

March 2018



The
MARCH

of CRIME

Inside this issue

[President's Rap p 2](#)

[Editor's Corner p 3](#)

[Over the Transom p 4](#)

[Member Appearances p 6](#)

[MWA Anthology Info p 7](#)

[Crime Calendar p 10](#)

[Last Word p 10](#)

LOS ANGELES TIMES FESTIVAL OF BOOKS
Saturday, April 21–22

Los Angeles Times
**FESTIVAL
OF BOOKS**
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Save the Date!

Tucson Festival of Books

March 10–11
Tucson, AZ

[More Info](#)

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!

Tam Luncheon

May 20
Los Angeles

[Details TBA](#)

SoCalMWA congratulates
all of its members nominated for
awards this season!



The President's Rap Sheet

Glen Erik Hamilton

In like a lion...

My next manuscript is due to the publishers in five weeks, which lends the old saw about the month of March new resonance. The phrase dates from at least the early 18th century, and—among other origin theories—relates to the last days of winter finally surrendering to spring. At least according to the calendar. Our climate might have other notions, even in the Southwest.

Crunch time for delivering a book does feel something like winter, no matter what time of year that deadline is set. The days get shorter—or seem to, as the delivery date looms. The world narrows. Life becomes internal. Both mentally, as we wrestle with those final plot complications and sentence structures, and physically, because we may not see the outside for weeks on end. (Did we ever take down the holiday decorations? I've forgotten...) We might hunker down and drink a lot of hot beverages for comfort. And in the worst moments, a sinking gloom threatens to envelop the brain.

Fortunately, this creative hibernation is as temporary as the season. When we see the first robin of spring (quiet, bird, I'm still working here) or when we finally hold its manuscript equivalent—the printed copy ready for a polishing edit—we know that warmer times can't be too far away.

Speaking of looking forward to the future: Our chapter has plenty in store. We've got our booth and book signings at the [Tucson Festival of Books](#), March 10–11. Less than two weeks later we'll be kicking up our heels at [Crime on the Comstock—Left Coast Crime](#) in Reno March 22–25. We're hosting a shared event at LCC with the Northern California chapter for our members and prospective members on Thursday evening after the opening reception; watch your email for those details. And of course, April always brings two things: taxes and the LA Times Festival of Books. In addition to our booth and book signings, we'll likely have a few members participating in panels. Check out the lineup at LATFoB's website as that draws near.

Enjoy your last days of winter, though I can't guarantee I'll see you in the spring. I'm likely to sleep like a lamb all through April...

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

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

Contact: info@socalmwa.com

Website: <http://socalmwa.com>

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

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
<http://mysterywriters.org>



The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

Last month, I did something I'd never done before: I recycled part of an unfinished novel into a short story and I'm ever so pleased with the result. In fact, I think it might be the best short story I ever wrote. It hasn't been announced whether it was accepted for inclusion in the anthology I submitted it to, but regardless, it's work I'm proud of.

I'm probably not alone in having a writing file full of half-finished pieces. Novels or stories that for one reason or another never got off the ground. While I'm a staunch believer in finishing what I start (even if it takes years, as is the case with my current WIP), sometimes I write things that just don't have any momentum. Such was the case with the novel-in-progress that has become something new.

My point? If you need some inspiration, why not take a look at your own writing file to see if there's something that's ready to be repurposed. Or, as I like to say, upcycled. You never know what you might come up with.

Now that you've read this, you'll be ready to submit a story to MWA's next anthology, MY FIRST MURDER. You'll find [submission details here](#).

I'm happy to say I'll be seeing many of you at Left Coast Crime in Reno later this month. I'll be moderating "Burning Love: The Sex Panel" on Saturday, March 24 at 1:30 p.m. Not sure how I landed that gig, but I'm up for the challenge! No pun intended, of course.

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:

Jennifer Dornbush
Andrew Mayne
Lawrence Pontius



OVER the TRANSOM

Gay Toltl Kinman's new mystery novel, *HOLLYWOOD 1942*, is now available. LAPD Officer Agnes Graham and Hollywood P.I. Marlowe search for the murderer of Agnes' LAPD partner, involving them in Hollywood union politics, payoffs, cover-ups, mobsters, and the murder of a movie star's notorious and abusive boyfriend. Kinman's mystery short story, "Vengeance is Mine: The Clement Case," is also available. When Bobby Clement is shot in a drive-by-like shooting and the case is labeled "unsolved," his mother hires V.I.M. to get justice. The story appears in *COAST TO COAST: MURDER FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA*.

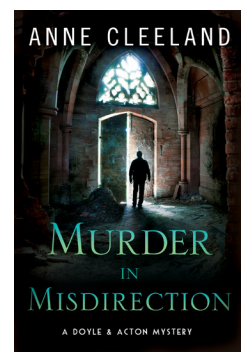
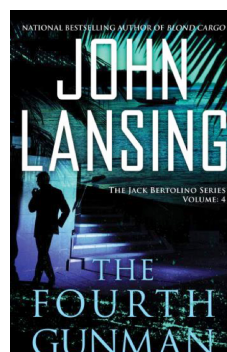
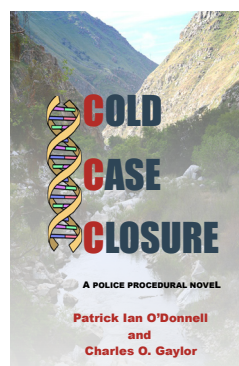
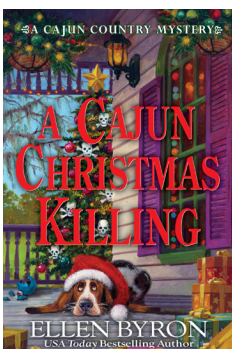
A CAJUN CHRISTMAS KILLING, the third book in **Ellen Byron's** Cajun Country Mystery series, is nominated for a Best Humorous Mystery Lefty Award, as well as a Best Contemporary Novel Agatha.

COLD CASE CLOSURE, **Patrick Ian O'Donnell's** latest crime novel, is written in collaboration with retired cold case detective Charles O. Gaylor. *Kirkus* says, "The prose is lean and powerfully detached at times, like a journalistic chronicle of true crime. Also, the authors deftly show the exasperating distance that often exists between the reasonable certainty that a suspect is guilty and the evidentiary demands of due process. A thrilling novel, intelligently crafted."

From the bestselling author of *THE DEVIL'S NECKTIE* and *BLOOD CARGO* comes the latest title in the Jack Bertolino series. **John Lansing's** *THE FOURTH GUNMAN* (Pocket Star; March 5) is a sizzling action-packed thriller that will keep you turning pages until the explosive finale.

MURDER IN MISDIRECTION, **Anne Cleeland's** latest in the Doyle & Acton series, is now available on Amazon. Although she was sidelined on maternity leave, Detective Sergeant Kathleen Doyle was fast coming to the realization that her husband was masterminding some scheme—a scheme that may-or-may-not involve arson, blood money, and the ducks of St. Petersburg.

Martin Roy Hill's latest Linus Schag, NCIS, thriller is short listed for the 2018 Clue Book Awards for Thriller Fiction (Chanticleer International Book Awards).



OVER the TRANSOM

Jane Haseldine's *WORTH KILLING FOR*, book three in the Julia Gooden mystery series, will be published by Kensington on March 27. *Kirkus* calls it “A complex, highly suspenseful tale of murder, revenge, and redemption.”

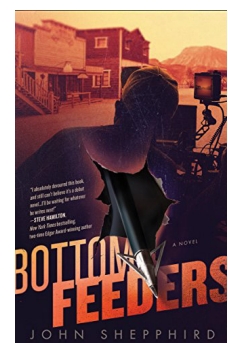
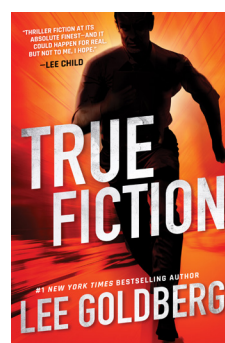
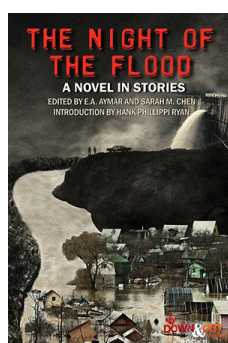
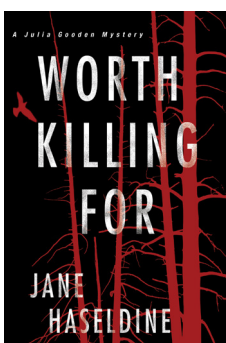
Sarah M. Chen is co-editor, along with E.A. Aymar, of a “novel-in-stories” called *THE NIGHT OF THE FLOOD*, to be released on March 5 by Down & Out Books. Fourteen crime fiction and thriller writers take you to the fictional town of Everton where a group of women blow up a dam in protest of Pennsylvania’s first female execution in modern times. Whether it’s a store owner protecting his shop from looters or killers taking the opportunity to strike, it’s a night of crime and chaos nobody will soon forget.

Lee Goldberg's *TRUE FICTION*, the first in a new series of thrillers, will be released on April 2 in hardcover, ebook, and audio by Amazon’s Thomas & Mercer imprint. The sequel, *KILLER THRILLER*, will follow on March 12, 2019.

Paul D. Marks' story “Windward” from *COAST TO COAST: PRIVATE EYES FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA* (edited by Andrew McAleer and Paul D. Marks, published by Down & Out Books) has been selected for the 2018 Best American Mystery Stories, edited by Louise Penny & Otto Penzler. Due fall, 2018. In addition, Paul’s Shamus Award-winning novel, *WHITE HEAT*, is being reissued in May 2018 by Down & Out Books. It’s available for pre-order on Amazon.

Georgia Jeffries' short story, “What Would Nora Do?”, has been selected for the upcoming MWA/Random House anthology, *ODD PARTNERS*, edited by *NY Times* best-selling novelist, Anne Perry. The publication date is April 2019.

John Shepphard's thriller *BOTTOM FEEDERS* will be released by [Blackstone Publishing](#) April 24. Their ambitious TV movie needs to be made fast-and-cheap but a brutal murder grinds production to a halt. Title refers to the hapless Hollywood cast and crew that eke out a living working on low-budget fare. ([Event info here](#)).



Member APPEARANCES

Craig Faustus Buck will be moderating a panel at the Left Coast Crime conference in Reno called “Shot a Man in Reno: Clichés in Crime Fiction” on Thursday, March 22 at 1:15 p.m. Panelists are authors Mark Bacon, Chris Goff, Annie Hogsett, and Marty Wingate. He will also be on a panel on Friday, March 23 at 1:30 p.m. called “What’s Your Prequel? Which Classic Character They’d Like To Write,” moderated by **Phoef Sutton** with fellow panelists Laurie R. King, Ray Daniel, and Todd Borg.

On March 11, **Sheila Lowe** will give a presentation at the Thousand Oaks Library 2:00 p.m.—how her handwriting analysis career and mystery writing came together. At Left Coast Crime she has a 15-minute presentation on handwriting analysis and is a panelist on Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m., discussing psychopathy.

Lee Goldberg will be signing TRUE FICTION on April 14 at Mysterious Galaxy in San Diego with **Dennis Palumbo**, April 16 at Poisoned Pen in Scottsdale, and April 17 at Murder by the Book in Houston.

Mike Befeler will be attending The Left Coast Crime Conference and moderating the Meet the New Authors Breakfast and a panel titled: “What Kind of Fool Am I? Writing in More Than One Genre.”

Celebrate the book launch of **John Shepphird’s** BOTTOM FEEDERS on Saturday, April 28 at 4:00 p.m. at [Dark Delicacies](#) bookstore in Burbank.

SoCalMWA President **Glen Erik Hamilton** will be appearing on two panels at Left Coast Crime: “All the Way to Reno: LCC Regional Settings” with moderator Katherine Bolger Hyde and panelists Mary Feliz, Kellye Garrett, and Nancy G. West, and the ever-popular “Match Game” show hosted by Chantelle Aimée Osman, with cohorts Bryan Gruley, Jamie Mason and SoCalMWA VP **Nadine Nettmann**. Join the fun!

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.



Mystery Writers of America

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS MWA's Next Anthology

On behalf of the Publication Committee of Mystery Writers of America, it is our pleasure to announce that a new original young adult anthology aimed at readers aged 15-18: *MY FIRST MURDER*, edited by #1 *NY Times* best-selling author Kelley Armstrong, will be published by MacMillan in 2019.

As Kelley points out, adolescence is a time of “firsts.” First kiss. First love. First loss. First job. A first taste of adult responsibilities, and the first look at an independent life away from both the restrictions and the security of home.

And the first encounter with death of the homicidal variety.

MY FIRST MURDER adds a sinister twist to the joy and pain of firsts that have always been one of the major appeals of young adult fiction. Perhaps it involves stumbling over a dead body—a shallow grave in the forest or a fresh corpse in an alley. Perhaps it means vowing to solve the murder of a friend or a family member or the backstabbing queen bee who ended up with a literal knife in her back. It could also mean being pulled into an investigation. Did you see something that night your boss was strangled in the storage room? Or, worse, did the security cameras show you going into that storage room? *MY FIRST MURDER* can even mean something altogether darker...the first time you committed the act yourself.

Mystery should be at the heart of each of these stories, but they should also deal with the intellectual and emotional impact of encountering death and violence for the first time. This isn't watching people die in a movie. It isn't shooting them in a video game. For each of these characters, it's the first time they've been faced with the reality of homicide: not only do we all die, but sometimes, we die at the hands of another human being. Each character will react to this in his or her own way, giving the anthology a uniquely teen perspective on murder.

To keep this relevant for the young adult market, keep the following in mind:

- The main protagonist needs to be aged 15–18.
- The story should explore themes relatable to older teens: coming of age, self-identity, grappling with the idea of death, etc.
- We're looking for realistic depictions of the theme—stories do not need to shy away from the darker aspects of it.
- Avoid gratuitous violence or sex, violence against children, and violence against animals.
- Mystery Writers of America celebrates the diverse voices within our mystery writing community. We welcome and encourage stories that speak in a wide variety of voices, whether in gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnic and racial backgrounds, or community experiences. All stories are judged in a blind read, and chosen based on the strength of the writing and the story itself.

Length and deadlines:

- Stories should be 3,000 to 6,000 words long.
- Stories are to be submitted to MWA's national office no earlier than February 12 and no later than May 31.
- As always, a panel of expert judges will receive all stories from MWA HQ as blind submissions, and will choose the top ten for our Editor's consideration. Please review the submission format requirements that will be posted by Margery Flax, our Administrative Director, as they must be strictly followed.

MWA is excited to have Kelley as the Guest Editor. Our sincere thanks to her for leading this important effort. Also, our thanks to all of you for your continued support of MWA.

Best Regards,

Kelley Armstrong, Toni L.P. Kelner (MY FIRST MURDER coordinator), and the MWA Publications Committee

GENERAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions:

You **MUST** be a current member of Mystery Writers of America to be eligible to participate. Submissions must be blind. We prefer electronic submissions, but if you have difficulty submitting electronically, you may submit by snail mail. If you submit electronically, we will acknowledge your submission usually with 24 hours or the next business day by replying to your email. The stories will not be returned, so do not send a SASE.

Process: Each story will be assigned a number. The stories will be read by five panelists, who are active status members of MWA and highly-regarded short story writers, selected by the Publications Committee. The top choices of the panel will be sent to the editor for inclusion in the anthology. Judging panelists may not submit a story to an anthology they are judging. Stories must be original – not previously published elsewhere. Stories should be no longer than 6,000 words. Individuals may only submit ONE story for consideration. Manuscript guidelines printed below are required.

Deadline: Deadline for submission is May 31, 2018. Manuscripts must be received in our office by that date.

Notification: All authors will receive a “thank you for submitting” letter and will also be notified by email as soon as the final selections have been made. An announcement will be made in *The Third Degree* sometime in Fall 2018, listing the winning stories.

The Publications Committee and Board of Directors are proud to have Kelley Armstrong serve as the editor for this anthology. She is unstintingly generous with her valuable time and talents, and we are very grateful for their participation in this exciting project. **Please do not contact Kelley Armstrong directly.**

If you have questions about the anthologies, please contact the MWA national office: mwa@mysterywriters.org

Mandatory Manuscript Guidelines

No exceptions whatsoever.

1) Use a legible standard font such as Courier or Times New Roman at 12 pt size; no fancy fonts or formatting, please. Underline words that are to be italicized. Indent the first line of new paragraphs by five spaces (or one standard tab).

[continued](#)

- 2) Double-space, and use at least 1” margins on all sides.
- 3) Your electronic submission must be sent as a Word document. Please ensure that no information is included in the manuscript that identifies the author. Do not include your name on the title page or in the header of your manuscript, and check your document properties to make sure that your word-processing program has not embedded your name in the owner, last saved by, or last modified by fields. (If you are uncertain how to remove this information, we recommend doing an Internet search on “how to remove personal information hidden in Word documents.”)
- 4) If you are submitting on paper, please print on only one side of the paper. You will need to send us 6 copies of your story. **Jumbo Metal Paper clips are preferred** (smaller paper clips do not hold a larger amount of paper together). **Do not bind, staple, fold, or put your story in a folder.**
- 5) **In the email (for electronic submissions) or on the cover sheet only (for paper submissions)**, put your real name (the one you want a check made out to), and on new lines each: your story title, the name under which your story should appear (if different from your legal name) your address, phone number, e-mail address, and word count for the story. A copy of the story will remain in the office with your information attached to it. The panelists will receive numbered stories only. **The cover sheet should not be part of the story file (for electronic submissions) or the printout (for paper submissions, and should not be attached to any copies of a paper submission.**
- 6) At the middle of the first page of the story, type the full story title in CAPS, go down two lines and begin on the next line (this is for formatting only and not the mandatory title or opening sentence of your story):

A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT (for formatting only)

It was a dark and stormy night....

- 7) Starting with Page 2, put the title of the story and the page number on the top of each page.
- 8) At the end of your story, type END or ###.
- 9) To ensure that your stories are promptly routed to the judges: If you are submitting electronically, please use “MWA Anthology Submissions” as the subject line of your email. If you are sending a paper submission, please put all six copies of the manuscript in an envelope marked “MWA Anthology Submissions.”

Send all electronic submissions to:

mwa@mysterywriters.org

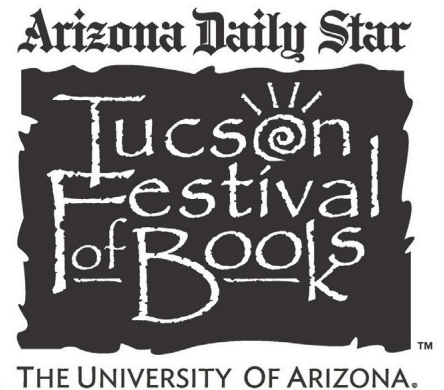
Send all paper submissions to:

Mystery Writers of America
1140 Broadway, Suite 1507
New York, NY 10001

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

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 24–26 – [Edgar Week, New York, NY](#)
 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

“Other than a killer, I’ve always wanted to be a famous mystery writer.”

—Linda Guyan, MAYHEM