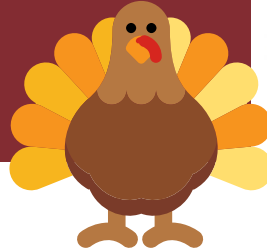
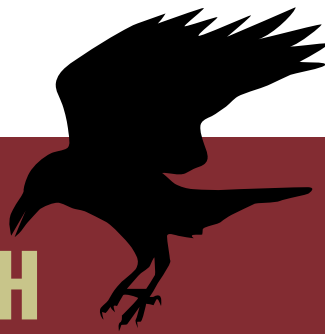


NOVEMBER 2022

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



CCWC EARLY BIRD PRICING

California Crime Writers Conference



REGISTER NOW!

Early-bird pricing for the California Crime Writers Conference ends on **December 31, 2022.**

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

What's inside

[CCWC Early Bird Pricing p. 1](#)

[President's Rap Sheet p. 2](#)

[Editor's Corner p. 3](#)

[Over the Transom p. 4](#)

[Appearances & Events p. 5](#)

[SoCalMWA Out & About p. 6](#)

[Gumbo Party Pics p. 7](#)

[Crime Calendar p. 9](#)

[The Last Word p. 9](#)



PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET



My Life as a Coconut Crab

BY TRAVIS RICHARDSON



It's November. Freakin' November. Halloween is done; supposedly, I was a coconut crab—my daughter's idea. My wife is still designing the costume as I write this, so we'll see how it goes.

November gives us two national holidays—Veterans Day and Thanksgiving—but there is another national event for writers. NaNoWriMo is National Novel Writing Month and it challenges people to write 50k words in a month. I've done this challenge a few times and I've never hit the 50k goal, but I have written a novella and a few other projects, hammering out approximately 30k words. I want to think I could hit a number like that again. I currently have a soft goal of 200 words a day (down from the 700 words per workday in the pre-child days of my life.) You can find out more at nanowrimo.org.

There will be events happening around the country and if you'd like to have a virtual write-in [let me know](#).

SoCalMWA & SinCLA Holiday Party



SAVE THE DATE



December 4 • 2 p.m.
More info to come!



Also, mark December 4 at 2 p.m. on your calendars for our holiday party. We will have our annual Holiday Party with Sisters In Crime Los Angeles. More details to come.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Travis

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Travis Richardson

VICE PRESIDENT
Jennifer Younger

TREASURER
Sarah M. Chen

SECRETARY
TBA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fred Andersen
Edward Arno
Gay Toltl Kinman
Leslie S. Klinger
Terri Nolan
Gary Phillips
Ona Russell
Nancy Cole Silverman

PRESIDENT EMERITUS
Jessica Kaye

Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter

c/o Jessica Kaye
8840 Wilshire Blvd.
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

Contact: info@socalmwa.com
Website: <http://socalmwa.com>
Twitter: [@socalmwa](https://twitter.com/socalmwa)
Facebook: [Like us](#)



Progress, Not Perfection

BY HOLLY WEST



In 2020 and 2021, I did NaNoWriMo and completed 50k words during November each year. Do you know what I didn't (and still haven't) completed? An actual novel. I think NaNoWriMo is a wonderful thing, but this year, I decided it didn't fit into my writing plans.

Over the last several weeks, I've been writing and revising a novel that has been plaguing me for years. I'm determined to finish it. However, this week, I found myself stalled because I was unsure of how many procedural details to include after the body is discovered. I know I'm not the only writer to get hung up—for me it was procedure, but for you, it could be something else—and it probably happens with every novel. Whatever it is, we all have to get past these road bumps and move forward.



Yesterday, I texted my writing group and expressed my frustration with my lack of progress this week. They all commiserated with me, of course, but I went to bed wondering if I was destined to write and re-write this damned book forever. But this morning, as I was driving home from the gym, it suddenly occurred to me: This is not a final draft. Who cares how much procedure I include at this point? Add what feels right, then change it, if necessary, later.

I felt a tremendous sense of relief knowing that I can literally write whatever I want, even if it all gets cut later. And, of course, I know this intellectually, but sometimes, I need to remind myself that I'm the one who gets to decide. Hence, the title. Progress, not perfection.

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

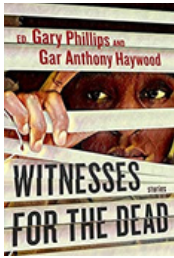
Join the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group

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

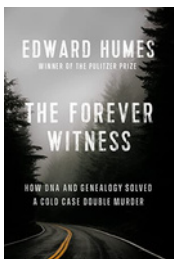
NATIONAL OFFICE
Mystery Writers of America
1140 Broadway #1507
New York, NY 10001
t. 212.888.8171
mwa@mysterywriters.org
<http://mysterywriters.org>



A MURDER, WELL-SCRIPTED by **Tony Piazza** has just been published by Amazon as a softcover, e-book, and audiobook.



How does witnessing a crime change a person? This powerful collection of all-original stories by a star-studded roster of contributors examines this very question, with proceeds benefitting the Alliance for Safe Traffic Stops. *Publishers Weekly* said of WITNESSES FOR THE DEAD, “These tales put a gimlet eye on the satisfying rewards of retribution.” Edited by **Gary Phillips** and Gar Anthony Haywood featuring stories by fellow members SJ Rozan, Richie Narvaez, **Sarah M. Chen**, **Aaron Philip Clark**, Cara Black, and Alex Segura, among others. In hardcover, e-book and on Audible; dropping November 7.



THE FOREVER WITNESS: HOW DNA AND GENEALOGY SOLVED A COLD CASE DOUBLE MURDER (Dutton) by **Edward Humes** comes out on November 29.

Jeri Westerson's new Sherlockian series, THE ISOLATED SEANCE, An Irregular Detective Mystery, features Tim Badger, one of Sherlock Holmes' Baker Street Irregulars now a grown man and opening his own consulting detective agency with Black partner Benjamin Watson. It's an adventure with wit and humor on the shadowed streets of 1895 London that Jeri sold to Sara Porter at Severn House for an unagented nice two-book deal for publication June 2023 and 2024.

Black Cat Weekly (Wildside Press) reprinted the crime-horror story “Nineteen Creaks” by **Peter DiChellis**. The story originally appeared in the anthology AUTUMN NOIR (Unsettling Reads, October 2021).





Matt Coyle will be discussing DOOMED LEGACY, the ninth book in his Anthony, Shamus, and Lefty Award-winning Rick Cahill series, at the following venues in November: Nov. 5, 8:30 a.m., Men of Mystery, Long Beach; Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m., Book Launch, Warwick's, La Jolla; Nov. 17, 7 p.m., Poisoned Pen Bookstore, Scottsdale, AZ; Nov. 19, 2 p.m., Book Carnival, Orange; Nov. 20, 3 p.m., Book Jewel, Los Angeles; and Nov. 21, 7 p.m., Vroman's Bookstore, Pasadena

Early November is a busy time for **Sheila Lowe**. On the 4th she'll be sharing her tortuous path to publication with a writers' group in Camarillo and on the 5th, she's lecturing at a forensic conference in Italy via Zoom. The 5th and 6th is the 805 Writers Conference on the beach in Ventura, to which MWA members are invited at a discount. Sheila will be speaking on a panel on the 6th. Finally, she'll be talking to a Biz Connect group interested in knowing how to start publishing on the 16th.

On November 5, **Adam Sikes** will be at the Men of Mystery conference in Long Beach, CA as an attending author and discussing his new spy thriller, LANDSLIDE. On November 7, Adam will be at the Toadstool Bookshop in Nashua, NH, for an author talk and book signing, and on November 9, he'll be at the Barnes & Noble in Burlington, MA, for a book signing.

Mike Befeler will be one of the authors presenting at Men of Mystery at the Grand in Long Beach, CA on Saturday, November 5.

Barbara Pronin will sign her newest mystery, THE MINER'S CANARY, on Saturday, November 12, at 1 p.m. at Mystery Ink in Huntington Beach. The novel takes a single mom back to her roots in the brooding Black Hills of South Dakota, once home to the nation's largest and deepest gold mine, where her aunt's old Victorian is waiting for her and a killer has her in his sights.

Jeri Westerson, along with authors **Pamela Samuels Young**, **Travis Richardson**, and Lance Charnes will be on a Mystery Author Panel on Saturday, November 19, from 1–2 p.m. at the San Bernardino Library. Come hear the skinny on writing and publishing in today's changing publishing environment. Books for sale. 555 W. 6th Street, San Bernardino.

Every month, **Donis Casey** asks successful authors to share their life experiences and how those experiences have influenced and/or led to their becoming writers. November's *Tell Me Your Story* features Dianne Freeman, author of five witty and delightful historical mysteries set in England at the turn of the 20th century, featuring Frances Wynn, the American-born Countess of Harleigh, who enjoys more freedom as a widow than she did as a wife. Please read Dianne's inspiring story from November 20 through November 31 at doniscasey.com.

USA Today bestselling author **Karen Odden's** book launch for her second Inspector Corraivan mystery, UNDER A VEILED MOON, at the Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Scottsdale drew over 80 people. To watch the event on the Pen's Facebook page, [click here](#). To read an excerpt or order the book, visit www.karenodden.com.

Tony Piazza will launch his latest novel, A MURDER, WELL-SCRIPTED, on November 12 at the Bookloft in Solvang.

Edward Humes, author of THE FOREVER WITNESS: HOW DNA AND GENEALOGY SOLVED A COLD CASE DOUBLE MURDER, will appear at Vroman's Books in Pasadena on November 30 at 7 p.m. to discuss the book. He'll be at Orange County's Book Carnival on December 3 at 1 p.m.

Join **Ellen Byron**, **Jennifer J. Chow**, and Jesse Q Sutanto for a Mystery Romance Panel on November 19 from 2–3:30 p.m. at The Ripped Bodice, Main Street, Culver City.

APPEARANCES & EVENTS



SoCalMWA Out & About



Sheila Lowe signs books at Mystery Ink.



Adam Sikes and Debbie Mitsch at Mystery Ink.



Karen Odden (left) with Barbara Peters of the Poisoned Pen Bookstore.



Lee Goldberg and Ellen Byron joined Robert Dugoni and Christopher Reich at a Corona Library event on October 15 celebrating mystery and thriller authors.



Gumbo Party



Laurie Stevens, Kim Fay



Lawrence Maddox, John Shepphird, Travis Richardson



Craig Faustus Buck, Jim Vitale



APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Gumbo Party



Craig Westerson, Jeri Westerson



Hosts Bill and Kendall Fitzhugh



Evelyn Moore, Linda Nakamura



CRIME CALENDER



November 26: Small Business Saturday

December 4: SoCalMWA & SinCLA Holiday Party, Los Angeles

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

THE LAST WORD



"A killer walked among the peaceful community of Friday Harbor and retired FBI agent Neil Devereaux couldn't do one damn thing about it because he had no evidence."

THE WRONG VICTIM
by Allison Brennan