



The  
MARCH

of CRIME

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## *Call for Donations*

### **2017 California Crime Writers Conference Silent Auction and Raffle**



Here's an opportunity to bring attention to your work while raising money for the 2017 CCWC charities, the Libros Schimbros Lending Library and the California Forensic Science Institute. Auction and raffle donations are tax deductible.

#### Donation ideas:

- A character name in your next book or story.
- A critique of a short story or the first three chapters or more of a novel.
- A signed copy of your latest book, out-of-print book, anthologies you've appeared in, or signed copies of the first two or three books of your series.
- Signed ARCs or a copy of an original manuscript with notations.
- Authors writing in multiple genres: a basket of a book from each genre.
- E-book authors can create fun gift certificates for redemption via email from the seller of the winner's choice.
- Short story authors: a basket of magazine issues with your stories in print.
- Themed baskets: If your work centers on a topic, profession, craft, or hobby, include items connected to the characters or theme.
- Baskets for readers: your work along with products for reading on vacation, in bed, or in the tub.
- Baskets for writers: writing books, notepad, pen, dictionary, chocolate, timer.

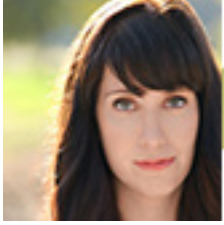
## *Edgar Week Symposium*

Wednesday, April 26

New York, NY

[More Info](#)

[Click here for more information](#)



## The President's Rap Sheet

Elizabeth Little

One of my first official acts as chapter president was to drive up to Sherman Oaks in order to take part in a little-known rite of succession: the ceremonious transfer of a bunch of boxes of chapter-related crap.

“You have a garage, right?” I remember Craig asking.

No—I don’t have a garage. Nor do I have an attic, basement, cellar, or shed. What I have is a single closet with absolutely no room to spare. So in January I just piled the boxes from Craig’s in the corner of our guest room and left it at that.

But now it’s spring, and every lifestyle site on the Internet is telling me I need to declutter my house, so last weekend I pulled everything out of that closet, determined to find a way to make space for the chapter’s sizable inventory of hats and shirts and hats and pens and *oh*, would you look at that, more hats. You can probably guess where I’m going with this. Once I actually took an inventory of the closet’s contents, I realized that I really only needed about ten percent of it (maybe six percent if you include my husband’s things). There’s plenty of room for those hats. I just had to take a hard look at what I was holding on to.

This past week, as I’ve been struggling to cobble together a partial manuscript for my editor, I found myself, on more than one occasion, standing in front of that impeccably organized closet, wondering if I could do the same for my brain.

Because I’m realizing that I’ve been holding onto bad writing habits for years, under the illusion that I *have* to hold onto them, that they’re not really habits at all, but rather “part of my process.” But clearly it doesn’t have to be how I work. After all, I didn’t need to hang onto that twenty-year-old squash racket. I probably also don’t need to spend an entire afternoon futzing with a single sentence I’m just going to cut in a later draft anyway.

So this year I’ve decided that my spring cleaning won’t be limited to the tidying of drawers and refolding of fitted sheets: I’m also going to take stock of the way I write and see how it compares to the way I want to write. And I’d invite you to do the same. Only imagine what good habits we could be making room for once we stop confusing what we own with what owns us.

Elizabeth

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

**President:** Elizabeth Little  
**VP:** Paul D. Marks  
**Treasurer:** Sarah M. Chen  
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## The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

This year, I made a vow to rate and review every book I read. So far, it's the only New Year's resolution I've kept, which is one more than I usually do.

For a while, I was torn about reviewing books on [Goodreads](#) and other such sites, including the [Do Some Damage](#) blog, where I post on alternate Wednesdays. Once I got published, and even before, it felt like a conflict of interest, especially considering that most of the books I read are written by my friends.

Eventually, I changed my mind. As a published author, I now understand how hard it is to sell books. How hard it is to get attention for one's work. And while I don't claim to understand the algorithms websites use to promote some books over others, I do know that reviews help authors. I want to be an advocate for authors, and buying, reading, and reviewing their books is part of that.

This month's issue of THE MARCH OF CRIME is lean and mean but packed with information. Lastly, [have you registered for CCWC yet?](#) If you're planning to but haven't yet, we've only got about twenty spots left so sign up soon.

Holly

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:  
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**Join our SoCalMWA  
Yahoo! Group**

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

# FRESH BLOOD

SoCalMWA welcomes its new and returning members:

Janelle Brown  
Juliet Kinikin



## OVER the TRANSOM

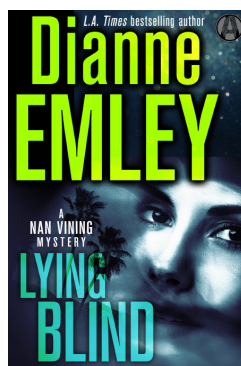
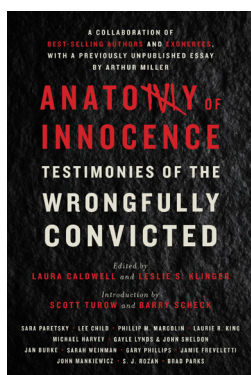
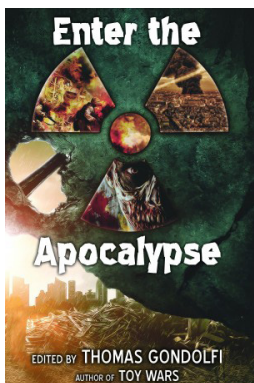
**Maria Alexander's** debut YA paranormal mystery, *SNOWED*, was nominated for the 2016 Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in a Young Adult Novel. Raw Dog Screaming Press published this, the first of a trilogy, in November 2016. [BOLO Books](#) declared it “excellent,” and Golden Kite Award-winning author Pamela Turner calls it “a seriously page-turning read.” Get your copy and find out how we’ve all been Snowed.

**Naomi Brett Rourke** is having a banner spring with several short stories published in late March or April: “Every Day” in the *ENTER THE APOCALYPSE* anthology, “Boots” in *Cultured Vultures* online, “Rockstars and Broken Dreams” in the *100 VOICES, VOLUME 3* anthology, and “Puss” in *DISTRESSING DAMSELS*. Also, her short story “Coyote” is coming out in the *STRAIGHT OUTTA TOMBSTONE* anthology, due July 2017, on presale now. Visit her at [naomibrettrourke.com](http://naomibrettrourke.com).

**Leslie S. Klinger** and Laura Caldwell have co-edited *ANATOMY OF INNOCENCE: TESTIMONIES OF THE WRONGFULLY CONVICTED*, published by Liveright Publishing/W. W. Norton on March 28. The groundbreaking anthology tells the incredible true stories of fifteen innocent men and women who were convicted of serious crimes and cast into the maw of a vast and deeply flawed American criminal justice system before eventually, miraculously, being exonerated. Here, each “exoneree” is paired with a high-profile mystery and thriller writer (including **Jan Burke**, **Gary Phillips**, Lee Child, Sara Paretsky, Philip Margolin, Laurie R. King, Sarah Weinman, Gayle Lynds, and others) to produce a unique collaboration.

The German translation of **Laurie Stevens'** *DEEP INTO DUSK* is released this month by Blanvalet, Random House. <http://amzn.to/2mOhPDI>.

Black Opal Books will launch **Bill A. Brier's** debut thriller, *THE DEVIL ORDERS TAKEOUT* on April 22. A bad turn on an icy road ... a tax attorney with a secret ... a mobster who doesn't forget—or forgive. The novel was a finalist in the William Faulkner Creative Writing Competition. All readers will be offered a chance to win \$1,000 by answering this question: How tall is the character, Misha? Go to [billbrier.com](http://billbrier.com) for details.



## OVER the TRANSOM

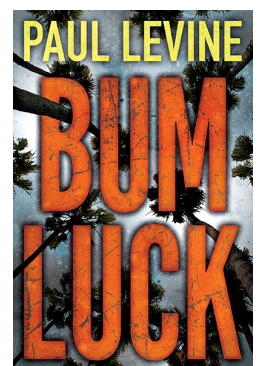
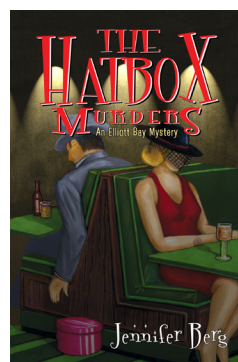
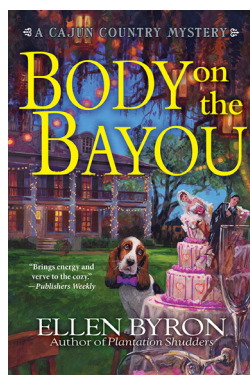
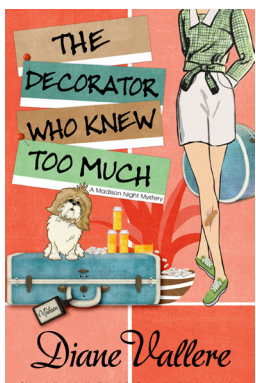
STAND DOWN MYSTERY STORIES by **Gay Toltl Kinman** is now available from Mysterious Women. It's a series of six sequential stories featuring Char, an Army vet who had her legs blown off in Afghanistan and is trying to get her life back by working for a P.I. Agency and studying to become a P.I.

THE DECORATOR WHO KNEW TOO MUCH, #4 in **Diane Vallere's** Madison Night series featuring a Doris Day-loving amateur sleuth, comes out in hardcover, trade paperback, ebook, and audio on April 18 from Henery Press. When interior decorator Madison Night accepts an assignment in Palm Springs with handyman Hudson James, she expects designing days and romantic nights. But the strain of recurring nightmares and a growing dependency on sleeping pills send her seeking professional help. When the doctor she's been advised to see turns up dead, she's caught in the middle of an investigation. This time, what she doesn't know might be the one thing that saves her life.

**Ellen Byron** was thrilled to receive the 2017 Most Humorous Mystery Lefty Award for the second book in her Cajun Country Mystery series, *BODY ON THE BAYOU*.

THE HATBOX MURDER, the first book in the Elliott Bay Mystery Series by **Jennifer Berg**, was published on March 28. Seattle, 1956: When a sharp stenographer barges into Inspector Riggs's office insisting that her friend's death was no accident, he agrees to take a closer look. As he realizes the dead heiress was leading a double life, his former partner, Victoria, agrees to help him provided she can stay out of the limelight. But when the murderer strikes again, Victoria will have to jeopardize her cover in order to catch a killer. In *THE TUGBOAT MURDER*, a free novelette from the Elliott Bay Mystery Series, Victoria Bell didn't expect her romantic dinner date to end with murder. But when a scream interrupts a waterfront stroll, she boards a private tugboat to find a bachelorette in a negligee hovering over a dead body.

*BUM LUCK*, by **Paul Levine**, came out on March 28. Jake Lassiter just beat a murder charge but doesn't want to let his client live long enough to enjoy his freedom. Solomon and Lord fear Lassiter has had one too many concussions from his linebacker days. Enter Dr. Melissa Gold, a neuropathologist from U.C.L.A. Questions abound. Does Lassiter suffer from fatal C.T.E.? Will he really kill his client? Is it the end of Lassiter's career ... and his life?



## OVER the TRANSOM

*Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine* accepted the flash whodunit “Hollywood Homicide” by **Peter DiChellis**. The story is slotted for publication in late 2017. Additionally, Peter’s private eye mystery “With Cunning Wickedness” was reprinted with new artwork at *Trigger Warning: Short Fiction With Pictures*. The story originally appeared in the THE SHAMUS SAMPLER II anthology.

**Martin Roy Hill’s** alternate history noir short story, “The Thirty-Fourth Man,” appears in the latest issue of *ALT HIST: The Journal of Historical Fiction and Alternative History*, published March 1. In an alternative history, Hitler won. Ex-cop and former OSS spy Paul Klee is forced to work for the occupying German SS. His assignment: Find the thirty-fourth man, a double agent, now in hiding, who led the FBI to a Nazi spy ring of thirty-three spies early in 1941. Klee’s dilemma – what to do if he finds the thirty-fourth man? Inspired by a true story.

**Paul D. Marks’s** short story “Ghosts of Bunker Hill” was voted #1 in the 2016 *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* Readers Poll. The award will be presented at the Ellery Queen pre-Edgar cocktail party. Paul appreciates your votes. And if you want to read the story for free it’s available here: <http://pauldmarks.com/stories/>.

**Georgia Jeffries’s** short story, “Little Egypt,” will appear in the noir anthology, *LAST RESORT*, to be published April 17 (Down & Out Books).

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“This is on the wall of a building near the intersection of Bush and Stockton, in San Francisco. I mean, you really have to admit it’s hard to hate a city that would display something like this...” —[Tom Sawyer](#)



Member  
APPEARANCES

**Connie di Marco** will be appearing on the Malice Domestic panel “Murder with a Hint of WooWoo: Paranormal Mysteries” on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

Authors **Dennis Palumbo, Marcia Clark, Fred Andersen,** and **Laurie Stevens** will be speaking at the San Fernando Valley Assistance League annual fundraiser on Saturday, April 29.

**Mike Befeler** will be presenting and signing his international thriller THE TESLA LEGACY on Saturday April 29 at 3 p.m. at Mystery Ink (8907 Warner Avenue #135, Huntington Beach, CA) and on Sunday April 30 at 3 p.m. at Gatsby Books (5535 E. Spring Street, Long Beach, CA).

The new San Diego Chapter of Sisters in Crime is pleased to present “Mystery on the Shelf” on Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the San Diego Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. This free, one-day conference features keynotes from Cara Black and Kate Carlisle, plus workshops, readings, and signings by authors, including **Diane Vallere, Lisa Brackmann,** and **Corey Lynn Fayman.** Visit [sistersincrimesd.org](http://sistersincrimesd.org) for more information.

**Patricia Smiley** will be signing her police procedural PACIFIC HOMICIDE at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books on Sunday, April 23 at the Sisters in Crime booth between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. Patty will also be speaking at the Del Rey Yacht Club’s book club on April 20 at 7:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, April 18, at noon, **Susan Cummins Miller** will present “Stories from Stone: Writing the Southwestern Mystery” at the Tucson Welcome Club luncheon at Lodge on the Desert (306 N Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ). On Sunday, June 18, at 9 a.m., Susan will present “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Pair-a-Dice: The Curious Case of a Geologist Turned Crime Writer” at the 2017 Special Libraries Association Conference, Phoenix Convention Center (100 N 3rd St, Phoenix, AZ). For registration/information please visit: <https://hq.sla.org>.

**Georgia Jeffries** will be signing books at the Sisters in Crime booth at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books on Saturday, April 22, between 4 and 6 p.m. She will also be speaking on a panel of LAST RESORT authors at the Brentwood Library at 2 p.m. on April 29.

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## CCWC Gift Basket Donations

### Sample 2015 CCWC basket:

Polyester Press Basket #2: Mad for Mod Series, \$55

Blue basket with 1 copy PILLOW STALK, ARC of THAT TOUCH OF INK, Rock Hudson & Doris Day movie collection boxed set, daisy pen, box of chocolates, assorted candies, and Polyester Press bookmark.

If you plan to donate to this year's auction, contact [gaydegani@gmail.com](mailto:gaydegani@gmail.com) or [laurie@lauriestevensbooks.com](mailto:laurie@lauriestevensbooks.com) by April 15 with a detailed list of items and fair market value for tax purposes. We will email you a confirmation.

Donated items must be received by us no later than June 3, fully assembled in containers or baskets with an itemized list and catchy title. The auction committee will wrap containers in cellophane and add the bow.

Deliver to:

Gay Degani and Laurie Stevens, Auction Committee Co-chairs  
95 Columbia Street  
Pasadena, CA 91105

You may also drop off baskets at the [Sisters in Crime/LA](#) May 7 chapter meeting.

NOTE: Baskets will NOT be accepted at the conference.

*Thank you for supporting these worthwhile causes!*

## RAISING AWARENESS OF WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS FORUM

Members of SoCalMWA and their friends are invited to "Raising Awareness of Wrongful Convictions," a forum hosted by the California Forensic Science Institute at CSULA on **Friday, April 28, 2017** in the Golden Eagle Ballroom on the campus. The event will be held from 7:45 a.m – 2:00 p.m. and is free, but you must register in advance. Space is limited.

A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

PANEL 1: Prof. Justin Brooks & Supervising Attorney Alissa Bjerkhoel, California Innocence Project, California Western School of Law, San Diego Prof. Steven J. Frenda, Dept of Psychology, Cal State LA (Eyewitness Identification)  
Prof. Iris Blandon-Gitlin, Dept of Psychology, Cal State Fullerton (False Confessions)

PANEL 2: Robert Grace, Deputy in Charge, Conviction Review Unit, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office  
Post-conviction Testing of DNA Evidence (TBA, DNA analyst)

PANEL 3: EXONEREE CASE STUDIES: Brian Banks, Uriah Courtney, Rafael Madrigal, Kimberly Long

Audience Q & A

For questions or registration information, please contact: [Katherine A. Roberts](#) or [Katharine Tellis](#)





**CALIFORNIA CRIME WRITERS CONFERENCE**  
**Saturday, June 10, 2017 – Sunday, June 11, 2017**

This is the premier crime writing conference in the country. It is for writers, not fans, and we cap attendance at just 200 people in order to keep it intimate, so it sells out fast. There will be agents, editors, law enforcement/forensics professionals, and panels on craft from some of the best writers in the business.

**Keynote Speakers**



**Bestselling authors**

William Kent Krueger  
&  
Hallie Ephron



[More Information](#)

[Register Here](#)

## 2017 Edgar Week Activities

### Tuesday, April 25

Come celebrate the 2017 Edgar Awards at the Mysterious Bookshop, Tuesday, April 25 at 6:00pm. Join us for a thrilling evening featuring members of Mystery Writers of America, the 2017 Edgar Award nominees, bestselling authors, and publisher representatives. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet some of the best and brightest in the mystery world!

Mysterious Bookshop  
58 Warren Street  
New York, NY  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, April 26

Edgar Week Symposium  
Grand Hyatt Hotel – Conference Level (Room TBD)  
East 42nd St. at Grand Central Station  
8:30 a.m. – 4:50 p.m.

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

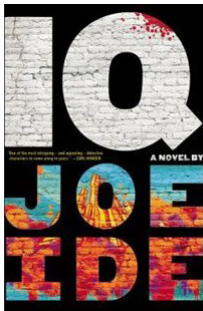
### Thursday, April 27

2017 Edgar Awards Banquet  
Grand Hyatt Hotel – Ballroom Level  
East 42nd St. at Grand Central Station  
6:30 p.m. Cocktails  
7:30 p.m. Dinner, followed by awards program

Tickets are \$195 per person

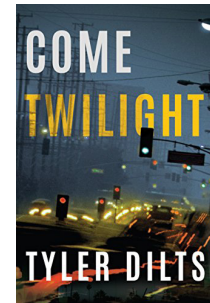
[Click here for more information and to purchase tickets.](#)

SoCalMWA congratulates our members who are nominated for 2017 Edgar Awards:



Best First Novel  
IQ by **Joe Ide**

Best Paperback Original  
COME TWILIGHT by **Tyler Dilts**



## Southern California Writers Association Anthology

## IT'S ALL IN THE STORY



SCWA's *It's All in the Story* is a collection of exceptional short stories with a focus on California. Guided by bestselling author Doug Lyle, the anthology is intended to bring recognition to writers who can tell a great story about or set in California. Whether your main character is a Southern California surfer, your protagonist's heroics take place on a Northern California freeway, or your story unfolds after an earthquake in the Central Valley, we are looking for short stories that incorporate California in some way.

The SCWA Anthology is conceived as a broad-based literary publication open to all writers. The book will showcase California with the goal of exhibiting the best writers have to offer. Whether you are a current or future published author, this may be your chance to be part of a professionally produced, nationally distributed book that you can use in your portfolio. Agents and publishers are always on the lookout for a portfolio of work and a platform to distinguish writers. You never know, this anthology may help you get your own book deal.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- 1 Submit an original fictional short story between 1,500 and 3,000 words in a Word file. The story must be previously unpublished. You may submit more than one entry, but each entry will require a separate entry fee:
  - SCWA member: \$25
  - Non-SCWA member: \$55, which includes a one-year membership in SCWA
- 2 An editorial review committee will review all submissions. Please make sure your entry is edited and polished. If your story is accepted, you will be invited to participate in the publication of the book. The book will be approximately 200 pages, 6 x 9 trade paperback, and it will be available via bookstores, Amazon, and other online bookstores. An e-book version will also be available.
- 3 You will retain the copyright to your story.
- 4 **Deadlines:**
  - 4/15/17 submissions due
  - 5/22/17 authors of stories selected for publication notified
  - 10/1/17 publication date
- 5 Please send submissions with your name, day and night phone numbers, e-mail address, and method of payment to our submissions editor, Don Westenhaver, at donwestenhaver@roadrunner.com. Don will e-mail you an invoice for the amount of the fee (\$25 or \$55). The invoice will state the method of payment you have chosen. If by check, the invoice will instruct you where to mail the check, payable to SCWA. If by credit card, it will instruct you how to pay via the Squareup.com website.

## Crime CALENDAR

April 22 – 23 – [Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles, CA](#)  
April 25 – 27 – [Edgar Week, New York, NY](#)  
April 28 – 30 – [Malice Domestic, Bethesda, MD](#)  
May 21 – [SoCalMWA Tam Luncheon \(program TBD\), Los Angeles, CA](#)  
June 10 – 11 – [California Crime Writers Conference, Culver City, CA](#)  
July 11 – 15 – [ThrillerFest XII, New York, NY](#)  
July 23 – [Joint SoCalMWA/Sisters in Crime OC Meeting, Irvine, CA](#)  
October 7 – [SoCalMWA Gumbo Party, Los Angeles, CA](#)  
October 12 – 15 – [Bouchercon World Mystery Conference, Toronto, Canada](#)  
November 4 – [Murder and Mayhem Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI](#)  
December 10 – [SoCalMWA Holiday Party, Los Angeles, CA](#)

## The LAST WORD

“I want the nickel-plated Smith & Wesson,” Candy said. “I have a silver snakeskin belt that will go perfectly with it.”

—Josh Stallings, *YOUNG AMERICANS*