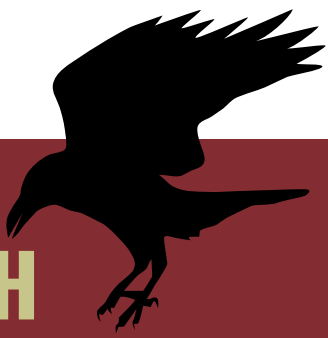




JULY 2023

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



Save the Date

July Book Swap & BBQ

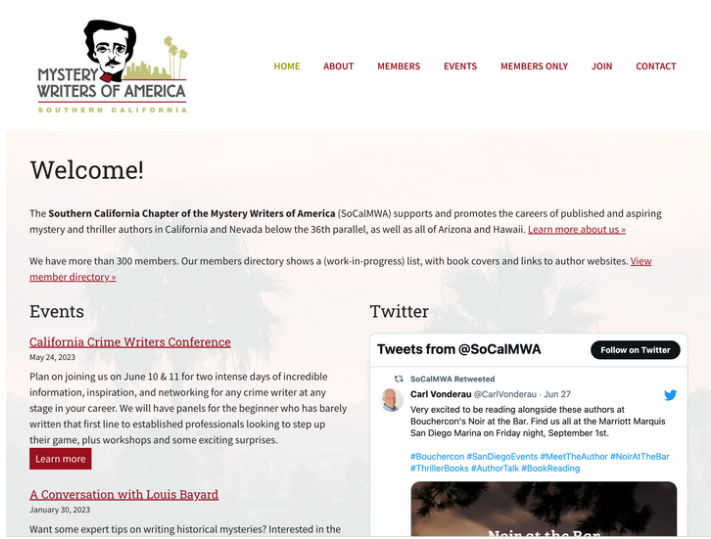
WHEN: July 29, 2023

WHERE: TBD

Summer is in full swing and it's time for a Book Swap & BBQ. Our tentative location is Lindberg Park in Culver City, pending approval. We'll send out more information to RSVP soon, but in the meantime, mark your calendar and start gathering up your books to trade with your fellow SoCalMWA members!

New Website

SoCalMWA.com



What's inside



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Making Writing a Priority

BY TRAVIS RICHARDSON

Dear Members,

I hope you are doing well. CCWC is over, and it seems to have been a hit. I heard several positive comments throughout and afterward. We were blessed with our own **Rachel Howzell Hall**, who gave a stirring Ten Commandments of Writing keynote and many other insightful presentations. I want to thank all of our members who helped behind the scenes, including **Sarah M. Chen**, **Holly West**, **Gary Phillips**, **Ellen Byron**, **Ona Russell**, **Nancy Cole Silverman**, **DJ Adamson**, **Anne Louise Bannon**, and several others who are escaping my mind. And a big thank you for attending and making this conference a success!

In other news, our website broke but has been rebuilt. Sue Trowbridge of Interbridge has been working with me to get this back up. Currently, we are working to put a list of members with their book covers on the page. There are still some ongoing glitches in this area, but we hope to have everybody listed soon.

Also, set your calendar for July 29 for BBQ and Book Swap. We tentatively have a location at Lindberg Park in Culver City, but it is pending approval. We will send out more information to RSVP soon. But should be a wonderful time to meet fellow members, eat terrific BBQ, and exchange your old books for new ones.

And a final word about writing. At CCWC, I stepped in to give a short story presentation as the presenter had a family emergency. I had slides from a 3-hour workshop that I gave in Chula Vista, and I pared it down to 50ish minutes. Towards the end, I discussed daily writing habits with a daily word count worksheet I had created in a more prolific period of my life. That plus Rachel's talk about making writing a priority reminded me that I need to walk my talk and get back on the horse that bucked me off years ago. How about you? Are you up for making writing a priority again? I hope so.

Thank you,

Travis

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Rejecting the Blame Game

BY HOLLY WEST

This morning, a writer friend texted about a book they're reading that shares some aspects with their own WIP. They were a little worried. Is it too similar? Would they be accused of copying the other book's author?

We talked it out, and though the books share some common elements, the subject matter is treated differently enough that it's probably not a problem. But even as we discussed the matter, I thought of two books coming out soon, both of which share common elements with my own WIP.

Do I worry about this? Yes. Not so much that someone would think I'd copied them—and if so, I have plenty of evidence showing I've been working on this damned book since late 2013. But I hate knowing that what seemed like a fresh idea a decade ago (God, it's painful to even write that) is now not so fresh. And I only have myself to blame.

Wait a second. Is blame the right word? Sometimes, when I'm feeling particularly down on myself, blame is the only word that fits. But the book I began writing so long ago is a completely different book now and one that I feel good about. Can I really give myself grief when the book is better now (though still unfinished)?

It depends on the day.

SoCalMWA members represent a range of writers. Some have been in this game for a long time and have their work and careers handled. Others, like me, have some experience but may not have reached their goals. And still others are beginners, excited to be on this path but sometimes uncertain about where it will lead. Indeed, there's probably a bit of each type in all of us, no matter our experience.

I sometimes get confessional here, hoping it will resonate with at least some of you. I don't make a habit of quoting Michael Jackson, but "You are not alone."

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

Join the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group

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

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

PRIVATE EYE WRITERS OF AMERICA

2023 Shamus Award Finalists

Winners will be announced on Friday, September 1, in San Diego.

BEST ORIGINAL HARDBACK P.I. NOVEL

The Wheel of Doll by Jonathan Ames (Mulholland Books)

The Big Bundle by Max Allan Collins (Hard Case Crime)

The Goodbye Coast by **Joe Ide** (Mulholland Books)

Holmes Coming by Kenneth Johnson (Blackstone Publishing)

The Blackmail by M. Ravenel (Chikara Press)

BEST ORIGINAL PAPERBACK P.I. NOVEL

Quarry's Blood by Max Allan Collins (Hard Case Crime)

Double Blind by Libby Fischer Hellmann (The Red Herring Press)

Canary in a Coal Mine by Charles Salzberg (Down & Out Books)

Dead-Bang Fall by J.R. Sanders (Level Best Books)

Hush Hush by Gabriel Valjan (Historia/Level Best Books)

BEST FIRST P.I. NOVEL

Big Fat F@!k-up by **Lawrence Allan** (M.S. Wooten Press)

Pay Dirt Road by Samantha Jayne Allen (Minotaur Books)

Footie by Tom Bredehoft (West Virginia University Press)

What Meets the Eye by Alex Kenna (Crooked Lane Books)

The Goldenacre by Philip Miller (Soho Crime)

BEST P.I. SHORT STORY

“No Place for a Dame” by Lori Armstrong
(*Edgar & Shamus Go Golden*/Down & Out Books)

“Charlie’s Medicine” by Libby Cudmore
(*Lawyers, Guns, and Money: Crime Fiction Inspired by the Music of Warren Zevon*/Down & Out Books)

“A Jelly of Intrigue” by O’Neil De Noux
(*Edgar & Shamus Go Golden*/Down & Out Books)

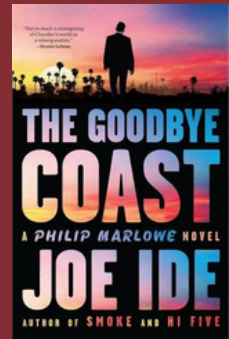
“The Pearl of Antilles” by Caroline Garcia-Aguilera
(*Edgar & Shamus Go Golden*/Down & Out Books)

“Bad Actor” by Elliot Sweeney
(*Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine* Nov/Dec 2022)

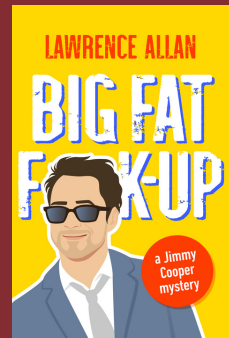
Congratulations

SoCalMWA Shamus Award
Finalists

BEST ORIGINAL
HARDBACK P.I. NOVEL

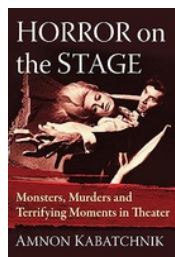


BEST FIRST P.I. NOVEL

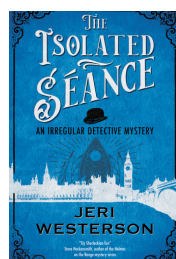




Michael Craft's *Desert Deadline*, the second book in his Dante & Jazz mystery series, releases on July 10. The first book in the series, *Desert Getaway*, was nominated for MWA's inaugural Lilian Jackson Braun Award.



McFarland & Company is releasing **Amnon Kabatchnik's** *Horror on the Stage: Monsters, Murders and Terrifying Moments in Theater*, covering the plays about Dracula, Frankenstein, the Werewolf, the Mummy, the Zombie, and such real-life monsters as Jack the Ripper and Lizzie Borden.



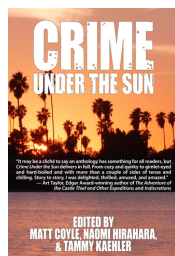
Jeri Westerson is launching her second new series this year, *The Isolated Seance*, in her An Irregular Detective Mystery series, a Sherlockian pastiche.



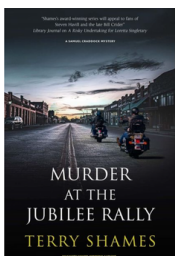
Mike Befeler's *The Last Gasp Motel* will be published in July (Encircle Publications). Retired maintenance man Frank Sinatra finds a body in the swimming pool of the Last Gasp Motel—he must solve the case before the city demolishes the motel. The race is on to find the killer.



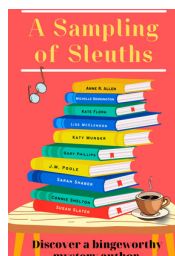
Edgar & Shamus Go Golden, edited by **Gay Tolt Kinman** and Andrew McAleer. Down & Out Books, 2022. Twelve tales of murder, mystery, and detection, including three Shamus Award nominated stories: “No Place for a Dame” by Lori Armstrong; “A Jelly of Intrigue” by O’Neil De Noux; and “The Pearl of Antilles” by Caroline Garcia-Aguilera.



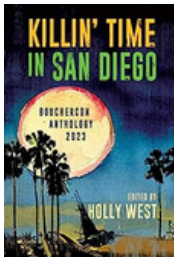
Partners in Crime, the San Diego chapter of Sisters in Crime, is thrilled to announce the July 3 publication of their anthology, *Crime Under the Sun*. Edited by **Matt Coyle, Naomi Hirahara, and Tammy Kaehler**, fifteen stories of greed, treachery, corruption, and death in sunny San Diego.



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.



Bouchercon 2023's anthology, *Killin' Time in San Diego*, edited by **Holly West**, is now available for pre-order. Featuring stories by CJ Box, **Naomi Hirahara**, Ann Cleeves, and many more.



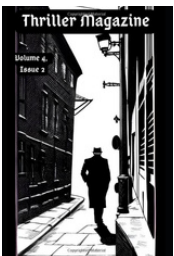
Terri Maue's debut mystery, *Knife Edge*, releases August 8 from Epicenter Press. A successful opinion columnist dreams of breaking into serious journalism, but helping an accused killer clear his name isn't what she had in mind.



Running Away to Boston, by **Anne Louise Bannon**, is now available. Jannie Miller finds people. When her ex-boyfriend, FBI agent Brent Mikkelson, hires her to find Tanya Coleman, a young witness to a vicious murder, Jannie must race against time and a hired assassin to locate the girl, amid her own personal turmoil.



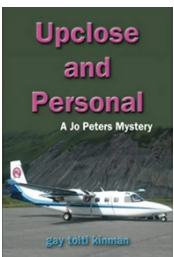
Doomed Legacy, the ninth book in **Matt Coyle's** bestselling Rick Cahill crime series, won the Bronze Prize in the Foreword Reviews Indie Book of the Year Award for Thriller/Suspense.



Thriller Magazine reprinted the supernatural crime story "Lost Souls" by **Peter DiChellis**. The story originally appeared online in *Short Stories: The Crime Readers' Association*.



Raymond Paul Johnson and his agent Dean Krystek are pleased to announce that Ray's debut legal thriller *The Raven Society: Conspiracy Ignited* will be published in Spring 2024 by the Amphorae Publishing Group under their Blank Slate Press imprint.



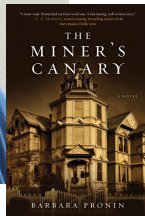
Gay Toltl Kinman's *Upclose and Personal* is now an audio book, narrated by **Harley Jane Kozak**. Jo, a part-time city attorney, and a PI, is hired by her friend, Maray Mesa, who believes someone is trying to kill her. Is Maray imagining it? Or, if she's right, why has someone targeted her? For a free audio code email gaykinman@gaykinman.com

APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Jeri Westerson continues her new release tour for her Sherlockian pastiche, *The Isolated Seance*, on Friday, July 7 at 7 p.m. at Vroman's Bookstore, 695 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, and on Saturday, July 8 at 1 p.m. at Gatsby's Books, 5535 E. Spring St., Long Beach. Giveaways at both locations.

Andrew Niederman, the ghostwriter for V.C. Andrews since 1986, was recently profiled in People.com to celebrate the paperback release of his Edgar Award-nominated biography of Andrews, *The Woman Beyond the Attic*.



Sheila Lowe invites all who feel like a drive to the beach to the launch of her memoir, *Growing from the Ashes*, on July 18 at 5:30 p.m. As this event is being held in a private home in the Ventura Keys, RSVP is required:

sheila@sheilalowe.com



Barbara Pronin, author most recently of *The Miner's Canary*, spoke with writing students at Cal State Fullerton in May about how publishing opportunities have changed, for the better and for the worse, during her thirty-year career as a novelist. Pronin's newest work, a World War II historical, is set to be released in December.

SoCalMWA Out & About



The book launch for *Final Cut* by **Marjorie McCown** at Book Soup on June 6 was a joyful event. Old friends and new gathered to celebrate!



California Crime Writers Conference



DJ Adamson interviews Harris Orkin.



Guest of Honor Rachel Howzell Hall's Sunday afternoon workshop.



Guest of Honor Deborah Crombie delivers her keynote speech.



Naomi Hirahara conducts a workshop.



Anthology Hustle panel (L-R): Kim Keeline, AJ Llewellyn, Richard McPherson, Sarah M. Chen, Wrona Gall, Holly West

CRIME CALENDER



July 29: SoCalMWA Book Swap & BBQ, Culver City, 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



"'Let the fireworks begin,' Lester Price, the mayor, leans over and whispers to me. You'd think we were about to host a gunfight at the O.K. Corral instead of a town hall meeting."

Murder at the Jubilee Rally
by Terry Shames