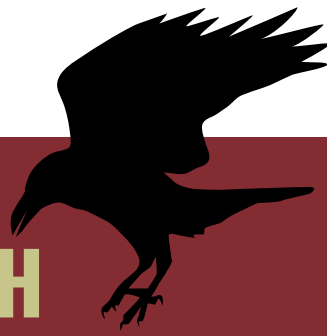


DECEMBER 2024

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



Holiday Party 2024

Hosted by SinCLA & SoCalMWA

SinCLA & SoCalMWA
invite you to a

HOLIDAY PARTY

22 DEC | RSVP NOW | 1:30-4:30 P.M.

FOOD, WINE, BOOK EXCHANGE

South Pasadena Public Library
1100 Oxley Street
South Pasadena

RSVP

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Family is Everything

BY LESLIE S. KLINGER



The Thanksgiving holiday weekend was a quiet one for us. My wife has been dealing with health issues all summer and fall, so we skipped hosting a dinner this year. Instead, we indulged in a marathon of movies: *The Godfather*, parts one, two, and three (that's about nine hours of film). We've seen them all many times before, of course, but it's always a special treat to view them (the director's cut) all at once. I remember reading Mario Puzo's book when it appeared in 1969, but it had nowhere near the impact of the films. One of the most amazing aspects of the films, in my opinion, is that while parts one and two were made consecutively in 1972 and 1974; it took sixteen years for Coppola to release part three to complete the tragedy of Michael Corleone.

Mario Puzo received co-writing credit for all three films and had a major hand in shaping them. While, as always, some backstory of characters in his book had to be discarded, he had the opportunity in the scripts to go far beyond the scope of the original book (which ends with the Corleones relocating to Nevada) in so many respects. The films explore not only the history of twentieth-century America—attitudes about immigrants, World War Two, the Keefauver hearings, the American definition of success—but also the role of women, racial attitudes, the value of the arts, and a detailed examination of relative morality.

Puzo may well have drawn on Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* and Balzac's *Père Goriot*, but what writer doesn't borrow from those who came before? One might point to Shakespeare's *King Lear* and Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* for similar themes. If there's a message to me inherent in watching these films at Thanksgiving, it's that—as the Corleones embody in the darkest way—family is everything.

Our families shape us, warp us, inculcate us with values, and motivate us. They provide us with the richest material to explore in our books. And while at this time of the year, we have to squeeze in writing amidst shopping, cooking, dishwashing, and the like, at least we're not shoveling snow!

Les

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Looks Like We Made it

BY HOLLY WEST

With one month left in 2024 (and this being the final newsletter of the year), I'm going to call it. We've (okay, almost) made it to the end of another year. Congratulations?!

I always go into the holidays hoping to feel the "magic of the season." And to be certain, there are moments when I do. I also try to say "yes" to everything I can, especially if it involves children. That probably sounds weird, but I never had kids, so I don't often have the opportunity to see life through the eyes of the little people who have the capacity to find joy more often than adults do. It reminds me of when my husband and I took our English nieces to Disneyland. Experiencing the park through them made for a completely different—and fun—day. Unfortunately, most of the kids in my life, including those nieces, are young adults now, and my nephew, who is thirteen, is growing up faster than I care to acknowledge. Life is a bullet train, amirite?

But if I'm honest, I won't be sad to say goodbye to 2024. There were a lot of great moments and a few really terrible ones that I'm happy to put behind me. It's hard to say whether 2025 will be better, but I will approach it with my usual optimism and a determination to make small changes in my life that will hopefully lead to big progress. For me, that will mean a new writing project, which I'm currently brainstorming. I also have a plan for at least one short story that I'm excited about.

I've enjoyed editing this newsletter for you this year. Thank you for sharing your good news—I've said it before, and I'll say it again—you all inspire me!

Wishing you all a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

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

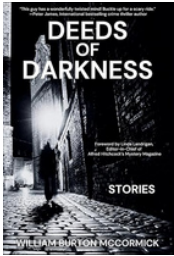
Opinions expressed herein are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter.

Contact us at:
themarchofcrime@gmail.com

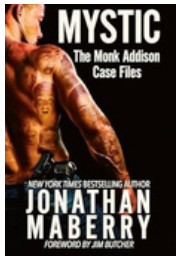
Join the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group

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(members only)

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William Burton McCormick's new collection, *Deeds of Darkness*, includes twenty-four stories of suspense, mystery, espionage, horror, and historical genres from the pages of *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (EQMM)*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, and elsewhere. Additionally, his stories "Boom" and "Dreaming of Kharkiv" appear in the Nov/Dec issues of *EQMM* and *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine* respectively.



NY Times bestseller and 5-time Bram Stoker Award-winner, Jonathan Maberry celebrates the release of *Mystic: The Monk Addison Case Files*, a collection of mystery-thriller short stories featuring a P.I. with tattoos of murder victims, allowing him to relive their deaths in order to find their killers. Maberry also announced that his Joe Ledger thrillers are in development as a TV series.



Threads of Deception, Suddenly French Mystery #1 by Elle Jauffret, featuring a former criminal attorney-turned-private-chef suffering from French Foreign Accent Syndrome (inspired by her life as a criminal attorney for the California Attorney's General's office) is now available. [Click here for links.](#)



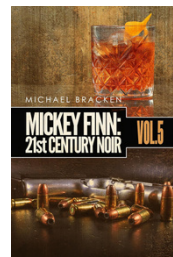
S.K. Rizzolo has just released *Safe in Death*, the first novel in a new amateur sleuth series set in Victorian England. When murder comes calling, a spinster gets a life.



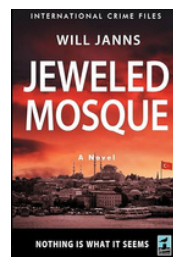
Cover Reveal: Topper Jones's second Thad Hanlon & Bri de la Guerra Mystery, *Oceano Beach Bedlam*, coming St. Patrick's Day—March 17, 2025—from The Wild Rose Press (Crimson Rose imprint). [Click here](#) for a book excerpt.



Terry Shames's standalone novel *Out of Control* comes out December 2, from East Fork Publishing. Also, Shames's eleventh Samuel Craddock novel, *The Troubling Death of Maddy Benson*, is an Amazon Editor's Pick.



Travis Richardson's story "No Requests Denied" will be in *Mickey Finn: 21st Century Noir, Volume 5*.



Writing as Will Janns, Janet Elizabeth Lynn and Will Zeilinger announce the release of their latest International Crime Files novel, *Jeweled Mosque*. Genealogist Tracy Mayfield travels to Istanbul, Turkey in 1962 to learn if the father of her client, Jasmine Züker, is dead or alive. Available in paperback and ebook from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

APPEARANCES & EVENTS

Dan Bronson, author of *Someone To Watch Over Me* and the newly released *Shout at the Devil*, joined *New York Times* bestselling mystery writer Phillip Margolin at Scottsdale's The Poisoned Pen Bookstore for a discussion of the differences between writing a screenplay and writing a novel.



Donis Casey's "Tell Me Your Story" guest for December is former Metropolitan Opera violinist Erica Miner, now an award-winning Seattle-based author, lecturer, arts journalist and screenwriter. Her latest, *Overture to Murder*, was released in October. [Read her story beginning](#) on December 20.



Georgia Jeffries (*The Younger Girl*), **Terry Shames** (*The Troubling Death of Maddy Benson*), and **Michelle Chouinard** (*The Serial-Killer's Guide to San Francisco*) celebrated their autumn releases at Book Jewel in Westchester.

Jennifer Dornbush and **Paige Shelton** will be sharing their latest works and signing books at the Poisoned Pen bookstore (4014 N. Goldwater Blvd, Scottsdale) on December 7 at 7 p.m.

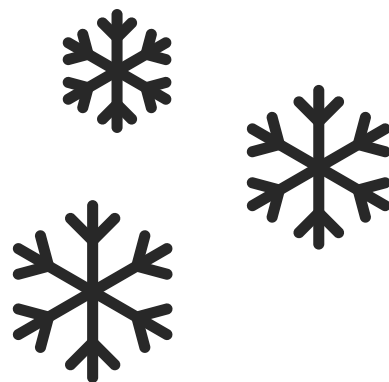
Arizona Holiday Gathering: Following Jennifer and Paige's signing, there will be complimentary pints for SoCalMWA members at the Cornish Pasty (3800 N. Goldwater Blvd, Scottsdale) nearby. Let's all get together to celebrate another great year and ring in the holiday season!

Threads of Deception
ELLE JAUFFRET
a Scabbody French mystery
ELLE JAUFFRET
IN CONVERSATION WITH DENNIS K. CROSBY
DEC 7 2024 7:00 PM PT
Signed/Personalized Books Available
IN-STORE EVENT
mysteriousgalaxy

On December 7, **Elle Jauffret** will be at Mysterious Galaxy (3555 Rosecrans St #107 San Diego, CA 92110) at 2 p.m., to celebrate the launch of her debut mystery, *Threads of Deception*, with French food and book swag for all attendees.

THREE ROOMS PRESS AND BEYOND BAROQUE PRESENT
LA DI DADA 11
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13: 7:30 PM PT
Live Dada Performances by Select Maintenance 18 Contributors:
Mona Jean Cedar & Jeff Boynton (CASCADIA & PIETY)
Allison Davis
Alejandro Escude
Rich Ferguson
Kathleen Florence
Michael C. Ford
Christian Georgescu
S.A. Griffin
Bibiana Padilla Maltos
Bromwyn Mauldin
Richard Modiano
Mike M. Mollett
Harry E. Northup
Travis Richardson
Neal Skooter Taylor
Jimmy Vega
Daniel Yaryan
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BEYOND BAROQUE 681 N. Venice Blvd., Venice, CA
310-822-3006 | www.beyondbaroque.org | \$10
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COSTUMES ENCOURAGED! COME AS YOU WANT!
THE WEST COAST LAUNCH OF MAINTENANT 18
Journal of Contemporary DADA Writing & Art
COPIES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE EVENT

Travis Richardson will be reading from his piece "U Crazy" from *Maintenance 18* along with several DADAist poets and performers at Beyond Baroque (681 N. Venice Blvd, Venice) on December 13 at 7:30 p.m.





Noircon



L-R: Kenneth Wishnia, Gary Phillips, Pat Broeske



L-R: Matt Phillips, Dan Bronson, Patrick Gatov



Duane Swierczynski

Tam Luncheon



Former FBI Agent Thomas Leighton speaks to a full house.



L-R: Bobbie Cimo, Judith Mathison, Fiona Manning, Sheila Lowe

CRIME CALENDER



2024

December 7: Arizona Holiday Gathering, Scottsdale, AZ

December 22: Joint Holiday Party w/ SinCLA, Los Angeles, CA

2025

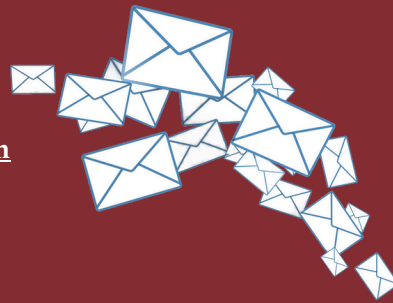
March 13–16: Left Coast Crime, Denver, CO

March 15–16: Tucson Festival of Books, Tucson, AZ

April 25–27: Malice Domestic, Bethesda, MD

April 26–27: LA Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles

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



THE LAST WORD



“The birds sat there in the fading light of the first of October, rustling their feathers, gossiping the way birds do, watching the old car with the trailer drive past. They stopped whispering and watched with black-within-black eyes.

They knew trouble when they saw it.”

Ink: A Novel
by Jonathan Maberry