

July 2017



The  
MARCH

of CRIME

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## BACKYARD BOOK SWAP BBQ

**Sunday, July 16**

**Noon–3 p.m.**

For the second year in a row, here's your chance to clear out your bookshelves and swap out all those books you don't really need for new books you don't really need. Join us in Los Feliz (northeast Los Angeles) at the home of chapter president **Elizabeth Little** for a casual summer get together, with BBQ provided by [Peaches' Smokehouse and Southern Kitchen](#).

Meal tickets are \$10; you can pay in advance with PayPal or on the day of with cash. Drinks and desserts—which Elizabeth promises she will not forget this time—are free.

Open to members and their guests only. Location and additional details will be provided by email. For anyone with mobility concerns, please note that while the backyard is reasonably accessible, there are several steps up into the house. Feel free to be in touch with [Elizabeth](#) if you have any questions.



[RSVP HERE](#)

## SoCalMWA-OC/SinE Joint Meeting

Cybercrime

July 23  
Irvine

1 p.m. (Free Luncheon)  
3 p.m. (Program)

[More info](#)

## SoCalMWA Congratulates its 2017 Macavity Award Nominees!

### Best Novel

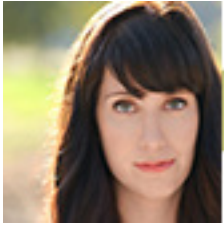
DARK FISSURES by Matt Coyle

### Best First Novel

IQ by Joe Ide

### Best Short Story

“Blank Shot” by Craig Faustus Buck  
“Ghosts of Bunker Hill” by Paul D. Marks



## The President's Rap Sheet

*Elizabeth Little*

At this year's first planning meeting for the California Crime Writers Conference, a curious thing happened. I have what can generously be called an overdeveloped sense of responsibility, and so I often approach meetings with some trepidation: What new task that I don't have time for am I going to take on today? By the time a major planning meeting ends, I usually have a page full of action items and the pinch in the bridge of my nose that precedes a migraine.

That afternoon, though, I found myself instead sitting back in my chair, relaxing, and marveling at the knowledge, efficiency, and preparedness of the CCWC organizing committee—most particularly its fearless leaders.

“Rochelle and Sue Ann,” I thought, “are going to make me look so good.”

Little did I know then that they would be literally standing in for me at the conference itself, taking over my duties in addition to their already mind-boggling list of tasks—without a single second's hesitation, I might add.

I wish I could have been in Culver City that weekend to enjoy what was, by all accounts, an absolutely fantastic conference. But even though a combination of unfortunate events kept me from being unable to attend, I still feel so lucky: Lucky to be able to lean on rock stars like Rochelle and Sue Ann and the rest of the CCWC organizing committee; lucky that SoCalMWA has an amazing partner in Sisters in Crime/LA; lucky that our community has such an utterly generous spirit.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make the conference the success it was.

While CCWC will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of our year here at SoCalMWA, we still have six months to go—and so much still on the way. We have two events coming up this month before we take a short break in August, and then, in September, we have a very special program in the works with MWA president Jeffrey Deaver. Look for an announcement later this month—I'm very excited about this one.

As ever, I encourage you all to be in touch with me or a chapter board member if you have any questions or there is anything we at MWA can do for you. In the meantime, have a wonderful summer, and I hope I will have the chance to see you soon!

Elizabeth

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

**President:** Elizabeth Little  
**VP:** Paul D. Marks  
**Treasurer:** Sarah M. Chen  
**Secretary:** Travis Richardson

### Board of Directors

Shannon Baker  
 Steph Cha  
 Sue Ann Jaffarian  
 Jessica Kaye  
 Kristen Kittscher  
 Terri Nolan

### President Emeritus:

Craig Faustus Buck

Mystery Writers of America  
 Southern California Chapter  
 3520 Overland Avenue #A-82  
 Los Angeles, CA 90034

Contact: [info@socalmwa.com](mailto:info@socalmwa.com)

Website: <http://socalmwa.com>

Like us on Facebook

<https://facebook.com/groups/72570009680>

## NATIONAL OFFICE

Mystery Writers of America  
 1140 Broadway #1507  
 New York, NY 10001  
 t. 212.888.8171  
 f. 212.888.8107

[mwa@mysterywriters.org](mailto:mwa@mysterywriters.org)

<http://mysterywriters.org>



## The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

I recently did a manuscript swap with a writer friend. We both had WIPs we were stalling on for one reason or another, so about a month ago, we set an arbitrary deadline—July 1—and spent some time working hard to get our manuscripts finished (or in my case, polished) so we could send it to each other for critique. We set a second deadline—July 31—to return our notes.

Many of you have writer's groups, which I recommend, even if sometimes all you do is get together to commiserate. But having just one critique partner, whether it's a regular arrangement or a one-time thing, is also a great way to get valuable feedback, especially when you need the flexibility of working with just one person.

Summer is here, and for some of us, it's vacation time. Let it also be a time to think about our goals for the second half of the year. Oh, and get some writing done!

This month's issue is light, as it should be. But SoCalMWA's got a couple of events coming up, including the [Backyard Book Swap BBQ](#) at Elizabeth Little's home on Sunday, June 16. And don't forget the annual [joint meeting of Orange County Sisters in Crime and SoCalMWA](#) on July 23. This year's featured speaker is Gina L. Osborn, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of Cyber & Computer Forensics for the Central District of California.

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:  
[themarchofcrime@gmail.com](mailto:themarchofcrime@gmail.com)

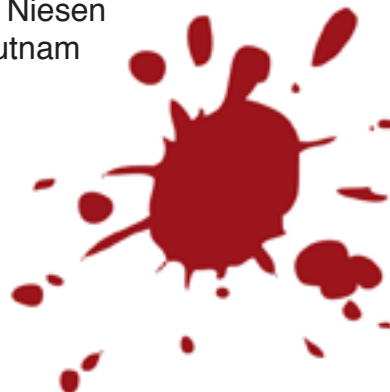
### Join our SoCalMWA Yahoo! Group

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

# FRESH BLOOD

SoCalMWA welcomes its new and returning members:

Burt Golden  
Jason Hamilton  
Antoinette Niesen  
David Putnam



## OVER the TRANSOM

**Sarah Skilton**, author of *BRUISED* and *HIGH & DRY*, has a new novel out July 25th with Grand Central. *CLUB DECEPTION* is a sexy, glamorous murder mystery set at an underground magic club in downtown L.A. Sarah's husband Joe is a professional magician so it's an authentic look behind the velvet curtain.

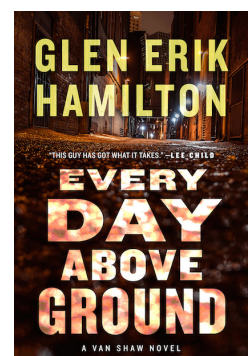
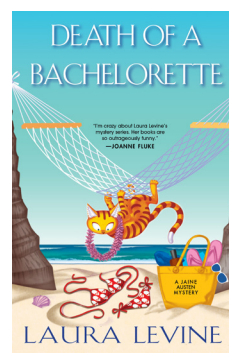
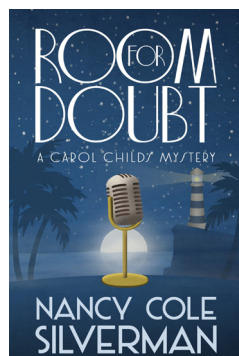
**Vicki Stiefel's** *CHEST OF BONE: THE KNIT COLLECTION* is now available. It's the first knitting book written at the same time, and in conjunction, with a novel. It contains five knitting patterns, a short story, character bios, and excerpts from her novel, *CHEST OF BONE*.

"Mary's Mother" by **Gay Tolt Kinman** is a mystery short story featuring a middle-aged daughter who cares for her invalid mother—just as the mother cared for her. Available now on Kindle.

*ROOM FOR DOUBT* (Henry Press), book 4 of The Carol Childs Mysteries by **Nancy Cole Silverman**, debuts July 18th. Carol uncovers a group of vigilantes whose motivation for an unspeakable crime rocks her moral compass. "...With a carload of quirky characters and a Los Angeles setting that comes alive, there's no doubt Nancy Cole Silverman has penned another winner. —**Dianne Emley**, *L.A. Times*—bestselling author of the Nan Vining series.

"A master at crafting ripped-from-the-headlines storylines... *ROOM FOR A DOUBT*... is one of the strongest contemporary mystery series out there." —**Ellen Byron**, award-winning Author of *BODY ON THE BAYOU*.

**Glen Erik Hamilton's** third entry in the Van Shaw series, *EVERY DAY ABOVE GROUND*, will be released by William Morrow on July 25. The series debut *PAST CRIMES* won the Anthony, Macavity, and Strand Magazine Critics awards, and was also nominated for the Edgar, Barry, and Nero awards. His follow-up *HARD COLD WINTER* was published to rave reviews last year, and *EVERY DAY ABOVE GROUND* has already received a starred review from Publishers Weekly. Glen will be making multiple appearances in the Southwest, see Member Appearances or his website [www.glenerikhamilton.com](http://www.glenerikhamilton.com).



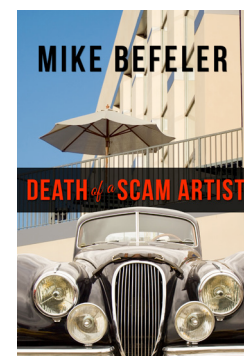
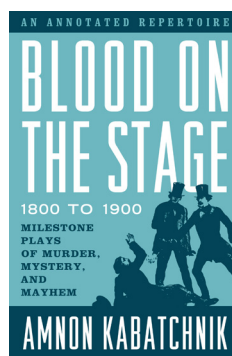
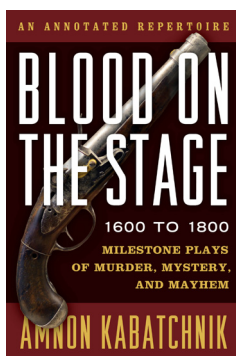
## OVER the TRANSOM

The fifteenth book in **Laura Levine's** *Jaine Austen Mystery* series, *DEATH OF A BACHELORETTE*, is now out from Kensington Books. Last year's release, *MURDER HAS NINE LIVES*, now available in paperback.

**Amnon Kabatchnik's** *BLOOD ON THE STAGE, 1600-1800*, and *BLOOD ON THE STAGE, 1800-1900* (the sixth and seventh volumes in an award-winning series analyzing plays of crime-and-punishment) will be published by Rowman & Littlefield in August and September of this year, providing an overview of 100 milestone thrillers of theft, treachery, court intrigue, incest, kidnapping, and murder. The emphasis is on manuscripts that passed the test of time—from William Shakespeare to Arthur Conan Doyle—including the first drama based on a real-life murder case, the first sensational Gothic, the first blood-and-thunder melodrama, the first theatrical vampire and Frankenstein monster, initial psychological thrillers, and early appearances of stage detectives.

**Mike Befeler's** latest mystery, *DEATH OF A SCAM ARTIST*, will be released August 15. In *DEATH OF A SCAM ARTIST*, a financial hatchet man who dislikes old people accepts the job of turning around a failing retirement home and undergoes a life-transforming experience in the world of geezers and geezerettes. He must deal with a suspicious death, a scam, a hit man, an unexpected romance, and retired magician Jerry Rhine and his five whacky sidekicks known as the Jerry-atrics. He faces the most important decision of his life when he uncovers the secret behind an unusual murder.

**Paul D. Marks's** story "Blood Moon" appears in *DAY OF THE DARK (STORIES OF THE ECLIPSE)*, edited by Kaye George. Available July 21 from Wildside Press, one month before the big solar eclipse on August 21.



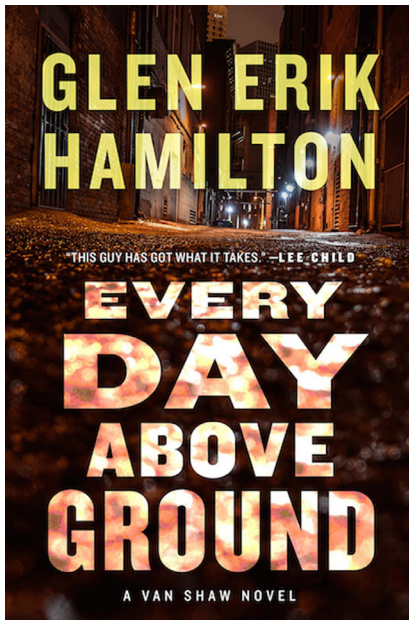


## Member APPEARANCES



**Sarah Skilton** will celebrate the release of *CLUB DECEPTION* with a brief magic show, Q&A, and signing at the Barnes and Noble in Valencia, on Tuesday July 25th at 7 p.m. She will also moderate “It’s A Mystery to Us: Writers Discuss Their Writing Process” at the Henderson Library in Torrance, Saturday July 29th at 10 a.m.

Saturday, August 26, 6 p.m. – **T. Jefferson Parker** will be discussing and signing his new novel, *THE ROOM OF WHITE FIRE*, on Saturday August 26 at 6 p.m. at Mystery Ink Bookstore, 8907 Warner Ave.#135, Huntington Beach, CA 92647, (714) 960-4000, [mysteryink.com](http://mysteryink.com).



### GLEN ERIK HAMILTON SW BOOK TOUR

Tuesday July 25, 7:00pm  
Poisoned Pen Bookstore  
with Jeff Abbott  
4014 N Goldwater Blvd, Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Wednesday July 26, 6:30pm  
Murder by the Book  
with David Eric Tomlinson & Reavis Wortham  
2342 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX 77005

Thursday July 27, 7:00pm  
Chevalier's Books  
with Chris Farnsworth  
126 N Larchmont Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90004

Friday July 28, 7:00pm  
Mysterious Galaxy  
5943 Balboa Ave #100, San Diego, CA 92111

Sunday July 30, 2:00pm  
Book Carnival  
348 S Tustin St, Orange, CA 92866



Obi-Wan-Kenobi panel at CCWC: Back, L - R: Patricia Smiley, Sybil Johnson, front, L - R: Jeri Westerson, Sue Ann Jaffarian

**Ellen Byron, Nadine Nettman, and Glenn Erik Hamilton** join the hosts of the podcast *All About Agatha* at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 13 at the Studio City Library to talk about how to plot a mystery (and other mystery-related topics).



-- AND



Mystery  
Writers  
of  
America

Southern  
California  
Chapter

PRESENT



**Cybercrime**



***Featuring the FBI's Gina L. Osborn,  
Assistant Special Agent in Charge of  
Cyber & Computer Forensics for the  
Central District of California***

***Sunday, July 23, 1 p.m.  
Irvine Ranch Water District \*  
15500 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine  
A lunch will precede the program***

***Free & open to the public***  
**RSVP: [secretary@ocsistersincrime.org](mailto:secretary@ocsistersincrime.org)**

\* (Disclaimer: Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the cause nor activities of organizations which use the District's meeting rooms that are made available as a public service.)



# Ladies of Intrigue

Featuring Remarkable Women Mystery Writers

**Sunday, October 1st, 2017**

**Embassy Suites, Santa Ana**

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## Our 2017 Headliners

### Wendy Corsi Staub



Wendy Corsi Staub is the New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of more than seventy-five novels. Renowned for her tales of suspense, she has twice been nominated for the Simon & Schuster Mary Higgins Clark Award and is the recipient of the prestigious RITA Award, as well as numerous other awards. She lives in the New York City suburbs with her husband of more than twenty years and their two children.

\*Additional Speaker to be announced soon!

### **Host:**

Barbara DeMarco-Barrett's first book, Pen on Fire: A Busy Woman's Guide to Igniting the Writer Within (Harcourt, 2004; 11th printing), made the Los Angeles Times best-seller list and in 2005 was honored with an American Society of Journalists and Authors Outstanding Book Award. In 2015, she was awarded the Extraordinary Service award by ASJA, which comes with lifetime membership. She regularly sits on panels at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, Literary Orange, and other writers' events. She is founder of the Pen on Fire Speaker Series.

### **Barbara De Marco Barrett**



### **Panelists:**

**Jill Amadio, Greta Boris, Naomi Hirahara, Alexandra Sokoloff, Patricia Wynn, Pamela Samuels Young**

\*Additional panelists to be announced soon!



**Embassy Suites Hotel**  
**1325 East Dyer Road, Santa Ana, California, 92705**

**Additional information and registration:**  
**[www.mysteryink.com](http://www.mysteryink.com) or (714) 743-6127**



# Crime CALENDAR

## Cybercrime—And How to Combat It

Bad guys—and gals—don't just tote guns. They also operate digitally. And it's costing plenty. One study puts the global losses of cybercrime at upwards of \$445 billion a year. In this country, some 40 million people—that's about 15% of the population—have had personal information lifted by hackers.

So, what exactly constitutes cybercrime—and what can we do about it?



FBI agent Gina L. Osborn will tell us, when she speaks at the annual joint luncheon meeting of Orange County Sisters in Crime and the Southern California Chapter of Mystery Writers of America.

The public is invited to attend the free event, which will be held on Sunday, July 23 in the Community Room of the Irvine Ranch Water District.\*

A native of Orange County, Osborn oversees investigations relating to national security and criminal computer intrusions as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Cyber and Computer Forensics for the Central District of California. She also provided foundational leadership in the creation of the Orange County Regional Computer Forensics Lab (OCRCFL)—part of a national network of FBI-sponsored, full-service forensics laboratories and training centers devoted entirely to the examination of digital evidence.

A former Counterintelligence Special Agent for the U.S. Army, Osborn joined the FBI in 1996. She has worked on local cases, including with detectives from the Westminster Police Department to investigate Asian Organized Crime in the city's Little Saigon District.

She will speak at 2 p.m., following a complimentary 1 p.m. luncheon.

Reservations are required: RSVP to [secretary@ocsistersincrime.org](mailto:secretary@ocsistersincrime.org).

Irvine Ranch Water District is located at 15500 Sand Canyon Ave. (\*Disclaimer: Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the cause nor activities of organizations which use the District's meeting rooms that are made available as a public service.)

[More Crime Calendar](#)

## Crime CALENDAR

July 11–15 – [ThrillerFest XII, New York, NY](#)  
July 16 – [2nd Annual BBQ Bookswap, Los Angeles, CA](#)  
July 23 – [Joint SoCalMWA/Sisters in Crime OC Meeting, Irvine, CA](#)  
October 1 – [Ladies of Intrigue, Santa Ana, 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

“Grace period?” Leo said. “Who do you think you’re dealing with, the Stupid Peoples’ Credit Union?”

—Joe Ide, *RIGHTEOUS*