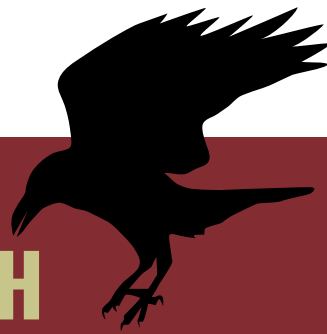


MARCH 2022

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



Private Eye Confidential

True Stories of a Working P.I.
With Mike Spencer

March 10
6:30 p.m.

[Register here](#)

Password: SOCALMWA

Join us on March 10 for a virtual event presented by private investigator Mike Spencer. Spencer has worked as a licensed private eye since 1995, cycling through criminal defense work, insurance cases, workers' compensation, domestic surveillance, and big cases for plaintiff's attorneys. For 25 years he's run Spencer Legal Investigations, serving trial lawyers throughout the Bay Area and California.



Mike is the author of PRIVATE EYE CONFIDENTIAL, STORIES FROM A REAL P.I., a short literary fiction/memoir about how he got into the profession and some of the more bizarre cases he's worked on. His latest project is a podcast, The Gary Murphy Assassination, about a 1998 case: Gary Murphy was gunned down three months after Spencer had him under surveillance; is the grandmother who battled Murphy in an ugly child custody case responsible? No one has ever been charged in the case.

Register now for a what is sure to be a fantastic conversation!

> REGISTER NOW



(Password: SOCALMWA)

What's inside

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PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET



Spring is Coming

BY TRAVIS RICHARDSON



March is upon us and we have many things happening this month.

On March 10 Mike Spencer will discuss his life and cases as a private investigator. **Holly West** and **Sarah M. Chen** are hosting weekly 25-minute writing sprints during the month of March. We'll also have a booth at the Tucson Festival of Books on March 12 and 13 on the University of Arizona campus. If you are in the area (or want to fly or drive out there) and want to sell some books, please sign up with Fred Anderson at fxandersen@msn.com. It is a wonderful festival with thousands of enthusiastic readers.

Later in the month, **Jennifer Younger** is putting a reading panel together. We should have more details about this and other events on our io.groups list (MWA-SOCAL@groups.io) and [our website](#).



Also, we need more help. Coming up in April is the LATFOB and we need a coordinator. **Debbie Mitsch** of Mysterious Ink is our bookseller, but we need somebody to coordinate all of our authors for book signings on Saturday and Sunday. If you are interested in the position [please let me know](#). Next year will be our California Crime Writer's Conference, an event we co-host the event with Sisters in Crime Los Angeles. **Edward Arno** is a co-chair, but we will need another co-chair to assist. Let me know if you would be interested at president@socalmwa.com.

We've got a lot of ambitious ideas and I hope you can join us as we work to make this a productive year.

Travis

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Facebook: [Like us](#)



A Humble Plea

BY HOLLY WEST

As Travis said in his Prez Rap this month, SoCalMWA needs volunteers. There is much to be excited about in 2022, but we can't do it without your help.

One of the positions needed is someone to coordinate author book signings for the LATFOB. I did this several years ago for Sisters in Crime, and while I won't say it didn't require some work, it was a fun project and I got to know a lot of our members better through the process. If you've got a bit of time leading up to the festival (April 23-24) please consider volunteering.

The second position that needs filling is more time-consuming but potentially far more rewarding. The California Crime Writers Conference needs a co-chair to help plan the conference. Having acted as registrar for this event since 2013, it is near and dear to my heart and I very much hope it can be held in person in 2023. I will be assisting as registrar again, so that's one less thing you'll have to worry about.



Full disclosure: I get paid a modest amount to edit the newsletter each month. I mention it because it seemed important to do so in light of my plea for help. But this year, I happily volunteered to take over social media and communications for the chapter, since it seemed to go hand-in-hand with doing the newsletter. To this end, if you have any announcements you'd like me to post on Twitter and/or Facebook (and eventually, Instagram), please send them to me at themarchofcrime@gmail.com.

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)

NATIONAL OFFICE
Mystery Writers of America
1140 Broadway #1507
New York, NY 10001
t. 212.888.8171
mwa@mysterywriters.org
<http://mysterywriters.org>

FRESH BLOOD



JEFF HAGGIN

Jeff Haggin's professional life has been spent serving as an advertising writer and marketing executive writing headlines, ads, magazine articles, and speeches. He's written fiction for years and is now ready to publish his debut novel. Jeff served as the Chief Executive Officer of The Haggin Group, Haggin Marketing, Inc., SolutionSet; also as Vice Chairman of Hyper Marketing, the D. L. Ryan Companies, and Epsilon. In 2012 Jeff left the business world and started up *Say No to Big Money*, a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization, to remove the influence of big money and special interests influencing legislation in the U.S. Congress.

TUCSON FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

BOOTH #254

After a two-year hiatus, the Tucson Festival is back live this year, March 12–13. SoCalMWA is sponsoring a booth, and it is open to all members for signing and selling. It will also be possible for SoCal authors' books to be displayed and sold. Tucson is a big festival, held on the University of Arizona campus at the height of winter visitor season. Anyone who is interested or wants to reserve a slot should contact [Fred Andersen](#).

For authors attending the festival, Fred is asking for volunteers to help manage the booth. It's a low-stress job that involves making sure the booth is occupied all day, answering questions about the authors and MWA, and directing traffic. Contact [Fred](#) if you would like to help.

CALL FOR CONTENT

SHORT PIECES & ARTICLES

Do you have a resource, method, or tip for anything that pertains to writing? (Plotting, drafting, editing, etc). Share what works for you with your fellow members.

Pitch your article ideas—we're looking for articles of 500–750 words on topics of interest to our members. Send all content to themarchofcrime@gmail.com.

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OVER THE TRANSOM



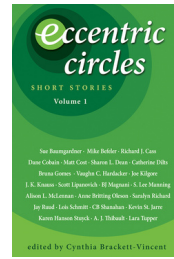
Wendall Thomas's third Cyd Redondo novel, *FOGGED OFF*, has been nominated for a Lefty Award for Best Humorous Mystery of 2021.



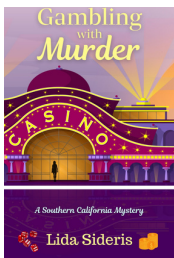
Susan Cummins Miller's poetry chapbook, *MAKING SILENT STONES SING*, was released in February by Finishing Line Press, and is available online or through any book-and-mortar bookstore.



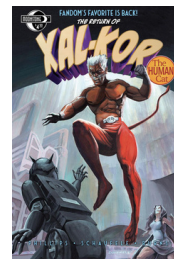
Andrew Kaplan's latest novel, *BLUE MADAGASCAR*, has been shortlisted for the Chanticleer International Book Awards Global Thriller Award.



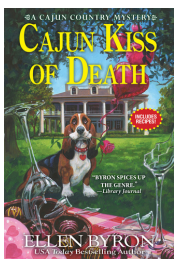
Mike Befeler has a short story in the Encircle Publications anthology *Eccentric Circles*.



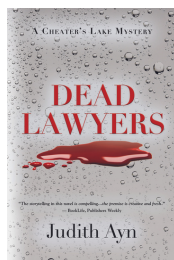
Coming March 29th: *GAMBLING WITH MURDER* by **Lida Sideris**, book #5 in a Southern California Mystery series (Level Best Books). In this installment, rookie lawyer Corrie Locke goes undercover to find a senior missing from a posh retirement community.



Gary Phillips is pleased to announce a labor of love has finally been realized. Xal-Kor the Human Cat was created by Richard "Grass" Green, a pioneer in those halcyon days of comics fandom. Green was one, if not initially the only, African American producing work for fanzines. Xal-Kor was a '70s Marvel Comics kind of superhero. This one-shot from Moonstone delivers three new stories reminiscent of that Silver Age. Written by Phillips with art by James Burns and Jason Schaufele. In comics shops everywhere.



CAJUN KISS OF DEATH, **Ellen Byron's** seventh Cajun Country Mystery, is nominated for a Best Contemporary Novel Agatha Award. *Laissez les bons temps rouler!*



DEAD LAWYERS, the second book in **Judith Ayn's** Cheater's Lake Mystery series, is available now. In the sleepy town of Cheater's Lake, Washington, lawyers are dropping like flies—is it the work of a serial killer? Homicide detective Mark Walsh must get to the bottom of the pile of dead lawyers to solve the cases.





In the latest issue of *Mystery Scene* magazine (Spring, no. 171), **Pat H. Broeske** examines Capitol Crimes—the kind summoned up by political thrillers. The genre dates to 1934, influenced by such real life events as the Cold War, the JFK assassination, Watergate, and even the current political landscape. The magazine is now on newsstands.

Gay Toltl Kinman's new mystery short story *The Burglaries* is now on Kindle. Vacant houses in an affluent Southern California city are causing problems for the Police Department. George MacCumber, a cub reporter, is sent by an old-time editor to get the scoop. George does this—and the obits, too.

Holly West will edit the 2023 Bouchercon anthology, working title PERIL UNDER THE PALMS. Bouchercon 2023 will take place in San Diego, CA August 30–September 3, 2023.

"The Body in the Backyard" by **Peter DiChellis** appears in the new issue of *Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine*.

Congratulations to Jonathan Brown

BARBARA NEELY GRANT RECIPIENT

Jonathan Brown is one of two recipients of the first MWA Barbara Neely Grants.

Neely, author of the "Blanche" series, was a Grand Master in whose honor MWA established a scholarship program for black writers; one for an already published author and the other for one just getting started in publishing. Necole Ryse has also been awarded a grant.

The grants will reopen for applications in the summer of 2022.

Send us your news

The March of Crime is published on the first of each month and features news and announcements from our members. We'd love to hear from you!

Please follow these guidelines to ensure your submission is included:

- All announcements, should be written in the third person, edited for grammar, and written up as you'd like to see them in the newsletter.
- The shorter, the better. 100 words max.
- Send them in the body of the email, not as attachments.
- Include cover pics (.jpgs or .pngs) if they're available (attachments ok).
- We reserve the right to edit all announcements for content/length.

Send your content to themarchofcrime@gmail.com.



APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Sheila Lowe will be heading to Tucson for the Book Festival March 12–3. She’s been invited to appear on a panel titled “Domestic Disturbances” along with **Rachel Howzell Hall**, Gigi Pandian, and moderated by Iona Whishaw. She will also be at the Mostly Books booth for most of the Festival. Also, Sheila recently spoke at the California Writers Club in Anaheim recently about her tortuous path to publication.



Karen Odden will be appearing at the Tucson Festival of Books on March 12–13. On Saturday at 11:30 a.m., she’ll be on the panel “For Old Times’ Sake” with Rosemary Simpson and Charles Finch. On Sunday at 1 p.m., she’ll be with **Cara Black** and **Naomi Hirahara** talking about “Bringing History to Life.” The Festival is a *free* event featuring authors across many genres—although mystery is well represented!



Barbara Pronin, also known as Barbara Nickolae, whose mysteries Mary Higgins Clark once said, “kept me up all night,” will be telling stories and signing books at Book Carnival (348 S. Tustin St., Orange) on Saturday, March 26 at 2 p.m.



In the last few months, **Judy Neiman**, a Sedona author, has had three book signings events: Sedona Women, University Women, and the Women’s Guild of St. John Vinney’s Church. Her books, **VISIONS OF EVIL**, **VISIONS OF PEARL**, and **STOP! SEX TRAFFICKING IN AMERICA**, are available on Amazon.



Got news? Send it to themarchofcrime@gmail.com

APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Mysterious Galaxy Presents a Virtual Event

Aaron Philip Clark
in discussion with
Curtis Ippolito

March 14th,
7 PM PT

Signed Bookplates Available!

www.mystgalaxy.com @mystgalaxybooks

On Saturday, March 12 at 1 p.m. **Susan Cummins Miller** will be moderating a panel, "Life or Death," with mystery authors Philip Margolin, Erica Ferencik, and **Shannon Baker** at the 2022 Tucson Festival of Books. The event is free and open to the public.

AUTHOR READING
ROB OSLER
SATURDAY, MARCH 12
3 PM

DEVIL'S CHEW TOY
ROB OSLER

Laurie Stevens and **Anne Perry** will speak to the Palm Desert chapter of the Brandeis National Committee on March 22. All are welcome! Your registration fee is a charitable contribution with a portion being tax-deductible. [Register here.](#)

2022



MARCH

Writing Sprint Wednesdays

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Wednesdays at 4 p.m. PT
Sign up at socialmwa.com



WRITING SPRINT WEDNESDAYS

JOIN US IN MARCH!

Each Wednesday in March, SoCalMWA is holding virtual writing sprints beginning at 4 p.m. (PT). Our hosts are **Sarah M. Chen** and **Holly West**, with occasional special guests.

The sprints will take place on Zoom and last about 30 minutes. The hosts will speak for a few minutes and members can interact in the chat window, then we'll set a timer for 25 minutes of solid work time. Mark your calendars! Sprints will be held on 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, and 3/30.

Whether you're plotting, drafting, or editing, writing sprints are an effective way to get work done while harnessing the team energy of our fellow MWA members.

[Sign up here to get the Zoom link when it's available.](#)

Crime Under the Sun

Partners in Crime: The San Diego Chapter of Sisters in Crime welcomes you to submit a short story to their second anthology titled **CRIME UNDER THE SUN**, edited by **Matt Coyle, Naomi Hirahara, and Tammy Kaehler**.

Why **CRIME UNDER THE SUN**? Southern California offers a wide variety of settings. Beaches, mountains, deserts. We're urban. We're rural. We have something for everyone. All under the sun. We'd love to see stories set in SoCal that reflect the California experience. Mysteries of all genres, suspense, thrillers, and true crime are encouraged.

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

Complete submission information can be found [here](#).

Bouchercon 2023 Anthology

Bouchercon 2023 invites you to submit a story to their anthology. The working title is **PERIL UNDER THE PALMS**. **Holly West** will edit the anthology. Contributors will receive \$75 for their stories.

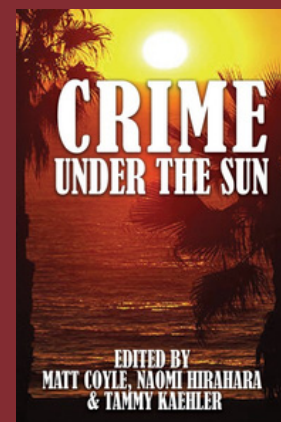
San Diego. A place known for its blue skies, sandy beaches, and swaying palms. But what happens when that sunny façade cracks and the darkness beneath is revealed? We can't wait to find out.

We're looking for stories set in and around Southern California, or, if you must, California in general. Murder, mayhem, heists, revenge tales, locked door mysteries, noir—Raymond Chandler is buried in San Diego, by the way—if you write the crime, we've got the time (and place).

Our goal is to raise money for our charity (to be announced soon). All of the proceeds, after publishing costs, will go to the charity, along with the proceeds from our live and silent auctions.

In addition to invited stories from our guests of honor, the anthology will feature stories selected through blind submission.

Complete submission information can be found [here](#).



CRIME CALENDER



More dates will be added as info becomes available.

MARCH 2022: Writing Sprint Wednesdays (online)

MARCH 10: Private Eye Confidential (online)

MARCH 12–13: Tucson Festival of Books, Tucson, AZ

APRIL 7–10: Left Coast Crime, Albuquerque, NM

APRIL 22–24: Malice Domestic, Bethesda, MD

APRIL 23–24: LA Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles, CA

APRIL 28: Edgar® Awards Ceremony, New York, NY

MAY 31–JUNE 4: Thrillerfest, New York, NY

SEPTEMBER 8–11: Bouchercon, Minneapolis, MN

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

THE LAST WORD



"What had started as a typical night out had changed the moment I stood in line at the bar and exchanged the ten in my wallet for singles to tip the dancer."

DEVIL'S CHEW TOY by Rob Ossler