

March 2019



The
MARCH

of CRIME

Inside this issue

[President's Rap p 2](#)

[Editor's Corner p 3](#)

[Fresh Blood p 4](#)

[Over the Tansom p 5](#)

[Member Appearances p 7](#)

[Writing Noir p 9](#)

[Shamus Award Subs p 10](#)

[Crime Calendar p 12](#)

[Last Word p 12](#)

Los Angeles Times FESTIVAL OF BOOKS UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

April 13–14
USC Campus
Booth 376

Signing blocks are now available for the MWA booth at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books. All members are welcome.

The festival is Saturday and Sunday, April 13 and 14 at the USC campus. Booth 376. We have one-hour signing blocks each day starting at 10 a.m. with the last block at 4 p.m. If you would like to volunteer to be one of our reps in the booth and sign your books, please email **Terri Nolan** at terrinolanauthor@gmail.com.

We will be sharing our booth with Mystery Ink. To make things easier for the bookseller, Terri will be compiling your book information. When submitting a request for booth time, please provide the following information for your latest title and up to four backlist titles: Author, Title, ISBN, Retail price, Publisher.

If Self-Published: Author, Title, Retail price (no discounts), Consignment program is 60/40. Please arrive early to deliver books to the bookseller.

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to [let us know](#). We look forward to seeing you in April!

California Crime Writers Conference

June 8–9
Culver City

[More Info](#)



The President's Rap Sheet

Glen Erik Hamilton

I have a book coming out later this month, which as most of you know means equal parts celebration and panic. Not blind panic, however. I'll need my eyes clear to write a mass of guest articles, find my way to the kind booksellers on my tour, and especially to finish a belated rewrite of opening chapters on the next book, for which my agent is showing a lot of patience. More lumber for the genre mill.

Book launches are a lot of work, but it's work I'm very fortunate to have. And the best way to celebrate, beyond enjoying appearances and meeting readers, is to keep plugging away at the pages and the career. In an upcoming guest post for the UK blog "Crime Review," I was asked for ten words to describe my working life to date: "Tremendous luck cleverly disguised as dogged perseverance. And vice versa."

For our chapter, March is bookended (ha-ha) by two big events: the Tucson Festival of Books March 2 and 3 and Left Coast Crime in Vancouver BC on the last weekend of the month. If you happen to be traveling to my beloved Northwest for the conference, be sure to join us for our combined MWA SoCal/NorCal/NW event on Thursday night right after the opening ceremonies. Bring a guest and introduce them to the happy chaos whenever our members get together.

April, of course, brings the LA Times Festival of Books. Our esteemed board member Terri Nolan is now taking signing times from authors ([see page one](#) for details), and we always need volunteers to help set up and take down on that weekend. Please come on out to rep yourselves and MWA and to lend a hand!

And finally, a plug for [CCWC](#): We've had great response and it's almost certain that our conference will sell out before the event itself June 8 and 9. That's not a surprise, given the success of past Crime Writer conferences plus the obvious draw of our guests of honor Catriona McPherson and Tess Gerritsen. If you're planning on attending, act soon. It's going to be a great weekend.

All Best,

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](#)
[Rachel Howzell Hall](#)
[Jessica Kaye](#)
[Paul D. Marks](#)
[Terri Nolan](#)
 Jennifer Younger

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)

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

Exciting things are afoot in the West household. This month, the book I spent much of last year editing will be released. It's been almost five years since a book with my name on the cover came out so this is a momentous occasion indeed.

Oh, wait a second. I forgot I was talking to a group of people who are accustomed to books with their names on them coming out. [See Glen's President's Rap, above](#), for just one example. And if you haven't had a book come out yet, it will eventually happen if you keep working at it. It might not happen in precisely the way you imagined it, but it *will* happen.

Like many of you, I'll be traveling to Vancouver at the end of the month for Left Coast Crime. I'm really looking forward to this one—not only is it a chance to re-connect with friends, it's in one of my favorite cities. And with the new book coming out, it'll be nice having something to promote. I'll also be co-hosting a table with **Josh Stallings** at the awards banquet and we'd love to have you at our table. There's likely to be many other SoCalMWA members hosting tables as well, so take your pick! Keep an eye out for the sign-up sheets at registration.

Have a wonderful March.

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)

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.

FRESHBLOOD

SoCalMWA welcomes its new and returning members



Henry Jay Forman

Henry Jay Forman is a mystery writer and emeritus professor at the University of Southern California. Dr. Forman is an award-winning scientist with over two hundred scientific publications and editor of a scientific journal. He has self-published two mysteries. *POISONOUS SCIENCE* involves murders of people involved in the unfair evaluation of a proposal for funding. *THE WRATH OF GRAPES* involves the homicide of a scientist who accuses others of fraud. Steve Jude, a former forensic pathologist turned FBI agent and Cindy Firestone, a detective, solve the crimes. Henry is married to Alexia Forman, a librarian. They have one daughter.



Janet Lynn

Janet Lynn was born in Queens, New York and raised in Long Island, until she was 12 years old. Her family escaped the freezing winters and hurricanes for the warmth and casual lifestyle of Southern California. It has always been her dream to write novels. After many classes and seminars, much blood and sweat her first novel was published, *SOUTH OF THE PIER* in 2011. She has since written four crime fictions, three women fictions and co-authored 5 hard-boiled mysteries. Janet writes the Skylar Drake Murder Mystery series with her husband Will Zeilinger...and yes we are still married!



Reece Michaelson

Reece Michaelson is a professional writer and writing instructor, with an MFA in musical theatre writing/composing. With Saturn Award-winner Rockne S. O'Bannon, she co-created a sci-fi-crime TV pilot bought by ABC/Touchstone. She is also co-creator of a mythological mystery series for middle grade readers. Her lifelong passion is reading and writing cozy mysteries. Reece makes her home in a town north of Santa Barbara that is a quintessential 'cozy' town (minus the murders...so far).



Will Zeilinger

Will Zeilinger writes mystery novels that range from 1950s hard-boiled to contemporary. His short stories have appeared in the anthologies: *HAUNTED TALES: STORIES FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE* and *MURDER U.S.A.* Will has a bachelor's degree in graphic design and worked as an art director, graphic designer, illustrator, and photographer for more than 35 years. Before launching a writing career, the only writing he did was advertising copy. He lives in Southern California where he co-writes the Skylar Drake Mystery series with his wife Janet Lynn, and is a member of Sisters in Crime/LA and California Writers Club, Long Beach.

OVER the TRANSOM

Lee Goldberg's new novel, *KILLER THRILLER*, the sequel to his *Washington Post* bestseller *TRUE FICTION*, came out last month. His next novel, *LOST HILLS*, is set in Southern California and is the first in a new series. It's now available for pre-order for release this fall.

Maria Alexander presents a real-life mystery on March 5, when Cemetery Dance Publications releases her first short fiction collection, *12 TALES LIE | 1 TELLS TRUE*. While twelve of the tales are fictitious, one creepy story is entirely real. Guessing which one is half the fun. Is it the man who resurrects his abusive father for revenge that goes awry? The woman who brings home a birthday balloon inflated with hellion instead of helium? Or the couple that accidentally buys a home sitting at The Crossroads, where the "H" in "HOA" has a new meaning? Read and decide for yourself.

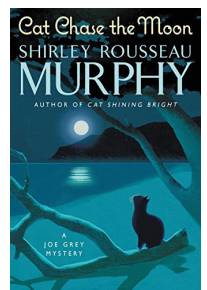
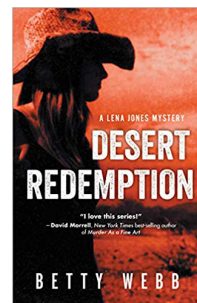
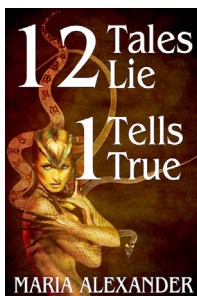
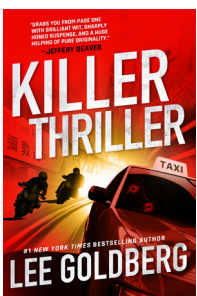
MURDER-A-GO-GO'S: CRIME FICTION INSPIRED BY THE MUSIC OF THE GO-GO'S, edited by **Holly West**, will be released by Down & Out Books on March 25. With a foreword by Go-Go's co-founder Jane Wiedlin and stories by twenty-five talented authors, including **Lisa Brackmann, Craig Faustus Buck, Stephen W. Buehler, Sarah M. Chen, S.W. Lauden, Nadine Nettmann, Travis Richardson, Josh Stallings,** and **Wendall Thomas**, *MURDER-A-GO-GO'S* is an all-star crime fiction anthology inspired by one of the most iconic bands of the eighties and beyond.

Paul D. Marks's story "Fade Out on Bunker Hill," the third in his L.A.-set *Ghosts of Bunker Hill* series, appears in the March/April issue of *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*. If you like the movie "Sunset Boulevard," you might enjoy this story.

DESERT REDEMPTION, **Betty Webb's** 10th (and final) Lena Jones mystery, releases on March 12. The book has already gained excellent pre-print reviews from *Publishers Weekly* ("Electrifying"), *Booklist*, and other media, as well as a host of five star reviews on GoodReads. *DESERT REDEMPTION* will be Betty's first book to be published under the dual imprint of Sourcebooks and Poisoned Pen Press.

The crime story "See No Evil" by **Peter DiChellis** appeared in noir 'zine *Retreats from Oblivion: The Journal of NoirCon*.

Shirley Rousseau Murphy's *CAT CHASE THE MOON* will be released on April 23.



OVER the TRANSOM

Anne Cleeland's next Doyle & Acton adventure, *MURDER IN JUST CAUSE*, will be available early March. To join the notifications list, please visit annecleeland.com.

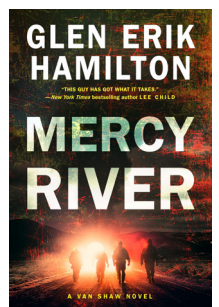
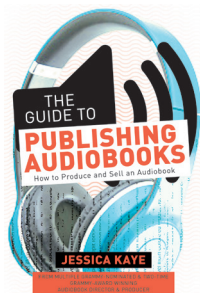
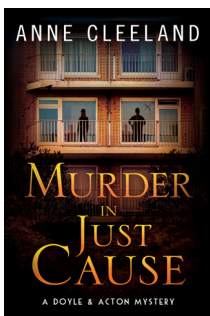
THE GUIDE TO PUBLISHING AUDIOBOOKS by **Jessica Kaye** (Writers Digest Books) will be released on March 5. The producer/director of multiple Grammy Award-winning and nominated audiobooks tells you everything you need to know about audiobook publishing, from securing audio rights, casting the narrator, what happens in the studio, all the way through distribution. A glossary and sample contracts are included. The audiobook edition is narrated by the author, of course!

August Norman's debut thriller, *COME AND GET ME: A Caitlin Bergman Novel*, will be released by Crooked Lane Books in April 2019. [Click here](#) for related appearances.

In *DROWNED UNDER*, **Wendall Thomas's** sequel to the Lefty and Macavity nominated *LOST LUGGAGE*, Brooklyn travel agent Cyd Redondo's former in-laws go missing on an Australian cruise and she helicopters Down Under, only to stumble over a dead body and a desperate plot to save the world's last Tasmanian tiger. Available March 19.

Martin Roy Hill's time-bending mystery story "The Touch of Time" was selected for inclusion in *Crimson Streets's* latest anthology, *In the Newspaper and Other Tales*. Professor Lawrence Hadley has a most peculiar talent. He can see the past by simply touching an object. In "The Touch of Time," Hadley is asked an unusual favor by three Englishmen: Find out which one of them is the descendant of Jack the Ripper. <https://.amazon.com/Crimson-Streets-Newspaper-Other-Tales/dp/0998689866/>

Glen Erik Hamilton's fourth thriller, *MERCY RIVER*, will be released by William Morrow on March 12. When a friend is arrested on suspicion of murder, Van Shaw journeys to the remote Oregon town of Mercy River—and into a raucous annual gathering of hundreds of Special Operations veterans—to help his fellow Ranger. Van is quickly trapped in a dangerous labyrinth involving smuggled opioids, deadly family secrets, and ruthless mercenaries.



Member APPEARANCES



Lee Goldberg and Barbara Peters

Lee Goldberg hit the book tour trail to promote his new novel, *KILLER THRILLER*. His stops included Poisoned Pen in Scottsdale, where he was interviewed by store owner Barbara Peters.

Christina Hoag will be the keynote speaker on her writing and journalism career at the Panhellenic Alumnae South Bay Association's 52nd Annual Scholarship Luncheon at the Palos Verdes Golf Club, 3301 Via Campesina, Palos Verdes Estates, on March 23 at 11 a.m.

Sheila Lowe will be speaking at the Cypress Women's Club luncheon on March 6, detailing her tortuous route to publication via a career as a forensic handwriting examiner. She was recently interviewed by *InTouch* magazine about Meghan Markle's handwriting and an NBC radio show about Kurt Cobain's suicide note.

Betty Webb serves as Writer-In-Residence at several Arizona libraries but will be touring Southern California in April to promote *DESERT REDEMPTION*, the tenth (and final) Lena Jones mystery. She'll also talk about her bittersweet emotions upon ending the popular series. Expect visits to Mysterious Galaxy (April 15), Book Carnival (April 16), and Mystery Ink (April 17).



Holly West will appear with Alison Arngrim (TV's Nellie Oleson) to celebrate the release of *MURDER-A-GO-GO'S: CRIME FICTION INSPIRED BY THE MUSIC OF THE GO-GO'S* on April 17 at 7 p.m. at The Last Bookstore. Contributors to the anthology **Sarah M. Chen, S.W. Lauden, Travis Richardson, Josh Stallings, and Wendall Thomas** will also be there to sign books, play some 80s trivia, and to celebrate the music of the Go-Go's. Secure your place at this event by pre-buying the book [here](#). Note: Net proceeds from the sale of this book benefit Planned Parenthood.


Andrew Kaplan will be presenting at the Cathedral City Public Library on Wednesday, February 20 at 6 p.m. on the topic: "James Bond, *HOMELAND*, the CIA, the KGB and other spies I've known."

The Friends of the
Cathedral City Library
Invite You To

**A Presentation by
New York Times
Best Selling Author**

ANDREW KAPLAN



"James Bond, Homeland, the CIA, the KGB, and
Other Spies & Terrorists I Have Known"

Mr. Kaplan is the author of two notable spy thriller book series: "Scorpio" and "Homeland", the prequel novels to the award-winning "Homeland" television series. A former soldier, journalist and war correspondent, his standalone books include the NY Times bestseller "Dragon Fire", "Hour of the Assassins" and "War of the Ravens", cited by the American Library Association as one of the 100 Best Books ever written about WWII. His television and screenwriting career includes the James Bond movie, "Goldeneye".

He will be recounting his experiences involving Israeli Military Intelligence dealing with terrorists in the Middle East as well as with the CIA and the KGB.

Wednesday, February 20, 2018 6:00pm - 7:30pm
Cathedral City Library Community Room
3320 Date Palm Drive
760-328-4262
Admission is Free

Member APPEARANCES

On Saturday, March 16, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., **Jeri Westerson** will be selling and signing books at the San Bernardino Arts Fest. Over 100 artists, bands and performing artists! Jeri will be in the Library Section. San Manuel Stadium (in the parking lot), 280 South E Street, San Bernardino, CA. Free general public parking will be available at the San Manuel Stadium parking lot. Entrances are located along E Street and G Streets. SBCity.org/SBArtsFest

August Norman will launch his debut thriller, *COME AND GET ME: A Caitlin Bergman Novel*, in Orange County on Saturday, April 6 at 4 p.m. at the Mystery Ink Bookstore in Huntington Beach, and in Los Angeles on Saturday, April 13 at 2 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Burbank. For more info visit augustnorman.com.

Glen Erik Hamilton will be appearing as part of the launch tour of *MERCY RIVER*, his fourth Van Shaw thriller, at Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Scottsdale, AZ on March 16 at 2 p.m. (with Brad Parks), and at the University Bookstore's main branch in Seattle on March 27 at 6:00 p.m. A full list of appearances on Glen's tour is at glenerikhamilton.com/events.

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](#)

WRITING NOIR: THE DARK SIDE

by **Barbara DeMarco-Barrett**

Originally published in longer form in THE WRITER.

When my short story, “Crazy for You,” was published in Orange County Noir (Akashic), my mother in law asked: “What is noir, anyway?”

She reads mysteries in which light triumphs over darkness and good wins out in the end.

“Well,” I began, “in noir, the main characters want better things for themselves, but try as they might, they just keep making wrong choices and things go from bad to worse.”

“Oh, like real life,” she said, and we both laughed.

Two things separate noir from the rest of the mystery-crime genre: a protagonist lacking a moral center and an unhappy ending. “Noir is about us acting on our baser instincts, so we can’t help but be fascinated,” says crime writer **Gary Phillips**. “There’s a vicarious thrill that reminds us we could be one of the principals in a noir story, but we know we’d get burned.”

Like all good fiction, noir incorporates fictional techniques including metaphor, simile and narrative. But two elements that are perhaps more noticeable, and important, in noir: dialogue and plot. In noir, dialogue is terse, snappy, and vital for moving along the story. Setting, too: The well-chosen word or phrase does much to paint a scene, create a mood. The best noir writers make us feel the sun’s heat, smell the beer-washed bar, see the dark, musty basement.

Storyline is a biggie. “Writing noir mirrors the storyline; you are totally in the moment,” says **Naomi Hirahara**, author of the award-winning Mas Arai mystery series. “In contrast, when I tackle my mystery series, I have to pay attention to inserting red herrings and effectively braiding the problem-solving elements of the plot.”

For fiction writers, plot can be challenging. On my radio show, “Writers on Writing,” crime writers have said time and again they turned from literary fiction to mystery fiction because in their novels, nothing ever happened, but in crime fiction, plot is inherent.

Personal experiences can find a place in noir. Hirahara used an experience at a Koreatown spa in Los Angeles to write her short story, “Number 19,” published in LOS ANGELES NOIR. “I had heard so much about the salt scrub and was looking forward to soaking in the tubs and getting a scrub down,” says Hirahara. “But the assembly-line nature, with the masseuses wearing black bras and underpants, haunted me, their anonymity in a place where the rest of us were totally naked. I felt for the workers and attempted to engage in conversations. I even had a nightmare about the experience! I knew that I would have to eventually write about the spa, and the noir format worked perfectly.”

Noir appeared in the 1920s as a reaction to the cozy mysteries’ popularity. It soon distinguished itself from detective stories with its fast-paced storytelling, gritty scenarios, and use of sex as a means of advancing the plot. In the 1940s, film noir emerged, and in the 1950s noir fiction saw its heyday. But it’s back.

“Now with e-books, websites and e-zines for short stories and serialized novellas, it seems there’s some lively venues for the stuff,” Phillips says.

[continued on page 11](#)

**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 from previous page](#)

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

WRITING NOIR

[continued from page 9](#)

Yet it can be difficult finding a traditional publisher for your noir novel.

“I don’t think traditional publishing outlets know how to find a large audience for noir or dark fiction,” Hirahara says. “This is where new imprints and small presses have filled this gap. Once a noir writer is known and has a large following, a big publisher can then come in and successfully widen the author’s readership.”

One publisher that has helped get noir back on the literary map is the Brooklyn-based publisher Akashic Books. Its noir anthologies based on specific cities started with BROOKLYN NOIR in 2004.

“Mystery bookstores, publications, and readers are a very enthusiastic bunch,” says managing editor Johanna Ingalls, “and have been very supportive of the series from the start. For us the market for our noir books has been quite strong and it has often been a bit easier to sell mystery/crime fiction than some of our literary fiction.”

Consider giving noir a chance. As you lurk in the shadows, you may be surprised at how much you like it.

Barbara DeMarco-Barrett has stories in Orange County Noir and USA Noir: Best of the Akashic Noir Series and hosts Writers on Writing, a weekly radio show on KUCI-FM. Her website is penonfire.com.

A green banner with a ribbon-like shape at the top and bottom. The word "Crime" is written in a cursive font, and "CALENDAR" is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

Crime
CALENDAR

March 2–3 – [Tucson Festival of Books, Tucson, AZ](#)
March 23 – [Murder and Mayhem in Chicago, Chicago IL](#)
March 28–31 – [Left Coast Crime, Vancouver, Canada](#)
April 13–14 – [LA Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles, CA](#)
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](#)

A green banner with a ribbon-like shape at the top and bottom. The word "The" is written in a cursive font, and "LAST WORD" is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

The
LAST WORD

“It’s easy to follow a car once you’ve affixed a GPS tracker onto its passenger-side wheel-well, so I could have slipped several cars back while following the Civic north along State Route 79 to Apache Junction, but what would be the fun in that? ”

—Betty Webb, DESERT VENGEANCE