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Luncheon at the Tam O'Shanter
Sunday, February 25, 2018



**DA vs. DA:
Prosecutors Share
Their Trial Tactics**



What are the tactics that a hard-nosed District Attorney uses to nail the defendant? What are the do's and don'ts at a trial? What does TV get wrong?

Two prosecutors from Orange County discuss the ins and outs of trials, sharing fascinating details from their own experiences.

Save the Date!

Tucson Festival of Books

March 10–11
Tucson, AZ

[More Info](#)

*Los Angeles Times
Festival of Books*

April 21–22
Los Angeles

[More Info](#)

Matt Murphy is a sworn Deputy DA who spent four years in Sexual Assault and the last sixteen years in Homicide. He's tried over two hundred cases, including the Rodney Alcala case (The Dating Game Killer), Skylar and Jennifer DeLeon for the murders of Thomas and Jackie Hawks, and he was the prosecutor assigned to review the "Dirty John" case. He trains all incoming DAs on trial tactics and works as an adjunct professor at Western State College of Law.

Susan Price has been a prosecutor for nineteen years, handling a variety of cases including gangs, domestic violence, and homicide cases. She developed a specialty in the prosecution of DUI related deaths, and as a result of that expertise now leads the California traffic safety prosecution and law enforcement training program with a team of 10 dedicated prosecutors.

The event begins at noon. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

Tam O'Shanter Restaurant
2980 Los Feliz Blvd.
Los Angeles

[For more information and to reserve your spot](#)



The President's Rap Sheet

Glen Erik Hamilton

Our family is cleaning house. Let me rephrase that... we are *clearing* house. After twelve years in our lovely but small rental home, the place had reached a state where there was, at best, one navigable path through any room. If you turned sideways.

So we're finally tackling an immersive project of drastic discarding, one which we'd originally conceived in the years B.K.—Before Kondo. Over the holidays, we pulled everything from the garage (a.k.a The warehouse where they stashed the Ark of the Covenant) out into the backyard, and began going through many, many bins and boxes.

The house, meanwhile, looked very much like a wandering giant had picked it up, shaken it a couple of times to see if tasty humans would fall out, and tossed it aside in disappointment. Nothing was where it used to be. It all looked unfamiliar.

Slowly we determined what was truly needed, and five truckloads—so far—have been unloaded to charity or to the dump. I knew I kept my old pickup for a reason.

As it happens, I'm also deep into the first draft of my next book. I have a tendency to "write heavy," with longer descriptions than a scene warrants, or superfluous bits of dialogue that don't add much to what the reader already knows. My second drafts are usually a process of finding the wheat in the chaff. Stripping away. Reorganizing. What happens in life comes out on the page, and sometimes vice versa. Neither our home project nor the manuscript are done yet, but already I'm breathing easier.

By the time you read this, our new board will have had its first meeting. Composing the agenda was an eye-opener for me—between luncheons, festivals, conferences, and workshops, our chapter runs or is involved with more than a dozen events annually, not counting casual gatherings.

First up is our [February 25 luncheon at the Tam O'Shanter in LA](#), where district attorneys will share their expert tactics. Following close on its heels will be the [Tucson Festival of Books](#), March 10–11. SoCalMWA will have a booth as usual, and host book signings for our authors in attendance. And right after that will be [Left Coast Crime in Reno](#), March 22–25—Crime on the Comstock! We're partnering with our Northern California chapter to host a special event at Left Coast Crime for MWA members and prospective members. Watch your email (you do read our messages, right?) for updates.

[continued on pg 8](#)

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The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

It's funny Glen mentioned cleaning house in his Prez Rap because I, too, have been feeling the need to clean house. My writing house, that is.

What do I mean by that? Mostly, I want to end some of my commitments and consolidate my efforts so I can see where I am and maybe re-think my direction. To this end, I recently quit a blog for which I've been a long-time contributor and I'm not volunteering to moderate panels at conferences this year. I'm also limiting the number of events and conferences I attend, though you will see me at Left Coast Crime in Reno and at Bouchercon in St. Petersburg.

I'm not sure why, but it seems essential I hunker down and give myself room to re-evaluate things. Over time, I've accumulated mental junk that needs sorting, organizing, and discarding because it gets in the way of my productivity and the achievement of my goals.

Don't worry, I'm not giving up editing "The March of Crime." I'll probably keep doing that as long as you'll have me.

This month's issue is short and sweet. Be on the lookout for SoCalMWA emails announcing sign-ups are open for our LATFOB booth and other upcoming events. And as always, I'm looking to publish your articles. Details can be found [here](#).

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)

FRESHBLOOD

SoCalMWA welcomes its new and returning members:

Maria Alexander
Eric Guignard
Linda Guyan
Patrick Hirsch
Sharon Lynn
Jack Nerad
Daniel C. Lorti
Ivan Obolensky
Liza Palmer
Wendall Thomas



OVER the TRANSOM

FORTY DEAD MEN, **Donis Casey's** tenth book in her Alafair Tucker mystery series, will be released by Poisoned Pen Press on February 6. World War I is over. Alafair is overjoyed that her elder son, George Washington Tucker, has finally returned home from the battlefields of France. But Gee Dub seems restless and unsettled—until he meets Holly Johnson, who reveals she's traveled from Maine to Oklahoma to find the soldier she married before he shipped to France. Gee Dub tries to help Holly find Dan, but when the missing man is found dead, Gee Dub tops the suspect list. *Publishers Weekly's* starred review says, "Casey expertly nails the extended Tucker family—some 20 people—and combines these convincing characters, a superb sense of time and place, and a solid plot in this marvelously atmospheric historical."

All three novels in **Rochelle Staab's** Agatha and Anthony-nominated, Watson Award winning series are now available in the A MIND FOR MURDER Omnibus. On sale at all online retailers.

Jeri Westerson received a nomination for her 10th Crispin Guest Medieval Noir from Left Coast Crime (the Bruce Alexander Memorial Historical Mystery Award). This is the 13th nomination—from the Agatha to the Shamus—for her series.

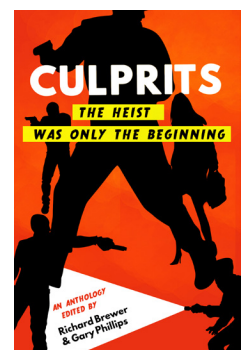
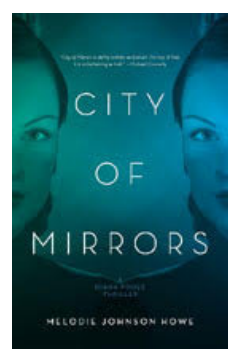
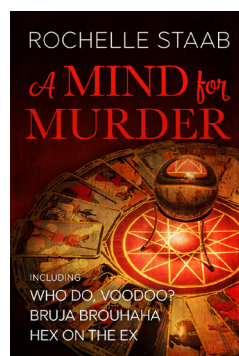
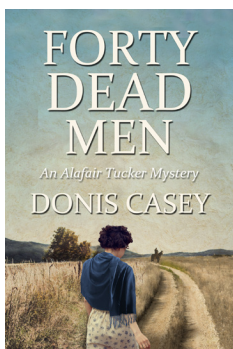
BLOOD TRUTH, the fourth Rick Cahill novel by **Matt Coyle**, is nominated for The Lefty Award for Best Mystery.

A CAJUN CHRISTMAS KILLING, the third book in **Ellen Byron's** Cajun Country Mystery series, is nominated for a Lefty Award in the category of Best Humorous Mystery.

CITY OF MIRRORS, **Melodie Johnson Howe's** first Diana Poole novel, will be published in France in February.

CULPRITS: THE HEIST WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING, a serialized crime anthology edited by **Gary Phillips** and **Richard Brewer**, was published in January by Polis Books. Features stories by **Brett Battles**, **Jessica Kaye**, and **Gar Anthony Haywood**. Each chapter written by a different contributor explores what happens to a member of a crew of hard-bitten thieves after they pull off a heist worth millions, escape with the swag -- then all bets are off.

[Event info here.](#)



OVER the TRANSOM

The Agatha Award–winning author of *GRILLING THE SUBJECT* returns to the Cookbook Nook in Crystal Cove, where the annual Renaissance Fair serves up a helping of crafty courtiers, damsels in distress, and a medieval murder. *PRESSING THE ISSUE*, the 6th in the Cookbook Nook Mystery series by **Daryl Wood Gerber**, debuts February 20.

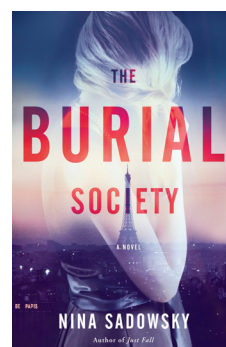
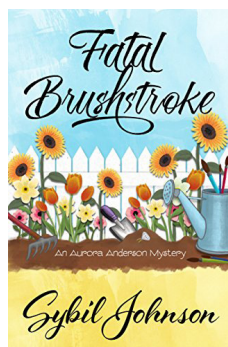
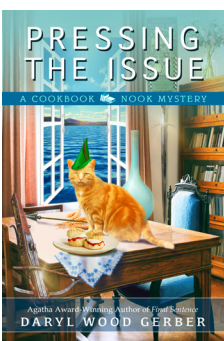
The first two books in the Aurora Anderson Mystery Series by **Sybil Johnson** (*FATAL BRUSHSTROKE* and *PAINT THE TOWN DEAD*) are now available in audio format from Tantor Media, both read by Vanessa Daniels. The audio version of the third book in the series (*A PALETTE FOR MURDER*) will be available February 27.

The serialized novel is back! *FALSE IDOLS* is an FBI thriller set in the dangerous world of illegal antiquities, written by **Lisa Klink**, Patrick Lohier and Diana Renn. Starting on January 31st, subscribers will receive a new chapter every week from Serial Box Publishing, in e-book or audio format. The entire book will be released in print later this year.

Nina Sadowsky's second thriller, *THE BURIAL SOCIETY*, was released on January 30 by Ballantine. Catherine, no last name, doesn't bury the dead. She rescues the living—from intolerable, abusive, dangerous lives. Her dark net-based witness protection program, the Burial Society, is the last hope for people who desperately need to disappear. Michelle Richmond calls *THE BURIAL SOCIETY* “a voyeur's dream, laying bare the best and worst of human nature” and Karen Harper deems it a “can't-let-go read.”

Edward Arno's debut novel, *CORONATION SOUVENIR*, the first book in the James Pidgley series, will be published by Victoria Rose Press on February 9. *Coronation Year, 1953*. Amidst the joy and celebration, a murder goes unnoticed. Decades later, the victim's remains are discovered. Suspicion falls on the Pidgley clan, a Romani family who had once lived nearby. As tensions grow, police prejudice inflames public distrust of the gypsy community. When a second body is found, Old Man Pidgley is arrested for both murders, leaving his son James to battle discrimination and fear. In the race to clear his father's name, James must find allies, face his family's true enemies, and reveal the identity of a long-hidden killer.

Switchblade: Issue 4 published the dark crime story “Eternal Love” by **Peter DiChellis**. Additionally, Peter's humorous whodunit “Listen Up” appeared as the cover story at *Flash Bang Mysteries*.



Member APPEARANCES

Susan Cummins Miller will be the Writer in Residence for Pima County Public Libraries from February through April 2018. She will be offering writing workshops and weekly 1/2-hour writing consultations, primarily at Kirk-Bear Canyon Library, 8959 E. Tanque Verde Rd., Tucson. The March workshops include one being offered at the Tucson Festival of Books, in case any SoCalMWA members are planning to attend:

- Sunday, February 11, 1–3 p.m.: “Getting Started on Your Writing Project: An Introduction to Clustering as a Tool.” [Kirk-Bear Canyon]
- Saturday, March 10, 10–11 a.m.: “The Four-Dimensional Setting: Anchoring Your Writing in Time and Place.” [Tucson Festival of Books, University of Arizona campus, Integrated Learning Center Room 137.]
- Sunday, March 25, 1–2 p.m.: “The Importance of Dr. Watson: Sidekicks & Storytelling.” [Kirk-Bear Canyon]

All of the workshops and writing consultations are free and open to the public. The calendar of writing consultations is listed on her website, susancumminsmiller.com.

Jeri Westerson will be at the following locations:

- Tuesday, February 6, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.: El Cajon Library Book Club. Come for a discussion of *BOOKE OF THE HIDDEN* and the Crispin Guest Medieval Noir series. 201 E. Douglas Ave., El Cajon.
- Wednesday, February 21, 6 p.m. HST/8 p.m. PST: SKYPING to the Sisters in Crime meeting in Hawaii! Jeri will be talking about marketing and taking your questions. Makiki Community Library, 1527 Keeaumoku Street, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Sheila Lowe will make the following appearances to promote her latest novel, *WRITTEN OFF*:

- February 10, 2–3:30 p.m.: Author’s panel at EP Foster Library in Ventura
- February 17, 10 a.m.: Speaker at the Santa Clarita Chapter of Romance Writers of America in Newhall
- February 20, 5:30 p.m.: National Association of Women Business Owners in Camarillo
- February 22, 5:30 p.m.: Science Night Out Event Sisters in Crime panel at Paradise Canyon Elementary School in La Canada

Please join the L.A. contingent of **Brett Battles, Jessica Kay, Gar Anthony Haywood**, and editors **Richard Brewer** and **Gary Phillips** as *CULPRITS: THE HEIST WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING*, a serialized crime anthology drops at Skylight Books, 1818 N. Vermont Ave., Wednesday, February 28 at 7:30 p.m.

DP Lyle will be on “Thorne and Cross: Haunted Nights LIVE!”, Authors on the Air Network, Thursday, February 22, 5 p.m. PST. blogtalkradio.com/authorsontheairradio2

Member APPEARANCES


#AWMSOCL

TIME TO MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR'S ADAPTATIONS!

Featuring
ALEXIS KRASILOVSKY
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MODERATED BY GEORGIA JEFFRIES
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Alexis Krasilovsky:
Filmmaker, Writer & Professor
at CSUN

Photo by Linda Fitak



Georgia Jeffries: Emmy-winning
Writer/Producer & Professor at USC

RSVP @ [AWMSOCL.ORG/EVENTS](http://www.awmsocal.org/events)

Craig Faustus Buck will be participating in a presentation to the [Greater Los Angeles Writers Society](http://www.gla.org) entitled "How to Write a Query Letter that Drives Agents to Want Your Book." The event is on January 27 at 2 p.m., at the Palms-Rancho Library on Overland in the Ray Bradbury Room.

Georgia Jeffries will moderate the Q & A for the book launch of GREAT ADAPTATIONS: SCREENWRITING & GLOBAL STORYTELLING on February 17, 3–5 p.m., at CBS Studio Center in Studio City. Author Alexis Krasilovsky is the writer/director of the award-winning documentaries "Women Behind the Camera" and "Let Them Eat Cake." The event is sponsored by the Alliance in Media. Because the event is held on a secure lot, attendees must RSVP and register to have their name included on the security list: <http://www.awmsocal.org/event-2735212>

S.W. Lauden launched Books on the Bus, a podcast mini-series about the intersection of rock and reading on January 29. Each episode features a musician sharing about their favorite books and authors, how books inspire their lyrics, the best rock biographies, and what they like to read on the road. Episodes will be posted daily until February 2 on the [Rare Bird Radio podcast platform](http://www.rarebirdradio.com). Read about the podcast and listen to a sneak preview [here](#).



LOS ANGELES TIMES FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

Saturday, April 21–22

Los Angeles Times
FESTIVAL
OF BOOKS
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

This year SoCalMWA will once again be hosting a booth at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, the largest festival of its kind in the country. As always, all members of MWA, regardless of their chapter affiliation, are invited to join us at our booth on Saturday and Sunday, April 21–22, to sign and sell books, meet colleagues, and interact with readers from Southern California and beyond.

SoCal members will receive an email notification in March when we are ready to open up sign-ups. We're looking forward to another great weekend at USC!

TMOC Needs You!

TMOC 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.

Prez Rap [continued from pg 1](#)

We have an exciting year ahead, and I hope you'll take full advantage of our line-up. We also want your input and involvement. Feedback is critical, for our board and for your fellow members. Reach out and let us know what's worth keeping and what can be discarded. SoCalMWA always has that pickup truck, metaphorically speaking.

Glen

Crime CALENDAR

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

SoCalMWA is delighted to be hosting 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. All MWA members, regardless of chapter affiliation, are invited to join us to sign and sell books to the more than 100,000 readers who are expected to attend. This is a fantastic opportunity to increase your visibility, expand your readership, and meet your fellow MWA members. For info or to sign up contact Fred Andersen, fxandersen@msn.com.



More Criminal Happenings

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

“I look through the spyhole. Gloria has a bottle of gin in her hand and a pair of cuffs hanging from her belt loop. A deadly combination.”

—Craig Faustus Buck, GO DOWN HARD