other mystery writers and lovers.

The Poisoned Pen Mystery Bookstore

4014 N Goldwater Blvd #101
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

5th and Wine

7051 E 5th Ave.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

[Click here for more info](#)

A decorative banner with a central olive-green rectangle containing the text "Crime CALENDAR". The word "Crime" is in a cursive font, and "CALENDAR" is in a bold, sans-serif font. The banner is flanked by two olive-green ribbon-like shapes.

Crime
CALENDAR

Criminal Happenings in 2016

November 6 - [SoCalMWA Nonfiction Crimewriting Luncheon, Los Angeles, CA](#)

November 6 - [Fall Mystery Mingler, Scottsdale, AZ](#)

December 17- [SoCalMWA Holiday Party, Los Angeles, CA](#)

A decorative banner with a central olive-green rectangle 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 is flanked by two olive-green ribbon-like shapes.

The
LAST WORD

“Whether you buy the Christmas story or not, there’s a spontaneous combustion of pure spirit at its center, a sudden brightening of what it means to be human, and it changed the world, for better or for worse.”

--Timothy Hallinan, *FIELDS WHERE THEY LAY*