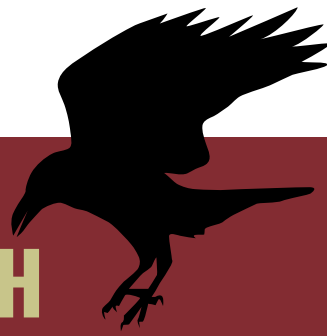


AUGUST 2023

# THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



## SoCalMWA Award Nominees

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

This season, there are several SoCalMWA members nominated for prestigious awards in our genre:

**ANTHONY AWARDS** (winners to be announced September 2):

**Toastmaster: Naomi Hirahara**

—**Best First Novel**

*Devil's Chew Toy*, **Rob Osler** (Crooked Lane Books)

—**Best Humorous**

*Bayou Book Thief*, **Ellen Byron** (Berkley Prime Crime)

*Death by Bubble Tea*, **Jennifer J. Chow** (Berkeley Prime Crime)

—**Best Historical**

*Under a Veiled Moon*, **Karen Odden**, (Crooked Lane Books)

**MACAVITY AWARDS** (winners to be announced August 31):

—**Best First Mystery**

*Devil's Chew Toy*, Rob Osler (Crooked Lane Books)

—**Sue Feder Memorial Award for Best Historical Mystery**

*One-Shot Harry*, **Gary Phillips** (Soho Crime)

**BARRY AWARDS** (winners to be announced August 31):

—*Desert Star*, by **Michael Connelly**

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## Summer Heat & Stolen Phones

BY TRAVIS RICHARDSON



Hello Everybody!

I hope you are able to withstand the intense heat this summer. After prolonged days of gloom, the sun is out and making up for lost time.

Thank you to everybody who attended the Books and BBQ event at the end of the month. The normally deserted park happened to have a class of 1970 reunion nearby which caused a little confusion. But I think (and hope) everybody who came out was able to meet in the building and enjoy both the company and an excessive amount of BBQ in spite of the warmth. If you missed this event and you are going to Bouchercon or live in the San Diego area, join us and NorCal MWA for a luncheon on either Friday, September 1 or Saturday, September 2. We are still finalizing the details, but we should have an announcement soon.

In other news, I had my phone stolen last week. I didn't think phones were a hot commodity anymore since they come loaded with multiple security features today. During my lunch break at UCLA, I went to the library to write and catch a power nap. I happened to be in the nap portion of my break, listening to Vivaldi, when the music suddenly stopped. I looked for my phone (which had been by my elbow) and, discovering that it was missing, I pulled out my laptop to track the phone. I saw it was on a different part of campus and moving. So I followed it to where it stopped, but then as I got closer the phone signal turned off. Did the thief see me or just happen to turn it off as I closed in? Regardless, it is gone now and will be wiped if it is ever turned on again. I'm fortunate that my wife had the same model that I could take since she upgraded last year, but it reminded me that even in relatively safe areas crime can always happen at any time.

Take care and I hope to see many of you in San Diego!

Travis

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## Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter

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

Contact: [info@socalmwa.com](mailto:info@socalmwa.com)  
Website: <http://socalmwa.com>  
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## Killin' Time in NorCal

BY HOLLY WEST

It's been a long time since I've had a book with my name on it coming out. But at the end of the month, *Killin' Time in San Diego*, the Bouchercon 2023 anthology, will be released, and I can't wait for you all to read it.

The thing about editing an anthology is that it's both yours and yet not yours. There is plenty of work to do as an editor, but it's a different kind of creativity. Choosing stories, sending edit notes to contributors, balancing the rhythm of the Table of Contents, and compiling a draft for the publisher all require careful thought and many hours of labor, but it doesn't compare to writing a story from scratch. That's hard work! In some ways, I think I'm more suited to being an editor than a writer—for me, it's kind of the best of both worlds.

I've said this before, but I'm grateful to every single person who sent in a story for consideration. It was an honor to read your work.

On another topic, I recently switched my MWA membership from SoCal to NorCal. This was a big leap for me, but I figured since I've been in Northern California for almost ten years, it was time for me to make the change. But don't worry; I'll still be editing this newsletter—my heart will always belong to SoCal.

Lastly, I thank Travis Richardson and Patricia Smiley for taking photos at the BBQ Book Swap this past weekend. It looks like everyone had a great time!

I can't wait to see many of you in San Diego this month. Until then, keep writing!

Holly

## The March of Crime

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](mailto:themarchofcrime@gmail.com)

Join the SoCalMWA  
Discussion Group

[groups.io/g/MWA-SOCAL](https://groups.io/g/MWA-SOCAL)  
(members only)

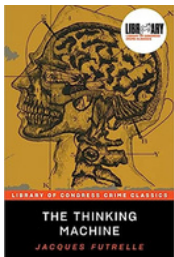
NATIONAL OFFICE  
Mystery Writers of America  
1140 Broadway #1507  
New York, NY 10001  
t. 212.888.8171  
[mwa@mysterywriters.org](mailto:mwa@mysterywriters.org)  
<http://mysterywriters.org>



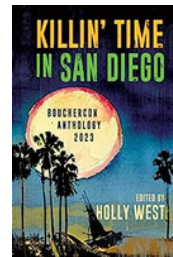
**Terri Maue's** poem "One Pan" appeared in the June issue of *Tiny House Magazine*. Her husband, Eddie Maue, took the accompanying photo. [Read the poem](#) on page 44. The editor, Kent Griswold, is accepting content, send him your pitch [here](#).



*Culprits: The Heist Was Just the Beginning*, edited by **Richard Brewer** and **Gary Phillips**, is available now on Audible. The connected stories/chapters follows each member of a hard-bitten crew after a robbery goes sideways. The anthology is the basis of an upcoming limited series to air on Disney+ UK.



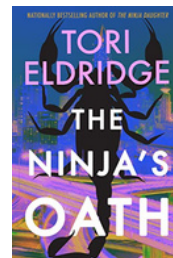
The latest book in the Library of Congress Crime Classics series, *The Thinking Machine* by Jacques Futrelle (edited, with notes by **Leslie S. Klinger**, series editor) came out June 6. Next up: *The "Canary" Murder Case* by S. S. Van Dine.



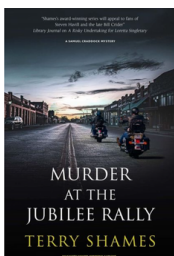
Bouchercon 2023's anthology, *Killin' Time in San Diego*, edited by **Holly West**, will be released on August 30. Featuring stories by **Naomi Hirahara**, **L.H. Dillman**, **Désirée Zamorano**, **James Thorpe**, and many others.



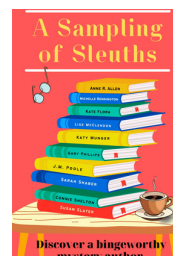
**Julia Bricklin's** fifth nonfiction book, *Red Sapphire: The Woman Who Beat the Blacklist*, will be released on September 5 (Lyons Press). Read the story of Hannah Weinstein, who, in 1950, built a television studio and production company, hiring scores of blacklisted American writers.



Tori Eldridge's upcoming Lily Wong thriller, *The Ninja's Oath* (out September 12) will be on sale early at Bouchercon.



**Terry Shames'** ninth Samuel Craddock novel, *Murder at the Jubilee Rally* is now out in paperback from Severn House Publishing. The tenth in the series, *Guilt Strikes at Granger's Store*, debuts October 3.



**Gary Phillips'** story "One Night in Brownsville" appears in *A Sampling of Sleuths: Short Stories from Bingeworthy Mystery Authors* (Thalia Press). It features O'Connor, a professional thief who's previously appeared in *Warlord of Willow Ridge* and *Culprits: The Heist Was Just the Beginning*, co-edited with **Richard Brewer** and the basis for a miniseries coming from Disney+UK.

# APPEARANCES & EVENTS

In August, **Sheila Lowe** is expected to appear on the CW's *Mysteries Decoded* TV show. She was asked to compare the handwriting of a historical figure to determine whether he had a secret life after he was supposedly dead.

**Terry Shames's** August and September events: Sunday, August 13, 5 p.m., Village Well Books and Coffee, 9900 Culver Blvd., Culver City, to discuss *Murder at the Jubilee Rally*; At Bouchercon—Thursday, August 31, 7 a.m., Author Speed Dating; Saturday, September 2, 8:55 a.m., "Crime in the Wild: Rural or Country Detectives" with Paul Doiron (M), Annette Dashofy, CJ Box, and Wesley Browne; Saturday, September 2, 2:30 p.m., "Dark Moments for Characters in Noir, Hard Boiled, Thriller, Suspense, and Detective Stories" with Barbara DeMarco-Barrett (M), Christopher Chambers, Lyn Liao Butler, Ragnar Jonasson, and Reed Farrell Coleman.

**Mike Befeler** will attend the Bouchercon mystery conference August 30–September 3 in San Diego. He'll be moderating the Senior Sleuth panel at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 30, and participating in Author Speed Dating on Friday September 1 at 11:35 a.m.

**Sybil Johnson** will be on the "Entrepreneurial Detectives: Small Business Owners Who Solve Crime" panel at Bouchercon on Thursday, August 31, 12:45–1:35 p.m.

**Jeri Westerson** will be at the following locations in August: August 12, 2 p.m., California Writers Club of Long Beach. Topic: "From Historical Mystery to Modern Marketing." Los Altos United Methodist Church (Heritage Hall), 5950 E. Willow St. Long Beach 90815; At Bouchercon, Friday, September 1, 9 a.m., she'll appear on "The Game's Afoot: Sherlock Holmes and his Influence on Mysteries" with **Leslie Klinger** moderating, Laurie King, Liese Sherwood-Fabre, Mary Stojakher. Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina, next to the convention center in downtown, 333 West Harbor Drive, San Diego.

**Donis Casey's** August guest for "Tell Me Your Story" is **Warren C. Easley**, a former research scientist and international business executive who writes the award-winning Cal Claxton mysteries set in Oregon. *No Witness*, book eight in the series, earned the 2022 Spotted Owl Award for best mystery novel by a Pacific Northwest author. His ninth Claxton book, *Fatal Flaw*, is available now. Warren's story will appear on August 20 at [DonisCasey.com](http://DonisCasey.com).

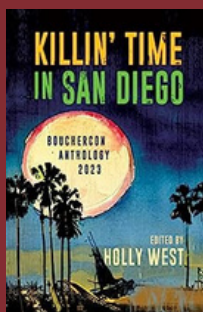
**Jennifer J. Chow** will appear on the "Anthony: Best Humorous Novel" and "Cozy is not a Four-Letter Word: The Genre's Influence, Range, Powerful Protagonists, and Why it Deserves Respect" panels at Bouchercon 2023.

**Connie di Marco** will appear on the "Let's Twist Again Like We Did Last Summer: When Plots Take a Surprising Turn" at Bouchercon on Saturday, September 2, 2:20 p.m. with authors Chris Hauty, **Marco Carocari**, Valerie J. Brooks, and William Baer.

**Tori Eldridge** will appear in the following events at Bouchercon: Friday, September 1, 3:35 p.m.—"Strong: Women in Peril, Saving Themselves;" Friday, September 1, 7 p.m.—Underrepresented Voices Reception; Sunday, August 3, 9 a.m.—"A Bad Fight: Authors Read and React to Action Scenes."

**Georgia Jeffries** will join fellow panelists Megan Abbott, **Craig Faustus Buck**, **Marjorie McCown**, Dete Maserve, and **John Shepphird** to discuss "Hollywood and Writers: Working for TV/Publishing Stories" on Friday, September 1, at Bouchercon.

## Anthology Launch Parties at Bouchercon

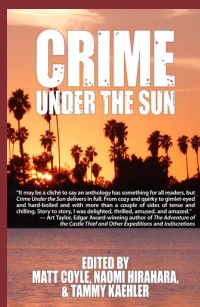


*Killin' Time in San Diego*  
Bouchercon 2023 Anthology

Thursday, August 31  
After Opening Ceremonies  
Grand Ballroom

*Crime Under the Sun*  
SinC San Diego Anthology

Thursday, August 31, 8:30 p.m.  
Grand Ballroom 4  
Books! Luau Music! A Raffle!





# APPEARANCES & EVENTS



## SoCalMWA Out & About



Sheila Lowe attended a book/music event at Corner Café in Los Olivos in July.



P. Austin Heaton at a book fair in Mission Viejo. Her four-book Sadie Brown series set in early 1900s Southern California was a great hit.



In June, Susan Cummins Miller received a 2023 Western Writers of America Spur Finalist's award at their convention in Rapid City, SD.

## BBQ & Book Swap





# APPEARANCES & EVENTS



## BBQ & Book Swap



SoCalMWA board member  
**Jennifer Younger**



L-R: Nancy Cole Silverman, Debbie Mitsch,  
Sheila Lowe, Barbara Petty, DJ Adamson,  
**August Norman**



Back, L-R: Travis Richardson, Gary Phillips,  
Patricia Smiley, Diana Gould. Front: Naomi  
**Hirahara.**



L-R: Patricia Smiley, Terry  
Shames, Nancy Cole Silverman



L-R: DJ Adamson, Jennifer Younger



L-R: Scott Santoro, Travis Richardson



L-R: Tom Taulli, Gita



August 30–September 3: Bouchercon, San Diego, CA

If you know of an event that belongs on the Crime Calendar, email [themarchofcrime@gmail.com](mailto:themarchofcrime@gmail.com) with the info.



## THE LAST WORD



"Kyle, I want you to understand this. I truly and absolutely hope with every fiber of my being that Suzie is alive and well." Rebecca paused. "But I know, here," and she patted her heart, "that she is already in heaven."

*Opie & Cleigh:*  
*A Lifetime of Love, War, School, and Murder in 92 Hours*  
by Gary Nine