



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 7](#)

[Call for Submissions p 7](#)

[Story Elements Tips p 8](#)

[Shamus Award Subs p 9](#)

[Crime Calendar p 11](#)

[Last Word p 11](#)



SoCalMWA Book Swap

Saturday,
February 9, 2019

Start clearing your bookshelves for
SoCalMWA's Book Swap!

Details coming soon!

Happy New Year!

from
SoCalMWA's
The March of Crime

Tam Luncheon

This year's first Tam luncheon will be on February 25 and will feature a panel of expert publicists. Learn how they support their clients in an oversaturated market and share information that all authors need to know about book promotion.

Event details coming soon.



The President's Rap Sheet

Glen Erik Hamilton

For all the emphasis we put on fresh beginnings, it can be tough to actually get started. The first meeting of the day, the first quarter-mile of a run, the first downward dog of a yoga class, the first sentence on a blank page. All of these are painful and to be endured until the mental and physical gears have a little more grease. Or coffee.

January can bring on the same feeling. After the clamor of the holidays, we are supposedly meant to launch ourselves into the new year with new vigor, instead of doing the sensible thing and curling up to hibernate. How to tolerate this merciless month? With friends and family and good books, both new acquisitions and old favorites.

Speaking of: If the holidays didn't bring you enough fine reading material, I'm delighted to say that on February 9, our chapter will be hosting another terrific Book Swap, our first since summer of 2017. It's free for all members and we will have a food truck offering lunch options, too. February 25 will also bring the first of this year's luncheons at the Tam O'Shanter. Our guests this time are a panel of expert publicists, who'll discuss how they support their clients in an oversaturated market and what all authors should know about book promotion. Watch your email for details on both of these events!

Finally, I'd like to welcome our returning SoCalMWA board members.

Sarah M. Chen, Jessica Kaye, Paul D. Marks, and Terri Nolan have each been re-elected for a new two-year term. **Shannon Baker, Lisa Brackmann, Ellen Byron, Nadine Nettmann, Travis Richardson, and Jennifer Younger** continue to do great work in their current terms. And **Rachel Howzell Hall** is our newest board member ([see page three](#)). Our board enables all of our events and makes my job much easier. I'm thrilled to have them around the table.

Happy New Year and Keep Warm,

Glen

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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VP: [Nadine Nettmann](#)
Treasurer: [Sarah M. Chen](#)
Secretary: [Travis Richardson](#)

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[Lisa Brackmann](#)
[Ellen Byron](#)
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[Paul D. Marks](#)
[Terri Nolan](#)
 Jennifer Younger

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The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

It's officially 2019. Woo hoo!

When I plan for a trip, I have a bad habit of packing as if I intend on being an entirely different person while I'm away. Into the suitcase go my dresses and high heels, business casual slacks and cute ballet flats. Jewelry. Make up. Never mind the fact that I only wear leggings, sweatshirts, fuzzy socks, and messy buns when I'm home. No, when I travel, I suddenly have this vision of myself as an impossibly chic fashion maven who never has a hair out of place. I end up spending my vacation regretting all my choices.

I mention it because the promise of a new year brings the same amount of delusion. The opportunity for fresh starts always has me itching to re-invent myself in one fell swoop. It's 2019 and I will be ambitious! I'll finish writing two books, including the one I've been working on for four-plus years. I'll lose twenty pounds and better yet, I won't gain it back by the end of the year. I'll be sociable and productive and oh, so successful.

The truth is I'm more a tortoise than a hare when it comes to making changes in my life. Of course, we all know the hare loses the race, but as a tortoise, I risk losing momentum entirely. Still, there's value in understanding one's true nature, and as I get older, I'm more accepting of myself. I'll keep chipping away at those goals and resolutions, working for a modest net gain (except in pounds) at the end of the year.

Whatever your goals may be, I wish you success, health, and happiness in 2019.

Holly



Starting with the 2019 term, we have a new addition to SoCalMWA's board. Welcome, Rachel!

Rachel Howzell Hall is a *New York Times* bestselling author of seven novels, including *THE GOOD SISTER*, co-written with James Patterson, and the critically-acclaimed Detective Elouise Norton series. The *New York Times* called Lou Norton "a formidable fighter—someone you want on your side." Lou was also included in *The Guardian's* Top 10 Female Detectives in Fiction. Her newest novel, *THEY ALL FALL DOWN* (Forge), published in April 2019, pays homage to Agatha Christie's *AND THEN THERE WERE NONE*.

A featured writer on NPR's acclaimed 'Crime in the City' series and the National Endowment for the Arts weekly podcast, Rachel has also served as a mentor in AWP's Writer to Writer Program and is currently on the board of directors of the Mystery Writers of America. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and daughter.

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)

OVER the TRANSOM

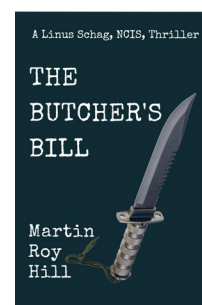
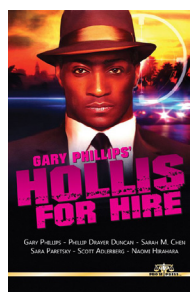
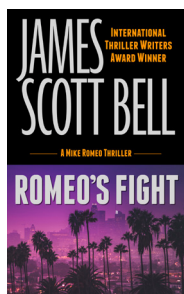
James Scott Bell's fourth Mike Romeo thriller, *ROMEO'S FIGHT*, releases January 7.

Betty Webb, author of Poisoned Pen Press's Lena Jones novels (*DESERT NOIR*, etc.) and the Gunn Zoo mysteries (*THE OTTER OF DEATH*, etc.) has been honored with the title of Writer in Residence by the Arizona Library Association. Thanks to a grant from the state of Arizona, beginning in January, Betty will be teaching creative writing classes for the next six months in the Mesa and Tempe libraries. Betty is also looking forward to the March 2019 release of *DESERT REDEMPTION*, her tenth and final Lena Jones book. It will be replaced by a new series.

Gary Phillips' *HOLLIS FOR HIRE* dropped on December 13. In this rollicking collection L.A. private investigator Nate Hollis, who began in comics, is put through the paces in cases that deposit him in a harsh Chicago winter, traversing a gentrifying New York, hunting a missing dentist, to uncovering secrets long buried in original short stories by Grand Master Sara Paretsky, Edgar winner **Naomi Hirahara**, Deadly Ink nominee **Sarah M. Chen**, hardboiled adept Scott Adlerberg, new pulpster Phillip Drayer Duncan and his originator, Gary Phillips—including two reprints by him as well. From Pro Se Productions in print and digital formats.

Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine asked **John Morgan Wilson** to record one of his EQMM stories for its archival podcast series. For reasons of length and style better suited for the ear, John chose "Edward at the Edge," published in 2005. Here's the podcast link, with John's apologies for his gravelly voice: https://www.podomatic.com/podcasts/eqmm/episodes/2018-11-30T11_16_49-08_00.

Martin Roy Hill's thriller, *THE BUTCHER'S BILL*, was named the 2018 winner for adult fiction by the California Indie Author Project. This is the fourth writing award *THE BUTCHER'S BILL* has received. It was also named the 2017 Best Mystery/Suspense Novel by the Best Independent Book Awards, the 2017 Best Suspense/Thriller by the Chanticleer International Book Awards, and received the 2018 Silver Medal for Best Thriller (General) from the Reader's Favorite Book Awards. Martin was also honored as December's Author of the Month by the Friends of the San Diego Public Library.



OVER the TRANSOM

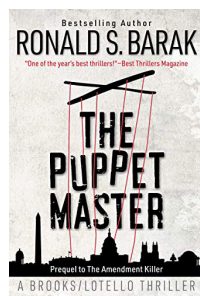
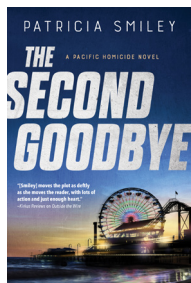
Editor **Eric J. Guignard's** POP THE CLUTCH: THRILLING TALES OF ROCKABILLY, MONSTERS, AND HOTROD HORROR will be released on January 14. Welcome to the cool side of the 1950s, where the fast cars and revved-up movie monsters peel out in the night. Where outlaw vixens and jukebox tramps square off with razorblades and lead pipes. Where rockers rock, cool cats strut, and hot rods roar. It's your ticket to the dark side of American kitsch . . . the fun and frightful side! Additionally, Eric released EXPLORING DARK SHORT FICTION #3: A PRIMER TO NISI SHAWL in December. With commentary by Michael Arnzen, Ph.D., and beautifully illustrated by artist Michelle Prepich, discover Shawl's vast and fantastic writing.

Gay Tolt Kinman's mystery short story, "Greenway Revisited," is set at Agatha Christie's vacation home on the River Dart where an American film crew is documenting a murder—and now another corpse has revisited Greenway. Available on Kindle.

Dean Murphy of *BookReporter* has selected THE SECOND GOODBYE, **Patricia Smiley's** third novel in the Pacific Homicide series, as one of the ten best mystery/thriller titles for 2018.

Ronald S. Barak, bestselling novelist of the highly acclaimed THE AMENDMENT KILLER, is back with a second installment of the Brooks/Lotello thriller series, THE PUPPET MASTER, released December 11: What would YOU do if they took everything you had, your family, your home, your business, your dignity, even—perhaps—your sanity? A vigilante serial killer assassinates three prominent Washington politicians in as many days. Capitol Hill panics. Others whisper they are getting what they deserve. *Best Thrillers Magazine* calls THE PUPPET MASTER "one of the best thrillers of the year."

The dark murder mystery "Ten-Spot Robber" by **Peter DiChellis** appeared in the anthology HARDBOILED (Dead Guns Press, November 2018).



Member APPEARANCES

Jeri Westerson will be signing her medieval mysteries and paranormal romance series Saturday, January 12, at the Hemet Library Comic-On. See her website BookeoftheHidden.com for further details. Small entry fee (funds go to the Library). Books for sale. 300 E Latham Ave, Hemet CA 92543.



In October 2018, the Book Excellence Awards showcased **Lorraine Evanoff**, author of FOLIAGE: AN INTERNATIONAL BANKING SPY THRILLER. [Link here.](#)

Sarah M. Chen will be appearing at The Last Bookstore in DTLA on Thursday, January 31 at 7:30 p.m. with Eric Beetner, Roger Angle, and NY author Gray Basnight to discuss their most recent thriller/mystery books. For more info: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/not-your-average-thriller-4-fresh-angles-on-crime-novels-tickets-53834938751>.

Patricia Smiley (THE SECOND GOODBYE) and **Matt Coyle** (WRONG LIGHT) will be signing their latest novels at the following bookstores:

- Tuesday, January 8, 6:30 p.m., [Murder By The Book](#), 2342 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77005, (713) 524-8597
- Wednesday, January 9, 7 p.m., [Book People](#), 603 N. Lamar, Austin TX 78703, (512) 472-5050
- Thursday, January 17, 7 p.m., Janet Rudolph's Literary Salon, Berkeley CA, RSVP: janet@mysteryreaders.org
- Friday, January 18, 7 p.m., [Book Passage](#), 51 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera CA 94925, (415) 927-0960
- Thursday, January 24, 7 p.m., [Third Place Books](#), Ravenna Store, 6504 – 20th Ave NE, Seattle WA 98115, (206) 525-2347

Matt Coyle will also be signing books at the following locations:

- January 11, 7 p.m., Vromans, Pasadena CA
- January 15, 6:30 p.m., Lincoln Library, Lincoln CA
- January 16, 7 p.m., Books, Inc., Berkeley CA (with Terry Shames)
- January 31, 7 p.m., Book Catapult, San Diego 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.

TIPS ON ESTABLISHING THE 7 ELEMENTS OF A STORY

by **DJ Adamson**

SETTING: It's important that your setting matches the atmosphere of your story. Don't make it heaven if the atmosphere is hellish. Take the readers somewhere they would enjoy going, and you are familiar with. Or take them somewhere really exotic to grab and keep their interest. This might mean more research for you, but it can be a market aspect for the book. Example: MURDER IN BUDAPEST, or in the Lillian Dove Series, because of my familiarity with the state and its citizens, and no one ever goes here, I chose Iowa.

CHARACTERS: The protagonist is your hero or main character. The antagonist is what motivates the protagonist's movements or needs. These two characters you have to know as intimately as your BFF. Do deep interviews with both. Know what they want and need and what stops them from getting it. It is also good to do interviews with other characters as well. The better you know the character, even if a minor one, the greater chance your reader will have to relate to their action or dialog. If you need questions to interview a character, just [email me](#). I am happy to send you some I use.

POINT OF VIEW: Omniscient—think of yourself as God. Detached observer—narrator telling what happened. First person—can be the hardest point of view to write well. A single character is telling the story, “I.”

THEMES: Generally, a good story has three or more (depending on the length). A theme is the major idea the author wants to get across with the book. Minor themes then work to project the major. Example: SLAUGHTER-HOUSE-FIVE, even though it is a book about WWII, it is an anti-war-themed book. The minor themes which give the reader an anti-war opinion are: absurdities of war; freewill-determinism; death; meaninglessness of life; Darwinism vs. Christianity; authority to blame. Okay an easier one. The film and movie WIZARD OF OZ. The major theme is that happiness is where you find it. Minor themes: childhood; self-sufficiency; virtue; friendship; good vs. evil; family; value of a journey.

PLOT: Conflict—the dispute or struggle the story engages in exploring. Inner conflict: Emotional or psychological. In WIZARD OF OZ, Dorothy needs to find a way to be happy. Outer conflict: Physical events. In WIZARD OF OZ, Dorothy needs to complete the journey, destroy the witch. Climax: The peak or apex of the conflict.

DENOUEMENT: This is the resolution or conclusion of the story. For Dorothy, the climax was in defeating the witch and getting to go to the Wizard. Then, in conclusion, she finds the Wizard is of no help and she could have had what she wanted at any time—click those red slippers! In a mystery, the climax is generally finding the solution to the mystery. The denouement is the happy detective after having had such a success.



D. J. Adamson is the author of the Lillian Dove Mystery series, and *OUTRE*, a science fiction-suspense YA which has won three awards. She is the editor of *Le Coeur de l'Artiste*, a newsletter which reviews books, and *Joie de l'Encoute* which reviews audio books. *L'Artiste* offers interviews and blogs from authors speaking on craft, marketing, and the creative mind. She has held positions on the board member of Sisters in Crime Los Angeles and Central Coast, is a member of the Southern California Mystery Writers of America, California Writers Club and Greater Los Angeles Writer's Society.

**PRIVATE EYE WRITERS OF AMERICA
SUBMISSIONS FOR 2019 SHAMUS AWARDS
For Works First Published in the U.S. in 2018**

Following are the categories for the Private Eye Writers of America 2019 Shamus Awards for private eye novels and short stories *first published in the United States in 2018*. The awards will be presented in the fall of 2019.

DEADLINE: Submissions must be postmarked by **March 31, 2019**. No extensions can be given. Shamus Committees will forward their final lists to the Shamus Awards Chair by May 31, 2019.

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 2018 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 2018 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 2018 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 2018, are NOT eligible.

2019 SHAMUS Awards Committees

BEST P.I. SHORT STORY COMMITTEE

Terence Faherty, Chair, 8640 Vintner Way, Indianapolis, IN 46256

John Hoda, 24 Squire Ct., Milford CT 06460

Ken Wishnia, 21 Bridle Path Ln., Port Jefferson NY 11777

BEST FIRST P.I. NOVEL COMMITTEE

Colleen Collins, Chair, 2255 Sheridan Blvd., Unit C #293, Edgewater CA 80214

Dennis Palumbo, 15300 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 402, Sherman Oaks CA 91403

Cheryl Head, 913 12th St. SE, Washington DC 20003

[continued on next page](#)

Shamus Award Submissions, continued**BEST P.I. NOVEL COMMITTEE**

Thomas Donahue, Chair, 72 Gannett Road, Scituate MA 02066

Tracy Clark, 7422 S. Constance Ave., Chicago IL 60649

John Shepphird, 1036 4th St., Hermosa Beach CA 90254

BEST PAPERBACK ORIGINAL P.I. NOVEL

Brad Parks, Chair, 49 Seahorse Lane, Christchurch VA 23031

Michael Wiley, 1905 Largo Rd., Jacksonville FL 32207

Beth Terrell, 2919 Dunmore Dr., Nashville TN 37214

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](#)

Crime CALENDAR

February 9 – [SoCalMWA Book Swap, Los Angeles CA](#)
February 25 – [Tam Luncheon, Los Angeles CA](#)
March 23 – [Murder and Mayhem in Chicago, Chicago IL](#)
March 28–31 – [Left Coast Crime, Vancouver, Canada](#)
May 3–5 – [Malice Domestic, Bethesda MD](#)
June 8–9 – [California Crime Writers Conference, Los Angeles CA](#)
July 9–13 – [ThrillerFest XIV, New York NY](#)
October 31–Nov 3 – [Bouchercon, Dallas TX](#)

The LAST WORD

“She had to be a model or an actress. Her face and body made that the most likely story. Looking like she did, you don’t get very far in this town without some agent or producer trying to make you a star. The problem is it could be as a porn star.”

—James Scott Bell, ROMEO’S HAMMER