



The
MARCH

of CRIME

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SUE GRAFTON

1940–2017



T. Jefferson Parker at Mysterious Galaxy

January 20
San Diego, CA

[Event Details](#)

Tam Luncheon

February 25
Los Angeles

[Program Details TBA](#)

Shortly before our January issue was complete, we received word of the passing of Sue Grafton, SoCalMWA member, MWA Grand Master, and author of the famed Kinsey Millhone "Alphabet Series." Many of us had the pleasure of meeting Sue through conferences and other author events, and she was universally respected and loved. In remembrance, we would like to share her daughter Jamie's open letter to all of Sue's fans. —Glen Erik Hamilton, SoCalMWA President

"Hello Dear Readers. This is Sue's daughter, Jamie. I am sorry to tell you all that Sue passed away last night after a two year battle with cancer. She was surrounded by family, including her devoted and adoring husband Steve. Although we knew this was coming, it was unexpected and fast. She had been fine up until just a few days ago, and then things moved quickly. Sue always said that she would continue writing as long as she had the juice. Many of you also know that she was adamant that her books would never be turned into movies or TV shows, and in that same vein, she would never allow a ghost writer to write in her name. Because of all of those things, and out of the deep abiding love and respect for our dear sweet Sue, as far as we in the family are concerned, the alphabet now ends at Y."



The President's Rap Sheet

Glen Erik Hamilton

Happy New Year!

Well begun is half done... If that old saw is true, then our new MWA board is in for a good year, thanks to the dedication and insights of our outgoing president **Elizabeth Little**. Elizabeth and departing board members **Steph Cha** and **Kristen Kittscher** have made the transfer of responsibility as smooth as anyone could ask. Our thanks to all of them for their excellent guidance.

One of the most important duties of any administration is to help enlist the team to come after, and on that point, Elizabeth has handed our chapter (and me!) a stacked deck. We're delighted to have **Shannon Baker, Sarah M. Chen, Sue Ann Jaffarian, Paul D. Marks, Terri Nolan, and Travis Richardson** returning to the board, joined by newcomers **Lisa Brackmann, Ellen Byron, and Nadine Nettmann**. Finally, **Jennifer Younger** will be SoCalMWA's co-chair for the 2019 California Crime Writers Conference. I am tremendously fortunate to support this amazing team as we dive into a packed and exciting calendar.

First up is our luncheon at Tam O'Shanter on Feb 25—save the date! Of course SoCalMWA will be present at both the Tucson Festival of Books and Left Coast Crime in Reno ("Crime on the Comstock"), both in March, and we'll have our booth at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books in April, and those are just the start. Our new board will meet later this month to discuss the year's schedule and the goals for our chapter. But it's not all up to the team above—I hope you'll share your ideas and opinions as we dive in. Reach out to me at any time.

As I'm writing this, it's the afternoon of Christmas Day. A good time to reflect on all the gifts that life brings. One of the best—and most unexpected—boons I ever received came about five years ago when starting my writing career, and I was introduced to our astoundingly supportive community of fellow authors. Along with great advice and a wealth of resources, I found wonderful friends. Thank you all for the warm welcome.

A toast to you all for a happy 2018. May your year be better than all before, but not as good as all the years yet to come.

Glen

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: Glen Erik Hamilton
VP: Nadine Nettmann
Treasurer: Sarah M. Chen
Secretary: Travis Richardson

Board of Directors

Shannon Baker
 Lisa Brackmann
 Ellen Byron
 Sue Ann Jaffarian
 Jessica Kaye
 Paul D. Marks
 Terri Nolan

President Emerita:

Elizabeth Little

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 Southern California Chapter
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Twitter: [@socalmwa](https://twitter.com/socalmwa)

Like us on Facebook

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

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The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

As I was putting the final touches on this month's newsletter, I received the terrible news that our fellow chapter member, **Sue Grafton**, passed away on December 28. I know I'm not alone in feeling the sadness of this tremendous loss.

But I also feel gratitude. Gratitude to Sue for giving us Kinsey Milhone and a game-changing series of books that will forever impact the mystery genre. Gratitude for her dedication to the crime fiction community, her unfailing graciousness, her wry humor, and her willingness to share the tricks of the trade she'd mastered so well. And finally, gratitude for the personal exchanges I had with her. They are among my most treasured memories in my writing career.

She was, quite simply, my writing hero.

In putting together this issue, I spent a good deal of time editing the [photo-graphs from the holiday party photo booth](#) and it was fun to see all of your smiling faces as you hammed it up for the camera. And **Jeri Westerson** contributes [a piece about the Little Free Library](#) she and her husband Craig built. Finally, the Private Eye Writers of America are now accepting submissions for the 2018 Shamus Awards. Thanks to **Gay Toltl Kinman** for providing the [submission guidelines](#).

Here's to a happy and productive 2018.

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

**Join our SoCalMWA
Yahoo! Group**

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

FRESH BLOOD

SoCalMWA welcomes its new and returning members:

Marie Botkin
Gina Cresse
Howard Michael Gould
Sheila Sobel



OVER the TRANSOM

Gary Inbinder's third Inspector Lefebvre historical mystery, *THE MAN UPON THE STAIR*, will be out from Pegasus Books February 6. Chief Inspector Achille Lefebvre returns from a much-needed vacation to find that there are assassins on his tail, and, as if that weren't enough, one of France's wealthiest men has gone missing without a trace.

HEAD WOUNDS, the fifth in the critically-acclaimed series of mysteries by **Dennis Palumbo** featuring Pittsburgh psychologist Daniel Rinaldi, comes out on February 5 from Poisoned Pen Press.

Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine has purchased **Craig Faustus Buck's** "Race to Judgment," a light-hearted noir tale about a Mississippi judge and gubernatorial candidate who fires a shotgun at two vandals who are dumping manure in his car, only to discover that he has killed his own brother. The pub date has not yet been announced.

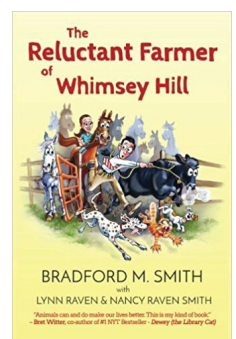
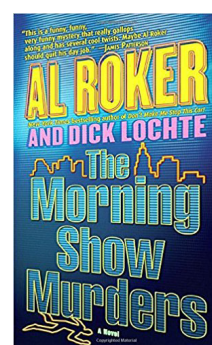
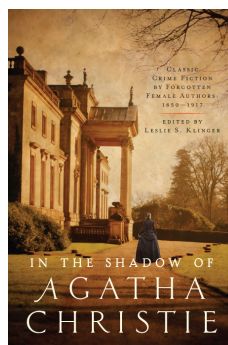
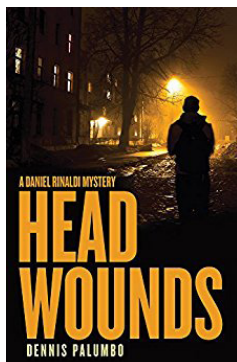
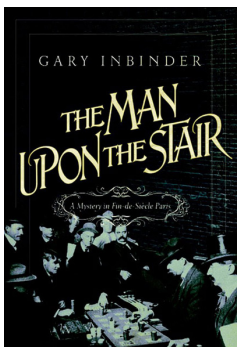
Les Klinger's latest anthology is *IN THE SHADOW OF AGATHA CHRISTIE: CLASSIC CRIME FICTION BY FORGOTTEN FEMALE AUTHORS, 1850-1917* from Pegasus Books (out Jan. 2).

THE MORNING SHOW MURDERS, a novel by Al Roker and **Dick Lochte**, is the basis for a new movie, premiering on the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries network, Sunday, January 21 at 9 p.m.

Martin Roy Hill's alternative history short story, "Hitler's Birthday," appeared in the December 2017 issue of *AHF Magazine* (Wolfian Press). While Germany surrendered in 1945, the Nazis did not. Adolf Hitler escaped to Argentina to continue his efforts at world domination by other means—economics. Sixty-five years later, the world's richest elite travel to Patagonia to celebrate the birthday of the man they still call "The Leader."

A CAJUN CHRISTMAS KILLING, the third book in **Ellen Byron's** Cajun Country Mystery series, made Bibliophile's Top Cozies of 2017 list, as well as reviewer Sandra Murphy's Best of 2017 list for *King's River Life*.

Nancy Raven Smith's family memoir, *THE RELUCTANT FARMER OF WHIMSEY HILL* won two categories of the 2017 Beverly Hills Book Awards for Regional Non-Fiction Southeast and Animals and Pets.



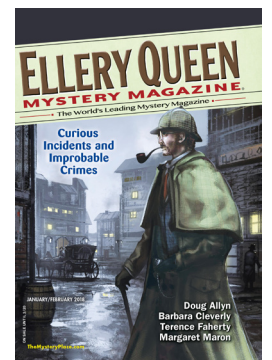
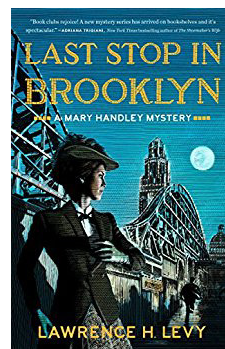
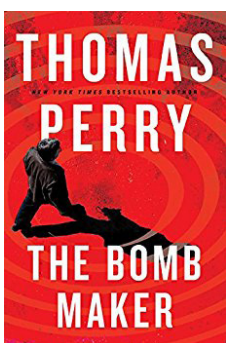
OVER the TRANSOM

Thomas Perry's 25th novel, *THE BOMB MAKER*, will be published on January 4 (Mysterious Press).

The third book in **S.W. Lauden's** punk rock P.I. series, *HANG TIME*, will be released on January 16. *HANG TIME* brings together the colorful cast of characters from *BAD CITIZEN CORPORATION* and *GRIZZLY SEASON* in a thrilling and atmospheric series finale fueled by sex, drugs, backstabbing band mates, cheating spouses, and vicious cops. The non-stop action will keep readers dangling until the very end. *Kirkus Review* had this to say about *HANG TIME*: “Lauden’s prose zooms along with an arch energy, and the final installment in his Greg Salem trilogy keeps the plot twists coming at warp speed.” [Event information here.](#)

LAST STOP IN BROOKLYN, **Lawrence H. Levy's** third book in his Mary Handley mystery series, is being published by Random House/Broadway Books on January 9. It's the 1890's and while sleuthing murders, Mary once again finds herself involved in issues that very much resound today: xenophobia, suicide bombings, and anti-Arab sentiment. An early review by *Booklist* said “this series’ third episode will win additional fans for the tough Irish American P.I. Levy’s talent for bringing history to life, both the everyday details and the roles of well-known figures—Teddy Roosevelt and Jacob Riis, for instance—shine in this well-plotted and fast-paced historical mystery.”

At year's end, **John Morgan Wilson** celebrated the closing of an option deal with veteran New York producer Jean Doumanian (*August: Osage County*) for the film and TV rights to his eight-book Benjamin Justice series. Meanwhile, John's short story, “The Case of the Curious Collector,” appears in the just-out special Sherlock Holmes issue of *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, with publisher's copies going to the Sherlock Holmes Literary Society, AKA the Baker Street Irregulars.



Member APPEARANCES

Dennis Palumbo and **Donis Casey** will be speaking and signing copies of their latest novels at the Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Scottsdale, Arizona, on February 24. Good conversation and plenty of laughs provided free of charge.

Jeri Westerson will be launching SEASON OF BLOOD, her tenth Crispin Guest Medieval Noir novel, at the following locations:

- Saturday, January 6, 4 p.m.: Vroman's Bookstore. Medieval food, mead, presentation, and reading. 695 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena. Please consider doing the bookstore a favor by pre-ordering ahead of time. (626) 449-5320.
- Sunday, January 7, 2 p.m.: Mystery Ink Bookstore, official book launch. Cake and mead, presentation, and reading. 8907 Warner Ave. #135, Huntington Beach. Please consider doing the bookstores a favor by pre-ordering ahead of time. (714) 960-4000.
- Saturday, January 13, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.: Appearance for Jeri's urban fantasy, BOOKE OF THE HIDDEN. Comic-On! Hemet Public Library. A whole bunch of authors will be there, with books and comics for sale. 300 E. Latham Ave., Hemet.

Christina Hoag, author and journalist, will be speaking about "Writing What You Don't Know" at the California Writers Club of Orange County on January 13, 11 a.m., Orange Public Library & History Center, 407 E. Chapman Ave., Orange. She will also be reading from her noir crime novel SKIN OF TATTOOS at Noir at the Bar on January 21, 7 p.m., Mandrake Bar, 2692 La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles.

On January 9, **Sheila Lowe** will be sharing the podium with David Keith, formerly of Oxnard Police Department, for "It's a Crime," where they'll discuss mystery writing with the Ventura County Writers. Location TBA.

To celebrate the release of HANG TIME, the third and final Greg Salem novel, **S.W. Lauden** will be hosting a free event at Book Show LA on Saturday, January 27. The event will feature a conversation between Lauden and his publisher, Tyson Cornell of Rare Bird Books. There will also be live acoustic music and refreshments. <http://bookshowla.com>.

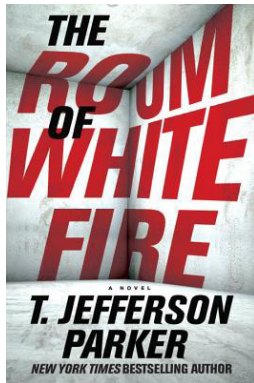


Rochelle Staab, **Tyler Dilts**, and **Sue Ann Jaffarian** will be the panelists for the third "Crime Quiz Live!" podcast hosted by [Writer Types'](#) Eric Beetner and **S.W. Lauden**. Saturday, January 20, 2 p.m. at Book Carnival, 348 S. Tustin St., Orange.

DP Lyle will be talking Character at the SCWA meeting on Saturday, January 20. Xlaim Jumper, Fountain Valley, CA. More info: www.ocwriter.com.

Sisters in Crime San Diego
&
SoCalMWA

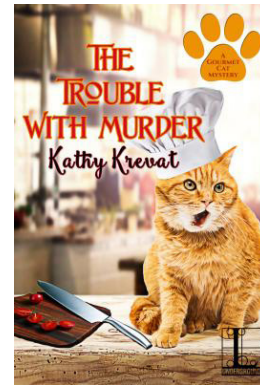
Present:



**T. Jefferson Parker
& Kathy Krevat
at Mysterious Galaxy**

Saturday, January 20, 3:30 p.m.

Mysterious Galaxy Books
5943 Balboa Avenue, Suite #100
San Diego, CA
858-268-4747



SoCalMWA, in conjunction with Partners in Crime, the San Diego chapter of Sisters in Crime, is delighted to be hosting two events on Saturday, January 20. Whether you're looking to hear from one of mystery's most acclaimed authors or to meet, greet, and talk shop with your fellow chapter members, we've got you covered.

Beginning at 3:30 p.m., multiple award-winning bestselling San Diego County-based crime writer **T. Jefferson Parker** will speak at **Mysterious Galaxy**. Parker is the author of numerous novels and short stories, the winner of three Edgar Awards, and the recipient of a *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for best mystery. His latest work is thriller *THE ROOM OF WHITE FIRE*.

Kathy Krevat, Partners in Crime president, will be reading from her new novel, *THE TROUBLE WITH MURDER*.

Refreshments will be provided. Afterwards, join new SoCalMWA board member **Lisa Brackmann** for a casual happy hour get-together at a nearby restaurant.

[More info](#)

I Venture Into the World of Little Free Libraries

by Jeri Westerson



I had heard of Little Free Libraries on social media, little hut-like, mailbox-sized structures installed near the sidewalk on people's properties. The idea that you could put out a box with books with a "Take a Book, Return a Book" philosophy seemed so very democratic that I was intrigued. They were as simple as a carved-out tree stump, or as elaborate as a solar panel-lit doll house. I wanted in.

Now, I could have built it myself, but the days when I built birdhouses and carved gifts for friends and family were pretty much over. It was tough to turn around in our very cluttered garage and I had books to write. But I mentioned it enough that my husband, Craig, took note. Even as to the kind I was thinking of making: a Tudor-style cottage.

When my birthday rolled around last year, he was working on a secret project in the garage. I was not allowed in there. And I had no clue as to what he was doing. When it finally emerged, I knew instantly what it was.

He put the white base coat on and left it for me to do the artistic painting. I got to it right away. From the "thatched roof", to the aged plaster, to the half-timbers.

But this was way back in July. It's hot in the Inland Empire. Too hot to be outside digging a foundation and doing cement work. And then a book tour took away our weekends. It wasn't until late November that he was able to get out there and set it up.

He'd already gotten it registered with LittleFreeLibrary.org, and it was up to me to add the details to get it on the world map. Turns out there's another one in my town a few miles away.

The project is a non-profit grassroots organization based out of Hudson, Wisconsin that encourages people in communities all over the world to offer free books in residential areas, in front of their businesses, in parks, and other places the public can see them, to

promote "literacy, community, and creativity." If you can't build your own, you can buy a little library from them, even get books (though I got a lot of mine from my local library's Friends of the Library bookstore, especially the YA books that I simply don't have around. And yes, even copies of my own mysteries.) Now I'm called a "Steward" and though I try not to obsess over it, I am constantly creeping by my front window to spy on it. I want to be handy to answer questions, though when you register it and pay the fee, you receive a charter sign with your registration number, and the "Take a Book, Return a Book" slogan on it, which you mount on the library. They work with people in eighty plus countries around the world, which I thought was pretty keen.

Since snow and snowplows don't seem to be in issue in SoCal, I felt confident that we could put it right next to the sidewalk, and since we have a corner lot on a path leading directly to an elementary school and near a school bus stop, I knew it should have an adequate supply of YA and children's books. That's



[continued on pg 12](#)

You Oughta Be in Pictures

SoCalMWA and SinC/LA Holiday Party, December 4, 2017



L-R: Elizabeth Little, Rochelle Staab



L-R: Daryl Wood Gerber, Rochelle Staab, Tammy Kaehler



L-R: Wendall Thomas, James Bartlett



L-R: Steve Kiser, Sybil Johnson



L-R: Matthew Semerau, Nadine Nettmann



L-R: Connie DiMarco, Kim Fay, Laurie Stevens



Linda O. Johnston



L-R: Carole Sojka, Amnon Kabatchnik, Laurie Stevens



L-R: Teresa Wong, Pauline, Travis Richardson

You Oughta Be in Pictures

SoCalMWA and SinC/LA Holiday Party (continued from pg 9)



L-R: Mar Preston, Elaine Ash



L-R: Meredith Taylor, Kim Fay



Serita Stevens



L-R: Josh Hickman, Diane Vallere



Glen Erik Hamilton and family



Lori Wolf



Edward Arno



L-R: Steph Cha, Naomi Hirahara, Kim Fay



Ellen Byron

PRIVATE EYE WRITERS OF AMERICA ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS FOR 2018 SHAMUS AWARDS

Following are the categories for the Private Eye Writers of America 2018 Shamus Awards for private eye novels and short stories first published in the United States in 2017. The awards will be presented in the fall of 2018.

DEADLINE: Submissions must be postmarked by March 31, 2018. No extensions can be given.

Shamus Committees will forward their final list to the Shamus Awards Chair by May 31, 2018.

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible works must feature as a main character a person PAID for investigative work but NOT employed for that work by a unit of government. These include traditionally licensed private investigators; lawyers and reporters who do their own investigations; and others who function as hired private agents. These do NOT include law enforcement officers, other government employees or amateur, uncompensated sleuths.

Independently published books (Indies) may be submitted to the Best Original Paperback P.I. Novel category.

SUBMISSIONS; Please send one copy of each eligible work to ALL members of the appropriate committee. Do NOT submit a book to more than one committee.

There is no application fee and no submission form, as a simple cover letter will suffice. If you have any questions, please e-mail Gay Toltl Kinman at gaykinman@gaykinman.com BEFORE submitting.

BEST HARDCOVER P.I. NOVEL: A book-length work of fiction published in hardcover in 2017 that is NOT the author's first published P.I. novel.

BEST FIRST P.I. NOVEL: A book-length work of fiction, in hardcover or paperback, first published in 2017 that is the author's first published novel featuring a private investigator as a main character.

BEST ORIGINAL PAPERBACK P.I. NOVEL: A book-length work of fiction first published as a paperback original in 2017 that is NOT the author's first P.I. novel. Paperback reprints of previously published novels are NOT eligible.

BEST P.I. SHORT STORY: A work of fiction of 20,000 words or fewer. Stories first published in an earlier year and reprinted in a magazine, anthology or collection in 2017, are NOT eligible.

2018 SHAMUS Awards Committees

BEST P.I. SHORT STORY COMMITTEE

Linda Sands, Chair, 7010 Sentara Pl., Alpharetta, GA 30005

Julie Parkinson 17 WH Jones Rd., New Hill, NC 27562

Andrew Welsh-Huggins, 223 S. Roys Ave., Columbus, OH 43204

BEST FIRST P.I. NOVEL COMMITTEE

Corey Lynn Fayman, Chair, 1431 Pacific Coast Hwy Unit 206, San Diego, CA 92101

David Housewright, 2014 Cleveland Avenue North, Roseville, MN 55113

Clive Rosengren, 1052 E. Main St., Ashland, OR 97520

Little Free Libraries ([continued from pg 8](#))

the bottom shelf. The upper shelf has mysteries for adult readers. Little Free Library emphasizes that it isn't up to the Steward to keep the library stocked—that's the community part—but to talk to neighbors to also be stewards and add their own books, always making sure the books are appropriate for a varied audience.

I had a brief scuffle with a local Mormon who must have thought it was an easy way for them to leave the Book of Mormon in it. They restocked almost as soon as I took them out. But once I put a sign in there stating that "positively NO religious books of any kind" were welcomed to proselytize, it finally stopped. Neighbors stuffed it to the gills with childrens' books anyway as neighbors soon took note on their walks or bike rides that it was here.

In these times where ignorance seems to be celebrated, I had hopes that my small effort might yield encouraging results. Only time will tell.

Check out LittleFreeLibrary.org for more information.

Jeri Westerson is a former SoCalMWA president, and writes the Crispin Guest Medieval Noir mysteries, a paranormal romance BOOKE OF THE HIDDEN, and the Skyler Foxe LGBT Mysteries. JeriWesterson.com, BookeoftheHidden.com, SkylerFoxeMysteries.com.

2018 SHAMUS Awards Committees ([continued from pg 11](#))**BEST P.I. NOVEL COMMITTEE**

Billy Kring, Chair, POB 1036, Sabinal, TX 78881

Jake Needham, 113 Prince St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Christa Selnick, POB 56, Marion, OH 43301

BEST PAPERBACK ORIGINAL P.I. NOVEL

Colleen Collins, Chair, POB 12159, Denver, CO 80212

Paul McGoran, 364 Bellevue Ave #D201, Newport, RI 02840

April Kelly, POB 8157, Lynchburg, TN 37352

TMOE Needs You!

TMOE is looking for articles (500–700 words) on subjects of interest to SoCalMWA members.
This includes craft, marketing, and all aspects of publishing.

Content shouldn't be overtly promotional, but rather instructional or informational.

Include a brief bio (100 words or less) and a headshot or cover image.

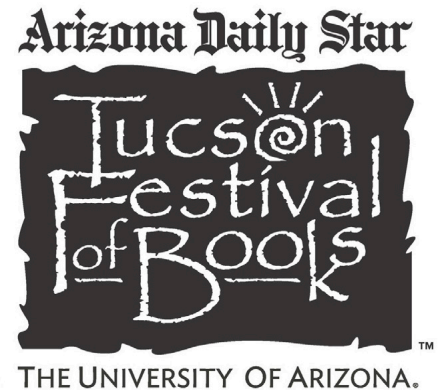
Send your questions and/or pitches to themarchofcrime@gmail.com.

Crime CALENDAR

Tucson Festival of Books (Tucson, AZ) March 10–11, 2018

SoCalMWA is sponsoring a booth at the Tucson Festival of Books in 2018. The event, March 10-11, is one of the biggest book festivals in the country. It is a great place to meet readers, writers, and book industry people. You can schedule a time to sell and sign at the MWA tent on either Saturday or Sunday. First come/first served. For info or to sign up contact Fred Andersen, fxandersen@msn.com.

[Click here for more information](#)



More Criminal Happenings

January 20 – [T. Jefferson Parker at Mysterious Galaxy, San Diego, CA](#)
 February 25 – [Luncheon at the Tam, Los Angeles, CA](#)
 March 10–11 – [Tucson Festival of Books, Tucson, AZ](#)
 March 17 – [Murder and Mayhem in Chicago, Chicago, IL](#)
 March 22–25 – [Left Coast Crime, Reno, NV](#)
 April 21–22 – [Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles, CA](#)
 April 27–29 – [Malice Domestic 30, Bethesda, MD](#)
 May 20 – [Luncheon at the Tam, Los Angeles, CA](#)
 July 10–14 – [Thrillerfest, New York, NY](#)
 September 6–9 – [Bouchercon, St. Petersburg, FL](#)
 November 4 – [Luncheon at the Tam, Los Angeles, CA](#)

The LAST WORD

“Slipping in, he pricked up his ears for the scrambling of rats in the crawlspace. All he heard was the rain, drumming like nervous fingers against the alcove windows.”

—John Morgan Wilson, “The Case of the Curious Collector”