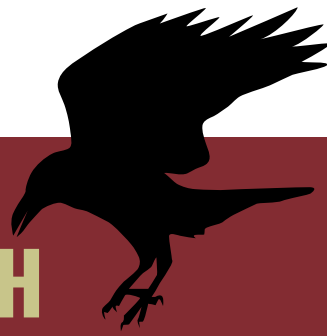


JANUARY 2023

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



Question from the Board:

WHAT PROGRAMMING WOULD YOU LIKE?

SoCalMWA hosted several events and meetings in 2022. Now, looking at 2023, our board wants your feedback. What kind of programming would you like to see in the coming year? What's on your programming wish list?

SoCalMWA's board will meet in January and they'd love your input. Click on this link and let them know your top suggestions.



What's inside

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PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET



Happy New Year

BY TRAVIS RICHARDSON



Happy New Year!

2022 is over and we're going into 2023. I thought it might be good to do a quick review of everything that SoCalMWA did last year. The beginning of 2022 was a bit tricky as it looked like we were coming out of the Delta strain of COVID only to have Omicron show up and cause havoc. **Holly West** and **Sarah M. Chen** led a series of morning and afternoon writing sprints at the beginning of the year. We had online interviews with Private Detective Mike Spencer about the reality of life as a PI and Professor Dr. Drea Letamendi regarding character development psychology. You can find both talks [here](#)

2023

We also had booths at the Tucson Festival of Books in March and the *LA Times* Festival of Books in April. SoCalMWA also co-sponsored the opening ceremony at Left Coast Crime in Albuquerque with NorCalMWA. In May we had our first in-person meeting with **Les Klinger** giving a talk about the origins of Sherlock Holmes along with an escape room designed by our VP, **Jennifer Younger**, and **Laura Brennan**. In July we had a book swap and yummy tacos at board member **Nancy Cole Silverman's** house. In September, former CIA paramilitary officer **Adam Sikes** gave a talk that unfortunately, we could not record this meeting due to potential security concerns, and in October **Bill Fitzhugh's** legendary gumbo party was resurrected in October. Finally, in December we had a joint holiday celebration with Sisters in Crime Los Angeles at the historic Woman's Club of Hollywood.

If you have not signed up for the California Crime Writer's Conference to take your writing to the next level, you can still take advantage of the early bird rate [here](#).

Travis

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Are You Ready?

BY HOLLY WEST



It's 2023. Crazy, right? I'm happy to be here, but sometimes I like to revisit the past in order to prepare for the future.

Yesterday, I listened to the "Magnolia" film soundtrack, which I played on repeat during the mid-90s. It might as well be my own personal soundtrack for that time in my life. A few of the songs are punches to the gut, sending me straight back to a time when I always felt like I was on shaky ground. Living paycheck to paycheck, feeling lonely, misunderstood, and on the edge of a breakdown. Aimee Mann's lyrics and voice resonated so strongly for me back then.

Hearing the songs now, I thought about the emotions they brought up, wondering if I could use these themes somewhere in my own writing. Making our writing evocative is a difficult task, and Mann's lyrics are nothing if not resonant with misery, heartbreak, and disillusion. But I realized that these themes no longer resonate for me like they did when I was in my 20s. At 54, I seemed to have settled into my life a little bit.



Maybe reflecting on the past is an excellent way to ready oneself for moving forward—nostalgia can be intoxicating but it can fool us into believing our best times are behind us. The here and now is what really matters. So, to answer my own question—Am I ready? I sure as hell am. Bring it, 2023.

Happy New Year, SoCalMWA friends!

Holly

The March of Crime

The March of Crime is the newsletter of the Southern 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)

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New York, NY 10001
t. 212.888.8171
mwa@mysterywriters.org
<http://mysterywriters.org>



CCWC 2023 Program Advertising

JUNE 10-11, 2023

Reaching readers is a cinch this year if you buy an ad in the official program of the California Crime Writers Conference coming up June 10 & 11 in Culver City. A joint event presented by SoCalMWA and Sisters in Crime Los Angeles, the CCWC is already proving to be a blockbuster. With two hundred attendees, keynote speakers Deborah Crombie and Rachel Howzell Hall, plus agents and publishers, your ad is an excellent opportunity to promote your books and business. For details, contact [Edward Arno](#) or [Judith Mathison](#). For payment use [PayPal](#).

1/8 page
3.75" w x 2.5"h
\$50



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\$100



Full page
7.75" w x 10"h
\$150



Full page inside cover or
back page
7.75" w x 10"h
\$199

California Crime Writers Conference

REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN

The California Crime Writers Conference is a joint production of the Sisters in Crime/Los Angeles and SoCalMWA and has been presented every other year since 2009.

The 2023 conference will take place Saturday, June 10– Sunday, June 11.

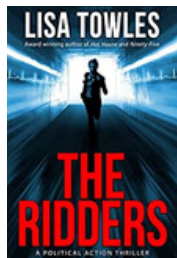
GUESTS OF HONOR



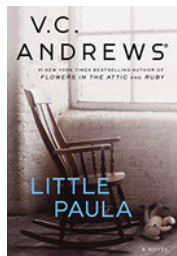
Rachel Howzell Hall



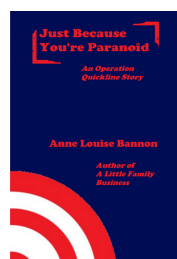
Deborah Crombie



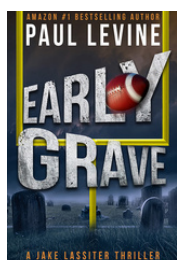
Jonathan J. Brown, author of The Lou Crasher series, narrated THE RIDDERS, by Lisa Towles. (November 28, 2022). Available on Audible. Lisa Towles claims she loves the performance! Brown is available for more books!



Andrew Neiderman/V.C. Andrews, as consulting producer, is completing the fourth adaptation of the V.C. Andrews Cutler series to air on Lifetime in July. Neiderman's current V.C. Andrews novel is the first of two in a series, EDEN'S CHILDREN. The second, LITTLE PAULA, will be published February 7.



Anne Louise Bannon's ninth book in the Operation Quickline series, JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE PARANOID is now available: Sid and Lisa are headed for the shock of their lives—assuming family doesn't make them crazy, their business lets them, and the person gunning for them doesn't succeed.



Paul Levine's "Jake Lassiter" series concludes with EARLY GRAVE (Herald Square), the fifteenth outing for the linebacker-turned-lawyer. An aging Lassiter sues to abolish high school football as a dangerous "public nuisance" and becomes the most hated man in Miami. "An extraordinary hero stars in a legal tale as believable as it is riveting." — *Kirkus Reviews*



Rob Osler's novel, DEVIL'S CHEW TOY, was selected by CRIME READS as a Best Traditional Mystery for 2022 and The BOLO Books Review as a best (debut) mystery for 2022.



Matt Witten's thriller KILLER STORY comes out from Oceanview Publishing on January 17. An idealistic journalist launches a true-crime podcast to investigate the murder of an alt-right YouTuber she loved like a little sister, despite their political differences. Matt was also hired by Hallmark to write a movie based on A DARK AND STORMY MURDER by Julia Buckley.



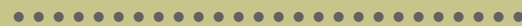
The paperback edition of **Rex Pickett's** crime mystery THE ARCHIVIST will be released on January 10 by Blackstone Publishing. The hardcover, ebook, and audiobook were released in November 2022, also by Blackstone Publishing.



Rosemary and Larry Mild announce their new novel: ON THE RAILS, THE ADVENTURES OF BOXCAR BERTIE. What's a woman to do? Bertie Patchet has just graduated from college in New England to become a grammar school teacher. But it's 1936, and the country is in the throes of the Great Depression. Bertie dresses like a man and turns to hopping railway boxcars to escape to better opportunities.

Mike Befeler signed a contract with Mystic Publishers for his historical mystery novel, MURDER IN THE MUSEO KIRCHERIANO. A dead body found in Fr. Athanasius Kircher's museum of unusual artifacts in Rome in 1656 leads to a web of intrigue. Using his eclectic and eccentric skills, Fr. Kircher teams up with Queen Christina of Sweden to solve the mysterious death.

APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Barbara Pronin, whose latest mystery, *THE MINER'S CANARY*, was released in October, will be a special guest speaker at the Southern California Writer's Conference in San Diego on President's Weekend, February 17–19. She will also lead a workshop on the lively topic of "Pantsers vs. Plotters." Conference information/registration at writersconference.com/SD.

Jeri Westerson is launching her newest Tudor mystery series, *COURTING DRAGONS*: Friday, January 6, 7 p.m., Vroman's, 695 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena. Saturday, January 7, 2 p.m., Book Carnival, 348 S. Tustin St., Orange. Friday, January 13, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. PT, [Tattered Page Book Club](#). Saturday, January 14, 12–4 p.m., Barnes & Nobel, 40570 Winchester Rd, Temecula. Saturday, January 21, 2 p.m. PT, [YouTube Live Book Launch](#). Wednesday, January 25, 6:30 p.m., El Segundo Library Book Club, 111 W Mariposa Ave, El Segundo. Saturday, January 28, 12–2 p.m. PT, [Murder and Tea Mystery Book Club](#).

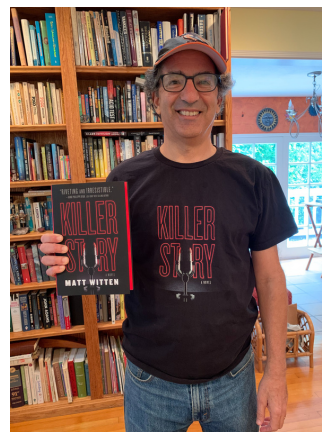
Sheila Lowe is the scheduled reader at the SinC/LA meeting at the Hollywood Women's Club on January 8. On January 17 she'll speak at the Ventura Hillside Book Club. She'll be discussing *THE LAST DOOR*, book #3 in the *Beyond the Veil* paranormal suspense series. This terrific book club once invited Sheila to visit them on Halloween, when everyone dressed up as characters from her book, *WHAT SHE SAW*. www.sheilalowebooks.com

Mystery Ink Events in January 2023: (7552 Warner Avenue #101, Huntington Beach)

Saturday, January 21, 1 p.m.: **Matt Witten**, *KILLER STORY*
Off-site location: Fernhill Country Club, Graham & Warner, Huntington Beach. About *KILLER STORY*: An idealistic journalist launches a true-crime podcast investigating the murder of an alt-right YouTuber but when her just-barely-tactics backfire, she must fight to get her own life back... and catch a killer.

Saturday, January 28, 1 p.m.: Alex Kenna, *WHAT MEETS THE EYE* (Debut)
Off-site location: Fernhill Country Club, Graham & Warner, Huntington Beach. About *WHAT MEETS THE EYE*: A low-rent P.I. looking into the apparent suicide of a famous artist quickly gets in over her head as the case leads her down a trail of blackmail, art forgery, dirty cops, and the Russian mob.

Along with his event at Mystery Ink (details above), **Matt Witten** will appear at Diesel Books in Brentwood to celebrate the launch of *KILLER STORY* on Tuesday, January 17, at 6:30 p.m. On January 18 at 7:30 p.m., Warwick's in La Jolla will present a book talk with the two **Matts - Witten and Coyle**.





SoCalMWA Out & About



Matt Coyle discusses DOOMED LEGACY at Vroman's in Pasadena on November 21. Photo by Lee Goldberg.



L-R: Matt Coyle, Lee Goldberg, Naomi Hirahara, Stephen Buchler.

Holiday Party



Linda O. Johnston. Photo by Pat H. Broeske.



Mike Befeler. Photo by Pat H. Broeske.



Gary Phillips. Photo by Pat H. Broeske.



Rosemary Lord. Photo by Pat H. Broeske.

CRIME CALENDER



- March 16–19: Left Coast Crime, Tucson, AZ
- April 22–23: LA Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles, CA
- April 28–30: Malice Domestic, Bethesda, MD
- May 30–June 3: Thrillerfest XVIII, New York, NY
- June 10–11: California Crime Writers Conference, Los Angeles, CA
- August 30–September 3: Bouchercon, San Diego, CA

If you know of an event that belongs on the Crime Calendar, email themarchofcrime@gmail.com with the info.

THE LAST WORD



"I did not think for better or worse meant sniper lessons."

JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE PARANOID
by Anne Louise Bannon