



The MARCH

of CRIME

Inside this issue

- [President's Rap p 2](#)
- [Editor's Corner p 3](#)
- [Fresh Blood p 3](#)
- [Over the Transom p 4](#)
- [Member Appearances p 6](#)
- [Crime Calendar p 7](#)
- [Last Word p 7](#)

Happy Holidays!

SoCalMWA wishes you a happy and peaceful holiday season.

See you in 2020!



SinC/LA AND MWA SOCAL PRESENT
the

*Third Killer
Holiday Party*

**More Food Wine and Desserts
Plus Trivia and Prizes**

Once again, Sisters in Crime/LA and Mystery Writers of America SoCal are joining forces to triple the holiday cheer!

**December 8, 2019
12:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

**SOUTH PASADENA LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM
1115 EL CENTRO STREET
SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91030**

We have caterers bringing the main dishes, potatoes, and salad - You bring the starters, beverages, and desserts! RSVP and sign up to bring food and beverages by clicking on the links below.

Also, in the tradition of holiday giving, we will be collecting donations for WriteGirl and nonperishable food items for the Westside Food Bank!



[Click here to RSVP for yourself and your plus one](#)

[Click here to sign up to bring your favorite appetizer or dessert](#)



The President's Rap Sheet

Glen Erik Hamilton

This is my last Rap Sheet, and as it happens, I'm writing it on Thanksgiving Day. Sometimes the prompts come easy.

Let me start by giving credit where it's due, to our outstanding board of directors (look to the right to see 'em listed) and to the dozens of volunteers who worked countless hours to create this year's events. Between CCWC, luncheons, parties, convention work, and seminars, nary a month passed without some fun for our chapter. My sincere gratitude to you all for your friendship and your dedication to our wonderful community.

I'd picked the theme for this final newsletter a while back. It's a maxim I've mentioned before: Celebrate every victory in your writing journey, no matter how small it may seem. Every chapter you complete, every note of encouragement from a beta reader. Not allowing yourself to feel successful until you've cleared that next hurdle—there's always another hurdle—is a losing proposition. Life's biggest victories rarely feel as large as we imagine when they finally arrive, so why not treat every achievement with the value it deserves?

As I said, I had planned this topic months ago, but the past couple of weeks put the rule to the test. I received word that my publisher in the UK has decided not to proceed with the Van Shaw series at this time. They like me and they really like the books, but numbers are numbers and the sales of the past two novels haven't met the mark.

I was deep blue about the news, no question, but there was no time to wallow. Rewrites on Book Five are due soon. The day job demands its usual end-of-year push, and our family also has a lot going on this season. I got back to work.

And then a bit of reassurance arrived in the mail: the contracts to publish my first book in the Czech Republic. The advance isn't exactly a truckload of koruna, but so what? We opened a bottle of wine and started dreaming of a visit to Prague. Or Istanbul, or Kyoto. If I'm not selling in England, at least I might be big in Japan someday.

We've chosen a wonderful but challenging profession. And as if to balance the hardships we've been gifted with a community of supportive fellow writers. Misery may love company, but happiness grows exponentially when shared. So here are my final executive orders as SoCal President: Be good to yourself. Be excellent to each other. And write on, dudes.

All Best and Happy Holidays,
Glen

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

Board of Directors

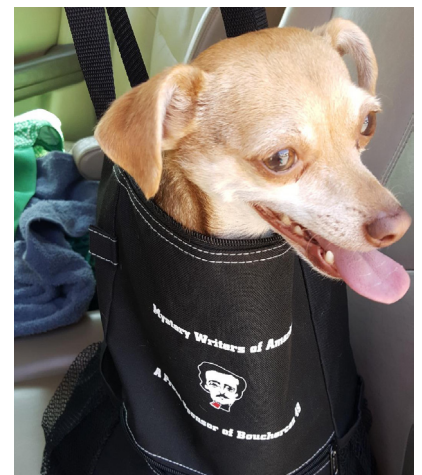
[Shannon Baker](#)
[Lisa Brackmann](#)
[Ellen Byron](#)
[Rachel Howzell Hall](#)
[Jessica Kaye](#)
[Paul D. Marks](#)
[Terri Nolan](#)

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>



Una the MWA dog



The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

It doesn't seem possible, but the publication of this month's "The March of Crime" marks the end of another year. Not only that, we're finishing out another decade. I don't know about you, but my anticipation and excitement about the future is often at odds with the dread I feel when I contemplate the swift passage of time.

This writing year brought a few changes for me. I edited my first anthology. I re-committed to my writing and set up habits that have helped me achieve some important goals. I also broke ties with my agent.

That last one feels like a biggie. And it might be. While I'm confident I made the right decision (and actually, it was more or less a mutual one), I also know there might be some pang of regret when I set about querying again. As Glen notes above in his Prez Rap, we've chosen a challenging profession. Everything appears to change so quickly, though time seems to stand still when you're waiting for the publication date of your next novel to come or a reply from your dream agent.

So I'll walk into 2020 with a fresh slate, ready for me to scribble all over it. I love that feeling but also know it's up to me to make the best of the opportunity to start over. I'm definitely up for the challenge.

I'd like to end this year by thanking SoCalMWA's board, especially **Glen Erik Hamilton** and **Sarah M. Chen**, for their hard work. Besides the obvious efforts they both put in to make this chapter great, they also serve as my proof readers for every issue. They help me look a little more on-the-ball, and any errors that might still slip through the net are mine alone.

I'd also like to thank SoCalMWA's membership for inspiring me with their news, accomplishments, and dedication to a job that's exceedingly rewarding but not always fun. We're all fortunate to belong to such a supportive community, and I genuinely look forward to reading your announcements every month when I ask for content.

When I started writing my first novel in 2009, I never realized what a wonderful world it would open up to me beyond the writing itself. I've made sincere and lasting friendships in this community during the last eleven years and many of them started in SoCalMWA.

I wish you all much happiness and success in the new year and the new decade.

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 the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group**

groups.io/g/MWA-SOCAL
(members only)

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>

FRESHBLOOD

SoCalMWA welcomes its new members

Shea E. Butler



Shea E. Butler is an award-winning filmmaker for her short films, screenplays and web series. She's been a director in Ryan Murphy's Half Foundation Directing Fellowship and Warner Bros. Television Director's Workshop. She recently sold a short story, "Giving Up The Ghost," to *Mystery Weekly* Magazine. Born in Cairo, Egypt to American parents living abroad, Shea is a certified scuba diver, an avid horsewoman and has traveled extensively throughout the world, her most recent trip being a horseback riding safari in Botswana. Nothing like being charged by a pair of lions to get the creative juices flowing! thebutlerdiditproductions.com

Patrick Coleman



Patrick Coleman's first novel, *THE CHURCHGOER*, was published this year by Harper Perennial. His writing has appeared in *Crime Reads*, *Hobart*, *ZYZZYVA*, and *Zócalo Public Square*, among others. His poetry debut, *FIRE SEASON* (Tupelo Press) won the Berkshire Prize, and he edited and contributed to *THE ART OF MUSIC* (Yale University Press), an exhibition catalogue. He earned an MFA from Indiana University and a BA from the UC Irvine, and is the Assistant Director of the Arthur C. Clarke Center for Human Imagination at UC San Diego. He lives in Ramona, California. You can reach him through patrickcoleman.org.

Cyndra Genert



B.J. Graf

B.J. Graf lives in Los Angeles with her family and a menagerie of four-footers. "Deus ex Machina" is her fourth published short story. Earlier stories include "Sandman," "Blood Shadows," and "Shikata Ga Nai." Her literary agent, Sandy Lu, is currently shopping her near-future-mystery-novel, *GENESYS Rx*, featuring the same detectives as three of her short stories. B.J. is also an Adjunct Professor who teaches Film Studies and Classical Mythology at Pepperdine, UCLA, and CSUN. Previously, she worked as V.P. of Development for Abilene Pictures where they produced several features and television projects including *Primal Fear*, *Frequency*, *Fallen*, *Fracture*, and



Donald Prime

Donald Prime is a retired pediatric nephrologist, living in San Clemente, California. He grew up in Palo Alto, attended medical school at Tulane University in New Orleans, and completed post-graduate medical education at USC and then Stanford University. When not reading or writing, he edits videos. His first novel, currently under revision, is a murder mystery and psychological drama with a dark twist at the end. After thirty years of saving lives in his former profession, he finds it great fun to end them on the pages of his stories.



Halley Sutton

Halley Sutton holds an MFA in Writing from Otis College of Art and Design. She lives in Playa del Rey and spends her free time chasing Hollywood noir trivia. Her work has appeared in *CrimeReads*. *THE LADY UPSTAIRS*, her first novel, is forthcoming from Putnam in 2020. Find her on Twitter: [@halley_sutton](https://twitter.com/halley_sutton).

OVER the TRANSOM

Shannon Baker is excited to announce that her dark suspense, *THE DESERT BEHIND ME* (Severn River Publishing, May 2019) won the thriller/suspense category in the New Mexico/Arizona Book Awards.

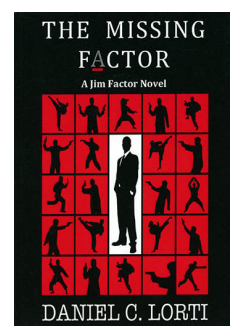
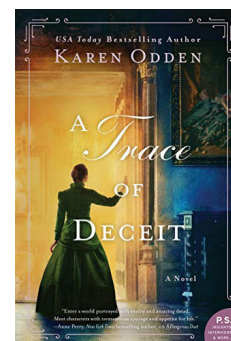
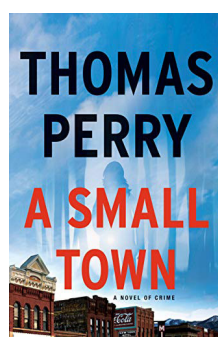
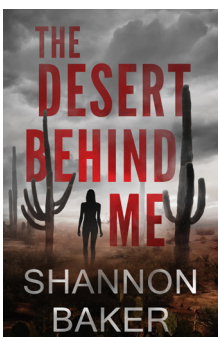
Jeri Westerson announces the release of her holiday humorous short story, “Last Pole on the Left: A Santa Noir.” Available now for 99 cents in ebook only on Amazon, Google Play, and Smashwords (which includes Nook, Kobo, and Apple).

Thomas Perry’s latest novel, *A SMALL TOWN*, will be published on December 17 by Mysterious Press/Grove Atlantic.

All eight novels in **John Morgan Wilson’s** Benjamin Justice mystery series will be brought back as ebooks by ReQueered Tales, starting next year with a revised 25th Anniversary Edition of *SIMPLE JUSTICE*, John’s Edgar winner for Best First. The series has also been nominated for six Lambda Literary Awards, winning three times. Meanwhile, film and Broadway producer Jean Doumanian (*Galveston, August: Osage County*) has taken a third option for dramatic rights to the Justice character and series.

In *A TRACE OF DECEIT*, the third Victorian mystery from **Karen Odden**, Annabel Rowe is a student at the prestigious Slade Art School in 1875 London. Her brother Edwin, a brilliant forger, was recently released from prison and swears he’s reformed. But when he is murdered, Annabel longs to know whether he’d been honest with her—and why someone wanted him dead. Annabel joins Scotland Yard Inspector Matthew Hallam (from *A DANGEROUS DUET*) to trace an investigation into a past that is rife with heartbreak and secrets someone will kill to keep. Forthcoming on December 17, from William Morrow. Additionally, Karen’s second book, *A DANGEROUS DUET* (William Morrow, 2018) won the Historical Fiction Award at the New Mexico/Arizona Coop annual awards banquet on November 9.

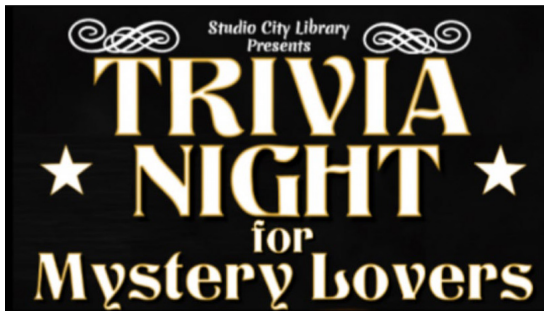
Daniel C. Lorti’s *THE MISSING FACTOR* was selected as a winner in the [Beverly Hills Book Awards](#) in the Action/Adventure category.



Member APPEARANCES

Jeri Westerson will be at Book Carnival on Sunday, December 15 at 3 p.m. in a joint event with author **Mike Befeler** with his Harold and Bella Paranormal Mystery series. Jeri will be bringing *THE DAEMON DEVICE* and they will talk paranormal! Free raffle. 348 S Tustin St, Orange.

Laurie Stevens and **Connie DiMarco** will be guest authors at the Studio City Library's "Trivia Night for Mystery Lovers" on Thursday, December 12 at 6 p.m. 12511 Moorpark St., Studio City. Test your expertise or simply come and have fun!



Matt Coyle will be on the road in December for the release of *LOST TOMORROWS*, the sixth novel in his award-winning Rick Cahill crime series. December 3 at Warwick's in La Jolla, December 6 at Book Passage in Corte Madera, December 7 at Book Carnival Orange, and December 10 at Poisoned Pen in Scottsdale, AZ.

Tori Eldridge will speak at the Bruggemeyer Library about mixed-race culture, Chinese pioneers in Hawaii, and the inspiration for her debut novel, *THE NINJA DAUGHTER*, an action thriller about a Chinese-Norwegian modern-day ninja in Los Angeles on December 15. Tori's slide-show presentation is sponsored by the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and the Friends of the Monterey Park Library and will include historical information and personal anecdotes. For more information, visit: [CHSSC Book Talk: The Ninja Daughter](#).



(L to R) Moderator Jessica Kaye interviews guests Richard Brewer, Jeffrey Kafer, and Nicol Zanzarella at the November SoCalMWA luncheon "Audiobook Production by the Pros."

Crime CALENDAR

December 8 – [SoCalMWA/SinCLA Holiday Party, Los Angeles, CA](#)

Stay tuned for more great events in 2020!



Left Coast Crime
San Diego
March 12-15, 2020

Left Coast Crime is currently accepting registrations (and panel ideas from authors) for its 30th anniversary conference to be held in the Marriott Mission Valley (easy to reach by train, with a trolley stop at the back of hotel).

700 mystery fans and authors will meet and discuss books.
Register by end of December (\$215) if you want to be on a panel or be a moderator.
Remember the debut author breakfast, author speed dating,
and other opportunities to network.

More info at <http://www.leftcoastcrime.org/2020/>.
Contact Kim.lcc2020@gmail.com with any questions.

The LAST WORD

“Fighting is easy. Tranquility is hard.”

—Tori Eldridge, THE NINJA DAUGHTER