



The
MARCH

of CRIME

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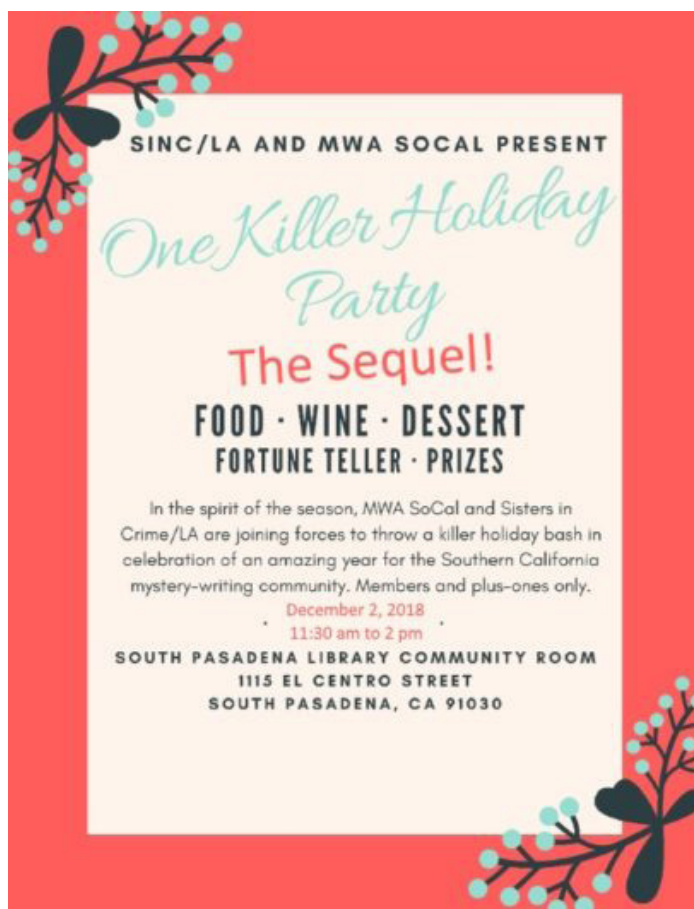
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HOLIDAY PARTY UPDATE:

Our Holiday Party RSVP list is full, but if you'd like to be added to the waiting list, [click here](#).



Happy Holidays!

from
SoCalMWA's
The March of Crime

Holiday Giving

Each year, SoCalMWA chooses a charity to receive donations from our chapter members who would like to participate. This year our beneficiary is WriteGirl, a Los Angeles-based creative writing and mentoring organization. WriteGirl serves over 500 girls annually through workshops, panel discussions, and special events.

[Please consider donating here](#), or at the holiday party.



The President's Rap Sheet

Glen Erik Hamilton

I like to write after dark. As a result, I always greet the end of daylight savings time happily, ready to produce a sleigh-load of pages during the expanding nights. It seems very natural to curl up with a warm laptop. That optimism doesn't always lead to improved productivity. Long nights slip past just as quickly as short ones, even without holiday obligations. Still, I prize those winter evenings when I can sneak a cup of spiked eggnog and let imagination off the leash.

Speaking of days slipping away...thank heaven for copy editors. My latest book, MERCY RIVER, involves a raucous gathering of former Army Rangers invading (in a mostly-benevolent way) a remote Oregon town for their annual celebration. That shindig is naturally scheduled over a weekend, so the rest of the book had to be planned around that specific event.

I'm organized about these things, I swear. Notes and timelines and everything. And somehow I still managed to screw it up. The princely copy editor caught the mistake; I'd mislaid an entire Wednesday. My error required careful cross-checking of every reference to days and dates and yesterdays and tomorrows in four hundred pages to recreate that one poor lost weekday.

That's what the holiday season feels like. Try as we might, days fall behind the dresser, get tangled in the laundry, or just evaporate like frost from the window. Making them all the more precious. Cherish as many days with loved ones as you can, and I'll see you in 2019!

Happy Holidays,
Glen

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Mystery Writers of America
 Southern California Chapter
 2140 N. Hollywood Way #7304
 Burbank, CA 91510

Contact: info@socalmwa.com
 Website: <http://socalmwa.com>
 Twitter: [@socalmwa](https://twitter.com/socalmwa)

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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

It is unfathomable to me how quickly this year passed, and yet here we are. The holiday season has arrived and I'm feeling a tad bit overwhelmed.

It's not so much the busyness that comes with the holidays that's got me keyed up this year. For the first time ever, I'll be spending Christmas outside of the United States. My husband is English and in the twenty years we've been married, we've never once spent the holidays in England with his family. Well, this is the year it happens, folks.

A trip to Europe (we'll also be stopping in Munich) is an exciting thing, to be sure. I'm truly grateful to be able to do it. But I'm a nervous traveler, always have been. The anticipation of every big trip comes with a heaping dose of anxiety to temper the excitement.

You might be asking yourself what all this has to do with writing or SoCalMWA. Nothing. Except, perhaps, for one thing: I'm not on deadline right now so I'm giving myself the gift of not worrying about getting any writing done until the new year arrives. I don't know about you, but I spend a lot of time beating myself up for not being productive enough. For the next month or so, I'm going to try my hardest to quiet that inner voice. Merry Christmas to me.

To all of you, I wish you the happiest of holidays. You all inspire me and I'm looking forward to hearing (and reporting) all of your good news in 2019.

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)

2019 California Crime Writers Conference

Saturday, June 8–Sunday, June 9, 2019

Doubletree Hilton in Culver City

The 2019 California Crime Writers Conference, co-sponsored by SoCalMWA and Sisters in Crime/Los Angeles, is gearing up to be an exciting weekend.

In addition to keynote speeches by our two guests of honor, Tess Gerritsen and Catriona McPherson, they'll each teach a session on creative writing. Plus, we're taking advantage of our proximity to Hollywood to bring in producers and screenwriters to discuss book options, adaptations, and what to do when Hollywood calls. All of this in addition to craft panels, forensic workshops, and the fun and fellowship you've come to expect from CCWC.

Registration and hotel blocks are NOW OPEN!

[Click here for registration info](#)

OVER the TRANSOM

Dennis Palumbo's latest Daniel Rinaldi thriller, *HEADWOUNDS*, has been named a *Suspense Magazine* "Best of 2018" book in the category of Thriller/Suspense.

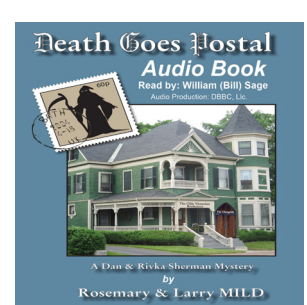
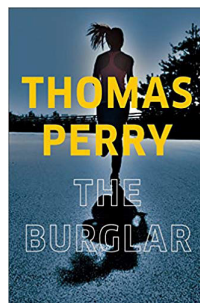
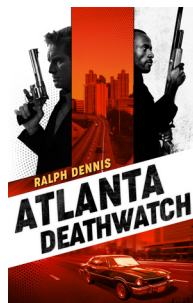
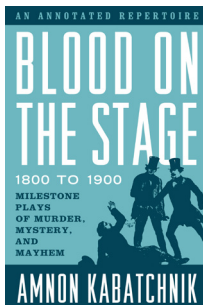
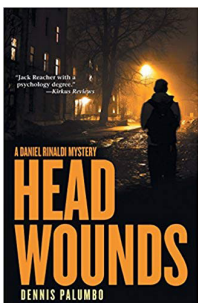
Amnon Kabatchnik's *BLOOD ON THE STAGE, 1800-1900*, received a 4-star review in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine's* November/December 2018 issue: "This newest book, more than seven hundred pages in length, covers plays of the nineteenth century, including Goethe's 'Faust,' Lord Byron's 'Cain,' several plays by Wilkie Collins, and adaptations of *UNCLE TOM'S CABIN*, *DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE*, and *DRACULA*. It concludes with the 1899 play 'Sherlock Holmes,' written by and starring William Gillette. As usual, Kabatchnik provides detailed synopses, background, and fascinating anecdotes for each of the fifty-one plays. This book completes the series, unless Kabatchnik sticks around to do a volume about the twenty-first century, which at the rate he's going, is a genuine possibility."

Lee Goldberg is a huge fan of the late Ralph Dennis, an Atlanta-based author perhaps best known for his Hardman series. So much so, that Lee and Joel Goldman launched a publishing company, Brash Books, five years ago, just to release the books. It didn't happen right away. Brash has released one hundred titles since then (including books by **Dick Lochte, Craig Faustus Buck, and Gar Anthony Haywood**) before Lee was finally able to personally acquire the copyrights to all of Ralph's published and unpublished works. Lee is now Ralph Dennis, at least as far as Ralph's literary life is concerned—and Brash is re-releasing the twelve Hardman novels, with introductions from Joe R. Lansdale, Paul Bishop, Robert Randisi, and Mel Odom among others. The first four titles—*ATLANTA DEATHWATCH*, *THE CHARLESTON KNIFE IS BACK IN TOWN*, *THE GOLDEN GIRL AND ALL*, and *PIMP FOR THE DEAD* are out now.

Thomas Perry's twenty-sixth novel, *THE BURGLAR*, will be published by Mysterious Press/Grove Atlantic on January 10, 2019.

THE SECOND GOODBYE, **Patricia Smiley's** third police thriller in her Pacific Homicide series, will be released on December 8. See her signing schedule [here](#).

Rosemary and Larry Mild introduce their first audio book: *DEATH GOES POSTAL*, A Dan & Rivka Sherman Mystery.



OVER the TRANSOM

Mike Befeler's mystery novels, *THE BACK WING* and *THE V V AGENCY*, have been republished and are now available in print and e-book formats. In *THE BACK WING*, Harold McCaffrey moves into the Mountain Splendor Retirement Home and finds himself living in the Back Wing with a group of extraordinary residents including Bella. Harold and Bella must use all their normal and extra-normal skills to solve two murders in this very unique retirement community. *THE V V AGENCY* is a paranormal mystery that spoofs the PI subgenre (imagine a dash of Philip Marlowe wrapped in urban fantasy) and introduces the transvictus—a unique shape shifter. Van and Vanna run a detective agency and take the case of a woman suspected of killing her husband.

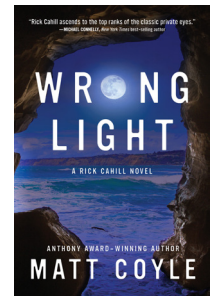
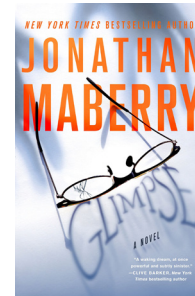
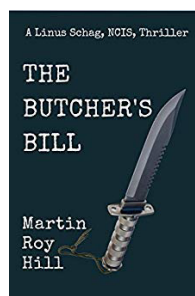
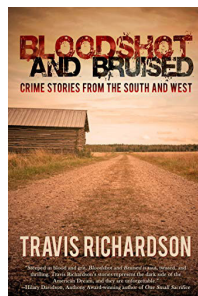
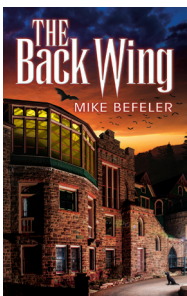
Travis Richardson's short story collection, *BLOODSHOT AND BRUISED*, was released on November 27. The collection contains sixteen stories set in either rural America or the West Coast, including Anthony, Macavity, and Derringer award finalists.

Martin Roy Hill was named December's Author of the Month by the Friends of the San Diego Central Library. On December 1, he presented a talk at the library titled "History's Biggest Heist (and Why Nobody Ever Investigated It): The True Events that Inspired Martin Roy Hill's Award-Winning Thriller, *THE BUTCHER'S BILL*."

New York Times bestseller **Jonathan Maberry** will debut his fourth novel of 2018, capping off a busy year with *BROKEN LANDS*, the first of a spinoff series tied to his award-winning *ROT & RUIN* young adult post-apocalyptic novels. Earlier this year Maberry released three other novels in different genres: *GLIMPSE* (a suspense thriller), *DEEP SILENCE* (a weird-science thriller and the 10th in his bestselling Joe Ledger series), and *STILL OF NIGHT* (a zombie novel). Also this year, Maberry's vampire series "V-Wars" went into production for Netflix, with the first 10-episode season debuting this spring, starring Ian Somerhalder (*Lost*, *Vampire Diaries*).

A NOSE FOR NIEDEMAN, **Anne Louise Bannon's** latest novel, will be released on December 21. Please click on annelouisebannon.com/fiction for pre-order and purchase links.

WRONG LIGHT, the fifth novel in **Matt Coyle's** the Anthony Award-winning Rick Cahill Series will be released on December 4. Related appearances can be found [here](#).



Member APPEARANCES

Christina Hoag will be speaking on memoir writing to the South Bay Creative Writing Group at the Redondo Beach Public Library, 303 N. Pacific Coast Highway, Saturday, December 1, at 10:30 a.m. Her latest release, *ANGEL'S LUST*, a police procedural, is now available on Kindle Unlimited.

Jeri Westerson will be signing books at the following locations:

–Saturday, December 8, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at LIBCON West 2018, a “comic con” in Glendale, AZ. Jeri will be on a panel and signing at the Poisoned Pen Bookstore table; panel is 2–3 p.m. Glendale Public Library, 5959 W. Brown St., Glendale, AZ.

–Saturday, January 12 at Hemet Library Comic-On. Jeri will have her own signing booth. Small entry fee (funds go to the library). Books for sale. 300 E. Latham Ave., Hemet, CA.

Patricia Smiley will be signing books at the following locations:

–Thursday, December 6, 7 p.m. at [Poisoned Pen Bookstore](#), 4014 N. Goldwater Blvd. Scottsdale AZ, (480) 947-2974.

–Saturday, December 15, 2 p.m. at [Book Carnival](#), 348 S. Tustin St., Orange CA (714) 538-3210.

Ellen Byron, Sybil Johnson, and Nancy Cole Silverman will be signing at Mysterious Galaxy's Season's Reading event at 2 p.m. on December 1, celebrating the release of their books *MARDI GRAS MURDER*, *REASON TO DOUBT*, and *DESIGNED FOR HAUNTING*. 5943 Balboa Ave Suite 100 San Diego, CA 92111.

Anne Louise Bannon will interview Nova Jacobs at the Pasadena Public Library, 285 E. Walnut St., Pasadena, on December 6 at 7 p.m. Jacobs is releasing the paperback of her novel *THE LAST EQUATION OF ISAAC SEVERY*.



Matt Coyle will be signing books at the following locations:

–December 4 at Warwick's in La Jolla, CA

–December 6 at The Poisoned Pen in Scottsdale, AZ with **Patty Smiley** and **James L. Thane**

–December 8 at Book Carnival in Orange, CA

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

In celebration of Left Coast Crime 2020, [Partners in Crime: The San Diego Chapter of Sisters in Crime](#) welcomes you to submit a short story to their first anthology titled CROSSING BORDERS! Submissions are free.

Stories will be chosen and edited by **Lisa Brackmann**, *NYT* best-selling author of BLACK SWAN RISING and more, and **Matt Coyle**, best-selling author of the Rick Cahill crime novels, in a blind read process.

CROSSING BORDERS will be an official Sisters in Crime Anthology. Partners in Crime will market the anthology with press releases and social media. Left Coast Crime 2020 will be in San Diego, and Partners in Crime will host an anthology signing party at the conference.

All proceeds from the sale will support the ongoing efforts of Partners in Crime to bring workshops of interest to crime writers and readers.

Why CROSSING BORDERS? San Diego is a beach town, a military town, a business town, and a border town. But CROSSING BORDERS is not just about physical borders between states and countries—we'd also love to see stories about borders between people, between life and death, between normal and paranormal, between moving forward and standing still, between conflicting goals and emotions, and more. The theme of borders can be interpreted many ways. Good stories that are mysteries of all genres, suspense, thrillers and true crime, are encouraged that explore borders in some way.

Keep in mind:

1. Stories must be Word docs up to 5,000 words using Times New Roman 12 or another commonly used business font.
2. Stories must contain a crime.
3. Stories must be anonymous, including file identification.
4. Stories must be emailed to PICAnthology@gmail.com by midnight PST, February 15, 2019. Please use "Crossing Borders Anthology Submission" in the subject line.
5. More than one story can be submitted by an author but only one story will be printed.
6. Authors must be current members of either Partners in Crime, Sisters in Crime Los Angeles, or Sisters in Crime Orange County, and members of national Sisters in Crime as well.

Feel free to email PICAnthology@gmail.com with any questions. Good luck!

Sincerely,
Board of Directors
Partners in Crime

Lisa Brackmann is the *NYT* best-selling author of the Ellie McEnroe trilogy (ROCK PAPER TIGER), and suspense novels GETAWAY, GO-BETWEEN, and BLACK SWAN RISING. Her work has also appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Salon*, *Travel+Leisure*, *LARB*, and CNET. She lives in San Diego with a cat, far too many books and a bass ukulele. Find her at lisabrackmann.com.

Matt Coyle is the author of the Rick Cahill crime series. His books have won the Anthony, Ben Franklin Silver, and San Diego Book Awards, and have accrued nominations for the Macavity, Anthony, Shamus, Lefty, Foreword Reviews Book of the Year and RONE awards. WRONG LIGHT, his fifth novel, comes out in December 2018. Matt lives in San Diego with his yellow Lab, Angus, where he is writing the sixth Rick Cahill novel. Find him at mattcoylebooks.com.

Tam O'Shanter Luncheon: Cold Case Investigation

by Ellen Byron



Terri Nolan interviews Robert Bub

Sherri Rasmussen was murdered in February of 1985. Her killer was ID'd in 2009 and convicted in 2012—almost thirty years after Rasmussen's death. At the November Tam O'Shanter luncheon, now-retired Detective Robert Bub, formerly the Officer in Charge of the Van Nuys Cold Case Homicide Unit, explained how his department broke the famous cold case and shared invaluable details about the inner workings of a cold case investigation.

The Van Nuys station housed murder books for unsolved cases. During a lull in current cases, Bub directed his detectives to take another look at the murder of Rasmussen, a newlywed in her late twenties. The theory at the time of Rasmussen's death was that she was the victim of a botched robbery. But Bub's detectives noticed evidence pointing to a staged crime scene. They then availed themselves of current DNA technology—something not available at the time of the murder—to pick up clues from a bite mark the killer left on the victim's arm. The case took an unexpected twist when the DNA testing determined the suspected killer was a woman.

Detective Bub walked rapt listeners through the elimination of four suspects: Rasmussen's mother, sister, former roommate, and a disgruntled co-worker passed over for a job that Rasmussen landed. The case took another, chilling turn as evidence pointed to one suspect: Stephanie Lazarus, a detective with LAPD's elite Robbery and Homicide Division (RHD) who also happened to be the ex-girlfriend of Rasmussen's husband, John Reutten.

This revelation meant that Bub's team had to gather evidence against one of their own, creating a case so high-profile that they were eventually forced to turn it over to RHD, the very division that employed Lazarus. But it was the unflagging investigative work on the part of Bub and his dedicated detectives that led to the eventual arrest and conviction of Lazarus, who is currently serving a sentence of twenty-seven years to life for first-degree murder.

Send Us Your Cover!

Did you know you can display your latest book cover and your website in our Member Directory, available to all visitors to our chapter webpage? You may add or update your information here: [Your Member Listing](#). Contact info@socalmwa.com if you need a password reminder!

Crime
CALENDAR

Year-End Events

December 2 – [SoCalMWA/SinCLA Joint Holiday Party, Los Angeles, CA](#)

The
LAST WORD

“If there are two things you oughta know about Lynchwood, it’s that nobody votes Democrat and nobody blasphemes the Lord God Almighty... at least not in public.”

—Travis Richardson, “The Day We Shot Jesus on Main Street”