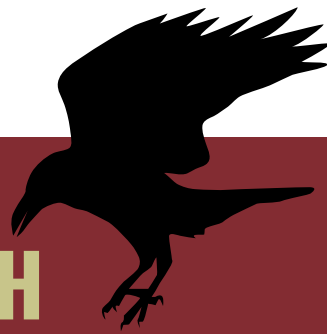


OCTOBER 2022

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



NOIR AT THE BAR



READINGS FROM:
RACHEL HOWZELL HALL
SASCHA ROTHCHILD
ADAM FROST
AUGUST NORMAN
JENNIFER J CHOW
ASHLEY ERWIN
J AUGUST WILLIAMS
ERIC BEETNER

MANDRAKE BAR 2692 LA CIENEGA

SAVE THE DATE!

On November 6, Noir at the Bar features several SoCalMWA members reading from their work: **Rachel Howzell Hall**, **August Norman**, and **Jennifer J. Chow**.

While this event isn't affiliated with SoCalMWA, it's a great opportunity to meet fellow members and network with crime fiction writers in our community.

Free and open to all, with something for everyone, from hardboiled, cozy, suspense, grit lit.

And stay tuned for more end-of-year events from SoCalMWA!

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Community Connection

BY TRAVIS RICHARDSON



As this issue is probably coming out on October 1, I'm hoping that I saw many of you at the Gumbo Party after a 2-year hiatus. We'll have photos in next month's issue. I want to thank Bill and Kendall Fitzhugh for the (always) amazing food and hospitality as well as Jeri and Craig Westerson for their crime-themed brew. Also, I want to thank Adam Sikes for giving an excellent presentation about the CIA last month and for answering our members' difficult questions without compromising security.

Last night I was fortunate enough to go to The Foo Fighters' Taylor Hawkins tribute concert. I can summarize the six-hour event featuring dozens of famous musicians in one word: Awesome. But it also made me think about the impact that Hawkins, the Foo's drummer, had on the music world outside of his band. Artists like Joe Walsh, Joan Jett, Queen's Brian May, Rush, Alanis Morissette, Def Leppard, Pink, Miley Cyrus, and many others lined up not only to play but to share stories and thank Taylor for his friendship. The man loved music and musicians completely. And he let them know it too. He reached out and developed friendships with the generations before and after him. He spread his love and he was cherished. When he died, the music community was devastated. They not only lost their biggest advocate but a close friend who by many accounts kept in constant contact.



The tribute made me think about our crime writing community and how we are a connected family working in the same space. We should reach out to thank people who have influenced us and help those who are up-and-coming. Life is short. Let's spread the love.

Travis

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Ideas are Magic

BY HOLLY WEST



About eight months ago, I began pulling a tarot card every morning to use as a journaling prompt. It's been life-changing in ways I never could've imagined and wish I would've embraced it earlier—just like I wish I would've embarked on a writing career earlier. But there's no use in wishing. Things come to us when they come.

The above paragraph makes me wince a bit. Never in my life did I think I'd become so woo-woo. I told my husband if I started collecting crystals, it was time for a talk.

Normally, I'd never mention my tarot practice in this column but something interesting happened the other day. One of the books I use as a resource in understanding the tarot mentioned something that gave me an idea for a story. Maybe not a full novel but definitely a short story. I stopped my regular journaling and reached for my story idea notebook and wrote down what I had in mind. It needs fleshing out but if I can pull it off, it's the sort of story I could submit to *Ellery Queen* or *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*. I was looking for an appropriate idea and there it was.



It's not that I think the idea came to me by magic. I don't believe in the supernatural and certainly not in divination. My point is that sometimes, the best ideas come to us when we're not consciously thinking at all. And sometimes, those bursts of inspiration *feel* magical, don't they? It's the magic that can happen when we get out of our own way.

Now that I think about it, it's October, the spooky season. So maybe I'll go ahead and embrace that and wish you all a little bit of magic in your lives.

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.

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Join the SoCalMWA
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groups.io/g/MWA-SOCAL
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FRESH BLOOD



EDWARD HUMES

Edward Humes is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of *THE FOREVER WITNESS: HOW DNA AND GENEALOGY SOLVED A COLD CASE DOUBLE MURDER* (Dutton Books, out November 29). His other crime and justice titles include *MISSISSIPPI MUD*, *BURNED*, *MEAN JUSTICE*, and the PEN Award-winning *NO MATTER HOW LOUD I SHOUT: A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF JUVENILE COURT*. He and his family split their time between Southern California and Seattle, and are active in greyhound rescue.

WRITING TIPS

FROM JAMES THORPE

For anyone interested in using the Scrivener writing software, the parent company—[Literature and Latte](#), has recently started a series of ongoing, free webinars tailored to fiction writers, and some targeted explicitly at the mystery/thriller genres. The recordings can be found [here](#).

As someone who has struggled on and off for years trying to wrap my head around the Scrivener concept, I think I've finally come to appreciate the benefits and flexibility it provides, compared to a more conventional, linear approach with Word.

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



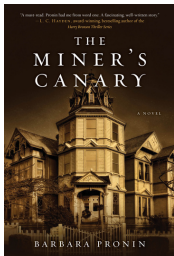
Rachel Howzell Hall



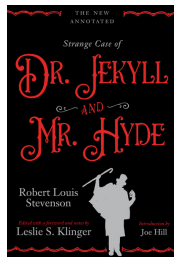
Deborah Crombie



William Burton McCormick's historical thriller *A STRANGER FROM THE STORM* (Mannison Press) won a Bronze Medal in The Coffee Pot Book Club's Book of the Year awards. Additionally, three publications featuring series sleuth character Santa Ezeriņa have recently been published: *HOUSE OF TIGERS* (Wildside Press), "The Celta Wave Conundrum" in the Sept/Oct issue of *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* and "The Crimson Vial," in *CROOKED V. 2*.



Barbara Pronin's seventh mystery, *THE MINER'S CANARY*, will be published October. 25. The story takes a single mom from Southern California back to the brooding Black Hills of South Dakota, where she thought she had left her troubled youth behind. But inheriting the old Victorian of the aunt who raised her is more a test of her wits than a blessing.



Leslie S. Klinger's *NEW ANNOTATED STRANGE CASE OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE* (Mysterious Press) will be published on October 15.

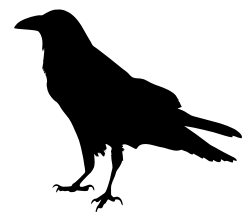


Lisa Morton's novella *HALLOWEEN BEYOND—THE TALKING-BOARD* is one of three novellas contained in the anthology *HALLOWEEN BEYOND: PIERCING THE VEIL*, to be published October 21 by Crystal Lake Publishing. It's about a missing girl, her grieving sister, and a mysterious older woman who may hold the key.

Lee Goldberg has signed a new, two-book contract with Thomas & Mercer/Amazon Publishing that includes the fifth novel in his *Eve Ronin* series about a young Sheriff's department homicide detective. This comes only a few weeks after he signed a deal with Severn House to publish his thriller *CALICO*, which will be released in late 2023.

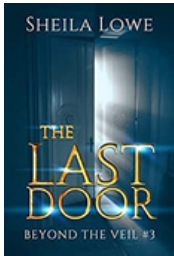
NBC put **Matt Witten's** novel *51%* into development for a drama series. Matt is cowriting with showrunner Charlie Craig, under the aegis of Madison Wells. Matt and Charlie are slated to executive produce.

Ellen Byron signed a 3-book deal with Kensington Publishing for a new series, *The Golden Motel Mysteries*. Burned-out TV writer Dee Stern quits her job on the Kidz Channel sitcom "DUH!" and buys a rustic motel in a small California Gold Rush town at the foot of a national park. Dee soon finds herself totally out of her element as both a motelier and an amateur sleuth when a dead body pops up straddling her property and the national park.





Rex Pickett's *THE ARCHIVIST* (Blackstone Publishing) is a Finalist for the Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Award for Best Mystery. The paperback edition is now on pre-order from [Blackstone Publishing](#).



Sheila Lowe's *THE LAST DOOR*, the third book in the Beyond the Veil paranormal suspense series, releases October 1.



Rosemary & Larry Mild have two short stories in *ISLAND FEVER*, an exciting new anthology by eleven Hawaiian authors. The Milds' stories: In "Death Undisclosed" a hit-and-run accident threatens to destroy the driver in a web of guilt and passion. In "Ha'ilama and the Fevered Diva," a Hawaiian Menehune, who is a glorious singer, meets up with discordant human ambition.



Shannon Baker announces the launch of the sixth in the Kate Fox Mystery Series, *EXIT WOUNDS*. When Kate's mother is accused of murder, it leads to the revelation of decades-old secrets that could blow the family to pieces. Baker's been heard saying it might be her favorite Kate Fox book yet.



In **Gay Toltl Kinman's** latest story, "Death of a Birder," a not-so-likeable member of a dedicated birding group is found dead. Murdered by someone in the group from her past? Or in the wrong place at the wrong time? The cover, designed by Peggie Chan, is of a red-winged blackbird .

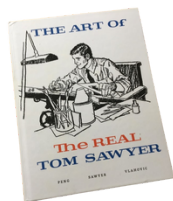
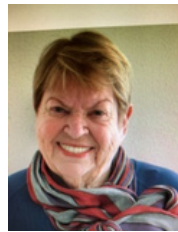
James Thorpe has just had his short story, entitled "THE REGULAR," accepted for the upcoming anthology, "CRIME UNDER THE SUN," by Partners In Crime, the San Diego Chapter of Sisters In Crime. Judges included **Matt Coyle**, **Naomi Hirahara**, and **Tammy Kaehler**. Anthology signing party will take place at Bouchercon 2023 in San Diego.



APPEARANCES & EVENTS



A launch party for **Barbara Pronin's** *THE MINER'S CANARY* is set for 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 29 at The Book Carnival in Tustin, CA. On the menu will be cool hors d'oeuvres and a hot discussion of Pronin's newest mystery.

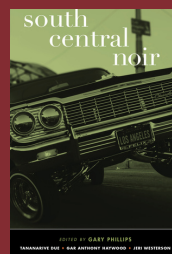


Art Professor Leif Peng has recorded a 4.5-minute tour of his terrific new, about-to-be-published book on **Tom Sawyer's** artwork (from Tom's first career, starting as a comic-book illustrator for Stan Lee).

Sheila Lowe will celebrate the release of *THE LAST DOOR* with a signing at Mystery Ink in Huntington Beach at 1 p.m. on October 1. There will be cake! On October 2, Sheila will be joined by Connie DiMarco in a talk and signing at Book Carnival in Orange at 2 p.m., with more refreshments. On October 25, Sheila will hold a pre-Halloween launch at Orozco's Mexican restaurant in Ventura at 5:30 p.m. There will be prizes, food, and networking. RSVP: sheila@sheilalowe.com. View the video of last year's party [here](#).

Adam Sikes will be at Mystery Ink Bookstore in Huntington Beach for a reading and book signing on October 15 at 1 p.m., and then again at Warwick's in La Jolla for a "Weekends with Locals" event on October 30 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Please join him to get a signed copy of his debut novel, *LANDSLIDE*, as well as listen to a reading and have a discussion. [More information.](#)

David E. Knop just returned from Las Vegas and the Public Safety Writers Association annual conference held each July. The PSWA consists of people who write mysteries, thrillers, and non-fiction with a public safety theme. The beauty of PSWA is its family atmosphere and a population of attendees with an infinity of police and fire experience. Ask a question and be confident the answer comes from a public safety officer who has walked the walk. Take advantage of the writing competition and a highly responsive blog. Early bird registration is usually posted in January.



SOUTH CENTRAL NOIR, edited by **Gary Phillips**, will have a second launch on October 7 at 7 p.m. at Vroman's Bookstore, 695 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena.





SoCalMWA Out & About



Book launch at the Southern California Library in South Central Los Angeles for SOUTH CENTRAL NOIR, edited by Gary Phillips. Includes stories by Steph Cha, Naomi Hirahara, Gary Phillips, Jeri Westerson, Désirée Zamorano, and many more.



Gary Phillips at Village Well Books, along with SOUTH CENTRAL NOIR contributors (L-R) Emory Holmes II, Penny Mickelbury, Nikolas Charles, and Larry Fondation.

Tam Luncheon



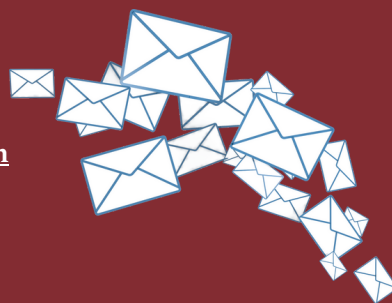
Adam Sikes discusses the CIA at the September Tam luncheon.

CRIME CALENDER



More dates will be added as info becomes available.

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



THE LAST WORD



"The whole city was on fire—good, fuck them all—and Sang Woo sat in his car and smoked."

"All Luck"
by Steph Cha
(SOUTH CENTRAL NOIR)