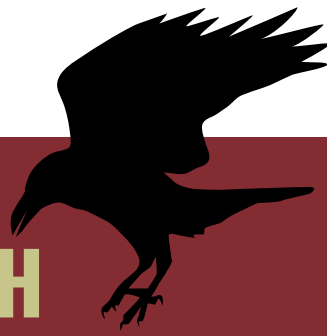


NOVEMBER 2023

# THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



## November Event

TAM LUNCHEON



**QUAN HUYNH**

Author of *Sparrow in the Razor Wire: Finding Freedom from Within While Serving a Life Sentence*



**ONA RUSSELL**

SoCalMWA VP & Lit Hub's "Authors in the Tent" Host



SoCalMWA Presents:  
Tam O' Shanter Luncheon

### A CONVERSATION WITH QUAN HUYNH

Hosted by Ona Russell

November 5, 2023  
11:30 a.m. PT

Tam O'Shanter Restaurant  
\$39 members/\$49 non-members  
[RSVP at SoCalMWA.com](https://www.socalmwa.com)

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Quan Huynh has been described as a mighty warrior, a magician, and a mountain of goodness. He is the bestselling author of *Sparrow in the Razor Wire: Finding Freedom from Within While Serving a Life Sentence*. His book was written for men doing long or life-term sentences, and in it, he shares how he found his freedom years before he was even paroled.

Join us on November 5 at the Tam O'Shanter for lunch and a conversation with Quan, hosted by **Ona Russell**.

[RSVP here.](#)





## A Time to Give Thanks

BY TRAVIS RICHARDSON



Dear Members,

For those who went out trick-or-treating (for yourself or with children), I hope you had a good haul of goodies and if you were handing out sweets, I hope all of the recipients were appreciative and not prone to play tricks on you. For everybody who made it to this year's gumbo party, I hope you enjoyed **Bill Fitzhugh's** amazing homemade Cajun cuisine and had fun with your fellow members. This month, we will be at the Tam O'Shanter for the first time this year. Our Vice President, **Ona Russell**, will be in conversation with Quan Huynh about his time in prison and his rehabilitation. This happens on Sunday, November 5 so sign up today as we must close registration by Thursday.

Finally, I hope all of you will have a wonderful Thanksgiving. I try to remind myself to be grateful for what I have as well as my accomplishments. There is always room for improvement and growth, but focusing on failures and shortcomings won't help, and if anything, it can stall future motivation. So this month (and all others) give yourself a little grace and focus on what you can do and all that you have.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Travis

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## Twists & Turns

BY HOLLY WEST

I've wanted to start a newsletter for a long time, but until recently, I couldn't think of a theme. It couldn't be purely promotional because I don't usually have anything to promote, and I've always enjoyed other writers' newsletters when they're heavy on content and low on promo.

This isn't to say I fault anyone who limits their newsletters to mostly promo. We are here to sell books, after all. Beyond the writing of said books, promo is probably the most important thing we can do with our limited time.

The bottom line is that we all have our priorities, and mine just happen to be more non-promo content-focused. That could always change.

I signed up for Substack months ago but decided about a month ago that I wanted to get serious about it. But, as I said above, what would I write about? After giving it some serious thought, I realized that the things I write about here in my Editor's Corner are a good representation of what I'm all about these days.

Suddenly, I had a theme: writing life, crime fiction, and Tarot. But I went a step further and decided it would all be focused on clearing our minds of the chaos so our creativity can flourish. I call it "Twists & Turns," ("Twists," as in plot twists, and "Turns," as in turns of the cards). I publish on Tuesdays and Fridays, and so far, I'm enjoying this new venture so much.

Of course, my fiction writing comes first. That has always been my main priority, and if I find I can't keep up with that because I'm putting too much time into the newsletter, I'll re-evaluate.

As we head into November, I wish all of you a productive month. Happy NaNoWriMo if you're participating! I'm not doing it officially this year, but I do intend to spend more concentrated time on my work this month.

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:  
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Join the SoCalMWA  
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<http://mysterywriters.org>

## Do You want to Be an Edgar® Judge?

APPLY BY NOVEMBER 6

The General Awards chair for the MWA Edgar Awards is looking for Active Status members to serve as judges for the 2024 Edgar Awards.

If you're interested in judging for the Edgar Awards, please let us know. Keep in mind that you must be a current Active Status member. Many books (that you get to keep, if you wish) are sent by publishers via UPS, Fedex and the like, so you must also have a UPS-friendly shipping address (no post office boxes). You also have the option of receiving digital files.

**Please note:** There is no guarantee of being selected. In balancing the makeup of their committees, the awards category chairs must consider many factors when inviting judges.

Depending on the category, judging can be a lot of work. The current award categories include:

### Best Novel

Best First Mystery Novel by an American Author

Best Paperback/E-book Original

Best Fact Crime

Best Critical/Biographical

Best Short Story

Best Juvenile Mystery

Best Television Series Episode Teleplay

### Non-Edgar Categories

Mary Higgins Clark Award

Lilian Jackson Braun Award

Sue Grafton Memorial Award

More info on these categories can be found [here](#).

If you're interested, [email Margery Flax](#) by November 6 with your name and preferred categories.

## Pomodoro Technique for Penn

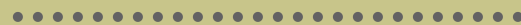
Last month, I attended a skeptics conference in Las Vegas with my husband, who was one of the speakers. It's a weekend full of talks promoting science, rational thought, debunking conspiracy theories, et cetera.

One of the highlights was an interview with Penn Jillette and Teller.

During the Q & A, an audience member asked Penn how he gets so much done. Along with his near-nightly performances at the Rio Hotel & Casino, he does TV, writes novels, and a number of other projects.

It turns out, Penn uses the Pomodoro Technique—a version of it, at least. He sets a timer for 30–45 minutes and gets to work several times a day.

I've been a proponent of the Pomodoro Technique for many years now. And if it's good enough for Penn, I'd say I'm on the right track.



## SoCalMWA/SinCLA 2023 Holiday Party

SAVE THE DATE



SoCalMWA and Sisters in Crime Los Angeles invite you to toast to the holidays with good friends and good cheer! This year, we'll celebrate the season's warmth at the Woman's Club of Hollywood with festive eats and sweet treats. We look forward to getting members (and their plus-ones) together on **December 10 at 2 p.m.**

Volunteer to bring your favorite holiday dish to share and bring a wrapped book (your own or a favorite) to put under the tree.

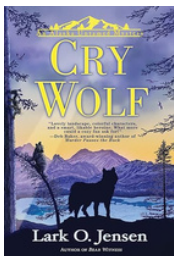
**Surprise Entertainment • Hors D'oeuvres • Wine • Dessert**  
**RSVP Details Coming Soon**



*Last One Alive*, book three in **Jennifer Dornbush's** coroner's daughter series, will be published on October 24 (Blackstone): Dr. Emily Hartford is back in Chicago, ready to leave the past behind, until an unexpected request for help sends her into an investigation—and into the path of a killer.



**Martin Roy Hill's** WWII thriller, *Codename Parsifal*, was released September 1 by 32-32 North. Three teams—American, German, and Russian—are on a collision course that leads them to the ideological heart of the Nazi SS. The audiobook for Hill's latest Linus Schag, NCIS, thriller, *Upriver*, narrated by Brian Dullaghan, was also released in September.



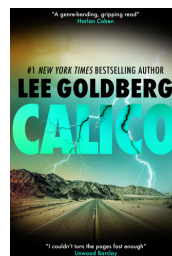
*Cry Wolf*, a new book by **Linda O. Johnston** (writing as Lark O. Jensen), will be published by Crooked Lane Books on November 7.



*Cheap Trills*, the fourth book in Wendall Thomas's Cyd Redondo screwball travel series, finds Cyd in Bali in the wake of the *Eat, Pray, Love* craze and releases October 30.



In November, **Dick Lochte's** *Sleeping Dog*, as part of Penguin UK's new Modern Classics Crime & Espionage Collection, joins novels by Raymond Chandler, Ross Macdonald, Dorothy B. Hughes, Chester Himes, among several others, all in appropriately classic Penguin green softcover format.



**Lee Goldberg's** new novel *Calico* comes out November 7 from Severn House. It's a genre-bending mash-up that combines a modern-day police procedural set in 2019 with a traditional western set in 1883 that share the same dead body.



**Travis Richardson's** story "Texas-Sized Vanity" will be in the November/December issue of *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*. He will also have an article in [Ellery Queen's blog](#) on November 2.



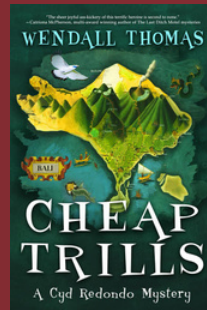
# APPEARANCES & EVENTS

**Jennifer Dornbush** invites you to her book signing at Diesel Bookstore in Brentwood on Thursday, November 7 at 6:30 p.m. to celebrate the release of *Last One Alive*, the third book in her coroner's daughter series.

**William Burton McCormick's** interview with bestselling British author Peter James for "[Trace Evidence](#)," *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine's* blog, is live as of October 18.

**Laurie Stevens** will be reading from her upcoming book, *The Return* (TBR January 2024), at Sisters in Crime's November 5 meeting at the Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea Avenue, at 2:30 p.m.

**Mooned at the Mall**—Rosemary & Larry Mild live in Honolulu, on the island of Oahu. On Saturday, July 8, they tried a new signing venue for their books: a one-day craft and gift fair at the Windward Mall. Each vendor's table was in front of a shop—theirs was in front of Victoria's Secret, where they were greeted with a mannequin wearing a shocking pink thong. Despite the distraction, they managed to sell forty-four books.



**Wendall Thomas** will be launching her fourth Cyd Redondo mystery, *Cheap Trills*, at Book Carnival at 2 p.m. on November 5. Join us at 348 S. Tustin St. Orange. She'll also be talking about the book online with Baron R. Birtcher on "[The Writers Bar](#)" podcast, posting November 10.

To celebrate the release of the new Sisters in Crime-Desert Sleuths anthology, *So West: Wrong Turn*, contributors Kathy McIntosh, D.R. Ransdell, and **Susan Cummins Miller** will be offering six panel discussions at Tucson-Pima County branch libraries in November and early December. Tentative times and dates for "Crime Fiction from the Desert" are listed [here](#). Susan's essay "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Pair-a-Dice: A Geoscientist's Curious Journey from Fieldwork to Crime Fiction" is featured this month on **Donis Casey's** "[Tell Me Your Story](#)" blog.

In late September, **Lee Goldberg** and his brother Tod Goldberg, author of *Gangsters Don't Die*, did a joint signing at the Poisoned Pen in Scottsdale, where they were interviewed by Patrick Millikin (photos by Christine Estes).



# APPEARANCES & EVENTS



## Gumbo Party



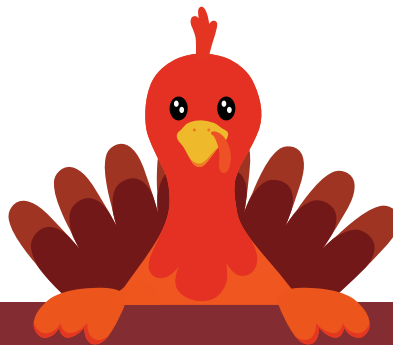


# CRIME CALENDER



November 5: Tam Luncheon, Los Angeles

December 10: SoCalMWA & SinCLA Holiday Party, Los Angeles



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



"Eat. Pray. Barf. Elizabeth Gilbert's pert best-seller was ruining 2007, and it wasn't even March."

*Cheap Trills*  
by Wendall Thomas