

July 2018



The  
MARCH

of CRIME

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### *Bouchercon 2018* Passport to Murder

September 6–9  
St. Petersburg, FL

[More info](#)

### *Save the Date!* SoCalMWA Gumbo Party Saturday, October 27

Hosted by Bill & Kendall  
Fitzhugh

Congratulations to our SoCal MWA chapter's nominees for some of the most prestigious awards in the genre!

#### **Anthony Awards**

Best Novel

Attica Locke, BLUEBIRD, BLUEBIRD

Best Paperback Original

Nadine Nettmann, UNCORKING A LIE

Bill Crider Award for Best Novel in a Series

Sue Grafton, Y IS FOR YESTERDAY

#### **Macavity Awards**

Best Mystery Novel

Attica Locke, BLUEBIRD, BLUEBIRD

Thomas Perry, THE OLD MAN

Best First Mystery Novel

Wendall Thomas, LOST LUGGAGE

Best Short Story

Craig Faustus Buck, "As Ye Sow"

Matt Coyle, "The #2 Pencil"

Paul D. Marks, "Windward"

#### **Shamus Awards**

Best Private Eye Novel

Matt Coyle, BLOOD TRUTH

Sue Grafton, Y IS FOR YESTERDAY

T. Jefferson Parker, THE ROOM OF WHITE FIRE

Best First Private Eye Novel

Danny Gardner, A NEGRO AND AN OFAY

Matt Goldman, GONE TO DUST

Best P.I. Short Story

Paul D. Marks, "Windward"

All Awards will be presented at or around Bouchercon 2018 in St. Petersburg, FL.



## The President's Rap Sheet

Glen Erik Hamilton

*I cried for you this morning / And I'll cry for you again / But I'm not in charge of sorrow /  
So please don't ask me when—Leonard Cohen*

My wife and I are on a flight headed to Seattle, and a memorial service. Our individual measures of grief have made us reflective. Amy is listening to the sound of rain on a meditation app while studying the lake of clouds pooled in a valley twenty thousand feet below. I am writing this.

I met J twenty years ago, when we were performing in a play. A few months later we were both cast in another show at the same theater, and there I met Amy. Three years after that, J was a groomsman at our wedding. And a few more years further on, J moved to Florida and Amy and I moved to California and—inevitably, perhaps—we began to lose touch.

At the memorial, I fear we'll be asked to share stories we remember about J. It's not that I don't have any recollections. If pressed I might even dredge up a couple of tales appropriate to tell in front of his family. But the things that have stuck with me after so many years without seeing J aren't about what he did, but how he behaved. His exasperated fidgeting during the maddening slow pace of technical rehearsals. His cocking one eyebrow, 007-style, in every photograph. There are undoubtedly a dozen other traits of J's that I've since forgotten, and more that I'll forget in the future.

So to try and hold onto some of those fragments, and as a sort of eulogy, I will capture aspects of our friend in the book I'm working on now. Although I don't fashion whole characters based on people I know, I'll steal their specific mannerisms or features with impunity as part of the raw clay. J will make a fine type. I'm imagining a guy who will clear his entire weekend to take you out and cheer you up when your world falls apart. One whose sly snicker is almost cartoonish, coming from someone that handsome. The best kind of bastard, never not charming. J would have liked that. He was sharp enough and honest enough to have recognized himself on the page. I'll make sure his character lives to see the end.

*It wasn't all that easy / When you up and walked away / But I'll save that little story /  
For another rainy day*

Glen

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The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

In June, I had a milestone birthday. Or, I don't know, maybe at this age they're all milestone birthdays. Regardless, I'm the type that can't let a season go by without some solid reflection about where I've been, where I'm at, and where I'd like to be, and this birthday was no different.

I spent a part of that day thinking about where I want to go from here. I'll spare you the details because they're mostly mundane—personal goals that aren't even particularly unique to me. But after spending last weekend with friends in Lake Tahoe, I realized I've reached the age where I can wear a bathing suit in public without feeling the least bit self-conscious. This, my friends, is a true victory.

It's not about the bathing suit, you see. It's about finally being comfortable in my own skin—not necessary my literal skin, although that's part of it. While age brings a new set of things to be insecure about, the net gains in confidence overall might well be worth it. No doubt I'll let you know.

For now, it seems I finally know who I am, and I'm okay with it. Not just okay, but delighted.

With all of that said, I'm not terribly sad to see June end. It was a tough month for many of us. Let's work for a better July.

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.

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**Join our SoCalMWA  
Yahoo! Group**

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

# FRESHBLOOD

SoCalMWA welcomes its new and returning members:

Shannon Elise Muir Broden

Nancie Clare

Barbara Demarco-Barrett



## OVER the TRANSOM

**Andrew Neiderman**, the ghostwriter of V.C. Andrews' Flowers in the Attic books for over thirty years, will write four more books in the series for Gallery Books. Book one, *THE SWAN*, explores the story of Corrine, grandmother of the mother who locks her children in an attic in *FLOWERS IN THE ATTIC*. Neiderman is also in the process of developing the entire Heaven series for the Lifetime Network with his producer, Dan Angel. Finally, Neiderman is writing the stage play of *FLOWERS IN THE ATTIC* for Gary Pearl, one of the producers of *Jane the Virgin*.

*DEATH OF A BACHELORETTE*, the fifteenth book in **Laura Levine's** Jane Austen mystery series, is now out in paperback from Kensington Books.

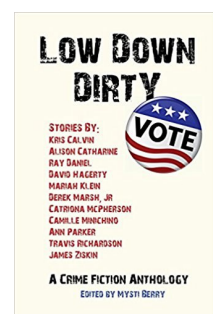
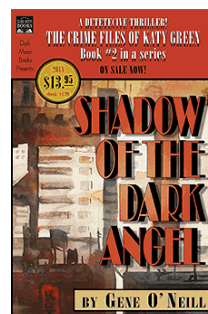
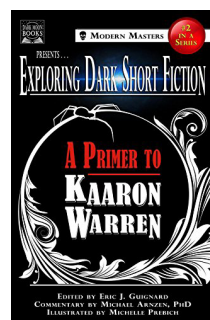
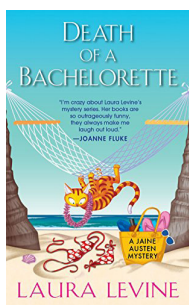
**Paul D. Marks'** story "Windward," from the anthology *COAST TO COAST: PRIVATE EYES FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA* (co-edited by Paul with Andrew McAleer) has been nominated for both a Shamus Award and a Macavity Award for Best Short Story. Paul thanks everyone who voted for it.

The humorous mystery "Locked Tight" by **Peter DiChellis** appears in the July issue of *Mystery Weekly Magazine*.

In *EXPLORING DARK SHORT FICTION #2: A PRIMER TO KAARON WARREN*, editor **Eric J. Guignard** presents an introduction to the work of Australian author Kaaron Warren, the second in a series of scholarly primers exploring modern masters of literary dark short fiction. With commentary by Michael Arnzen, Ph.D., and beautifully illustrated by artist Michelle Prebich. (Dark Moon Books, May 2018). Also the publisher at Dark Moon Books, Eric has published *SHADOW OF THE DARK ANGEL*, book two in the Crime Files of Katy Green series, written by Gene O'Neill (June 2018).

**Travis Richardson** had two flash fiction stories published last month. "A Misunderstanding" is a thriller in [Flash Fiction Offensive](#). The second is a satire piece about guns in *Shotgun Honey* called "[Safer Campuses](#)." His story "Another Statistic" will come out on July 4 in the anthology *THE LOW DOWN DIRTY VOTE*. The theme of the anthology is voter suppression and all proceeds go to the ACLU.

*BLOOD TRUTH*, **Matt Coyle's** fourth book in the Rick Cahill crime series, was named the 2018 Foreword Indies Book of the Year Silver Award Winner in the Thriller/Suspense category. *BLOOD TRUTH* is also a finalist for the Shamus Award for Best Private Eye Novel. Matt's short story, "The #2 Pencil," from the anthology *COAST TO COAST: PRIVATE EYES FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA*, has been nominated for the Macavity Award for Best Short Story and was a finalist for the Derringer Award.



## OVER the TRANSOM

The judges of The Eric Hoffer Grand Prize (2018) selected **Amnon Kabatchnik's** BLOOD ON THE STAGE, 1600 TO 1800 for First Runner-Up in the Reference category. The book profiles fifty works of theft, treachery, court intrigue, spying, kidnapping, incest, rape, and murder produced over these two centuries. Also, the 2017 Foreword Awards recognized Amnon's books in two categories: BLOOD ON THE STAGE, 1600 TO 1800 won a Silver Medal in the category Reference, and BLOOD ON THE STAGE, 1800 TO 1900 garnered Memorable Mention in the category Performing Arts & Music.

**Tom Sawyer's** A MAJOR PRODUCTION! has been released. In this second Barney Moon, P.I. novel, Barney once more finds himself (groan) on the alien (to him) planet, Los Angeles, with gorgeous Melodie Seaver again driving his rental—and on his case—as he deals with more examples of WEBIT? (Where ELSE But In Tinseltown?).

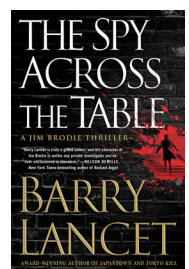
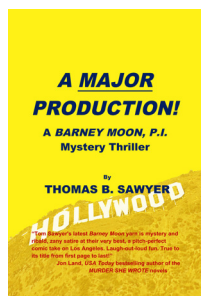
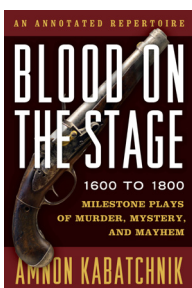
**Craig Faustus Buck's** short story “As Ye Sow,” a noir mail-order bride soap operetta, has been nominated for the Macavity Award Best Short Story. It first was published in the Bouchercon 2017 anthology PASSPORT TO MURDER. You can read it for free at [CraigFaustusBuck.com](http://CraigFaustusBuck.com).

**Wendall Thomas's** LOST LUGGAGE has been nominated for a Macavity Award for Best First Novel (2017).

THE CORONER, the debut novel of **Jennifer Graeser Dornbush**, is being released August 7 by Crooked Lane Books. Summoned from her promising surgical career first to her estranged father's bedside, and then his post as medical examiner when his small town needs urgent help with a suspicious death, Emily Hartford discovers home is where the bodies are in this pitch perfect mystery debut. More info at [jenniferdornbush.com](http://jenniferdornbush.com).

HOLLIS FOR HIRE drops—a new short story collection of hardboiled goodness featuring the rough and tumble L.A. PI Nate Hollis who premiered in comics in Angeltown and has since crossed over to prose. Sara Paretsky, **Naomi Hirahara**, **Sarah M. Chen**, Scott Adlerberg, Phillip Drayer Duncan and Hollis' creator, **Gary Phillips**, deliver tales of a modern gumshoe that Kevin Burton Smith in *Mystery Scene* magazine said was “Slick as spit, big-shouldered Hollis walks the walk and talks the talk...” From Pro Se Productions.

**Barry Lancet's** THE SPY ACROSS THE TABLE is now out in paperback. This fourth entry in the Jim Brodie thriller series finds Brodie at an opening at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., where his old college friend is murdered. His quest for answers enmeshes him in espionage of the highest order, dealing with the affairs of North Korea, China, the CIA, and more. As timely as it gets.





## Member APPEARANCES

**Terri Nolan**, author of the Burden of Truth trilogy, will be at ThrillerFest XIII at the Grand Hyatt in New York, July 11–14. She'll be an instructor at CraftFest: "Writing Authentic Heroines;" and on the panel "One, Three, or Many: Standalone, Trilogy, and Series Thrillers." Please visit her at [www.terrinnolan.com](http://www.terrinnolan.com).

In June, **Ellen Byron** represented Sisters in Crime on the "It's a Mystery to Me" panel at the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in New Orleans.

On July 1 **Sheila Lowe** will join fellow authors James Gray, MaryAnn Ridini, and Mike Kennedy at Thousand Oaks Library for a discussion of their writing process. On July 14, Sheila and **Lida Sideris** will share a panel with two other authors discussing "Using My Life in Fiction," and on July 17, Sheila has been invited to appear via Skype or Zoom at an Atlanta book club.

**Patricia Smiley**, author of the police procedurals PACIFIC HOMICIDE and OUTSIDE THE WIRE, will speak at the South Bay Local Writers Group on "How to Avoid Potholes on the Bumpy Road to Publication," Redondo Beach Main Library, 2nd floor conference room, 303 N. Pacific Coast Highway, Redondo Beach, CA, on Saturday, July 7 from 10:30 a.m.–Noon.

**Christina Hoag** will relate her experience on how she became a published author at Huntington Beach Public Library's "Publishing Panel," on Saturday, July 21, from 2–4 p.m. 7111 Halbert Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA.

**Anne Louise Bannon** will teach an outlining workshop sponsored by Sisters in Crime Los Angeles on July 21, 1–3 p.m. at the Faith Presbyterian Church, 5000 Colfax Avenue, North Hollywood, CA, in the Patio Room. The workshop will show how outlining your research can help you and let you see how outlining after your first draft may help you finally finish that manuscript. Admission is \$15 for SinCLA members and \$25 for non-members.

**Eva Montealegre** is recording a number of podcasts with prominent writers of mystery. Her first discussion was with Robert Eversz, and is available in the link. The next discussion will be with Stephen Robert Stein, author of The Oath. her book, BODY ON THE BACKLOT is out now. [Listen here](#).

[Left Coast Crime 2020: Murder's a Beach](#) is thrilled to announce the special guests for San Diego. Guest of Honor **Rachel Howzell Hall**, Guest of Honor **T. Jefferson Parker**, Toastmaster **Matt Coyle**, and Fan Guest of Honor **Mysterious Galaxy**. [Registration is now open](#). Twitter: [@LCC2020SanDiego](#)

Crime  
CALENDAR

More to Come!

July 10–14 – [Thrillerfest, New York, NY](#)

September 6–9 – [Bouchercon, St. Petersburg, FL](#)

October 27 – [SoCalMWA Gumbo Party, Los Angeles, CA](#)

November 4 – [Luncheon at the Tam, Los Angeles, CA](#)

The  
LAST WORD

“Mikey was shot because he begged me for a favor and I complied.”

—Barry Lancet, THE SPY ACROSS THE TABLE