



The
MARCH

of CRIME

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Congratulations to our SoCalMWA Award Nominees!

Award season is upon us and to date, our chapter has racked up several nominations.

Left Coast Crime 2016 - Lefty Award Nominations

Best Humorous Mystery Novel:

Ellen Byron, PLANTATION SHUDDERS

Best Regional Mystery Novel:

Matt Coyle, NIGHT TREMORS

Robert Crais, THE PROMISE

Best World Mystery Novel:

Lisa Brackmann, DRAGON DAY

James W. Ziskin, STONE COLD DEAD

2016 Edgar Award Nominations

Best First Novel:

Glen Erik Hamilton, PAST CRIMES

Best Paperback Original:

Gordon McAlpine, WOMAN WITH A BLUE PENCIL

Good Luck to all of our nominees!

Mark Your Calendars!

3/20 SoCalMWA Luncheon
Details to come

[Visit the 2016
Crime Calendar](#)



The President's Rap Sheet

Craig Faustus Buck

The Rap this month will be more of a grab bag than a cohesive whole, but there are lots of bits and pieces to report, so here goes.

- We're off and running early this year with our first luncheon under our belt and more on the way. The next one is set for March 20. Details to be announced.
- For those chapter members going to Left Coast Crime in Phoenix on February 25-28, we will be hosting a Happy Hour get-together in the conference hotel bar beginning at 4:30 on Wednesday the 24th. The first drink is on the chapter, so come find me for your ticket.
- We will be hosting a booth at the Tucson Festival of Books on March 12-13. All MWA members are welcome to arrange for a book signing in the booth. Please contact our booth coordinator Fred Anderson at fxandersen@msn.com.
- We will also be hosting a booth at the LA Times Festival of Books on April 9-10. This will also be open to all MWA members from across the country. Details TBA.
- As many of you may know, MWA has initiated a new critique program wherein an experienced published author (you choose from a list) will provide a critique of about 1000 words on the first 25 pages of your manuscript. The cost is only \$100.

With the help of our chapter, this program has been expanded to include screenplays. We have assembled a talented group of professional screenwriters willing to critique the first 25 pages of your script. [Details can be found here](#) on the national website in the Members Only section. If you don't have a password, or wish to take advantage of the program, contact [Margery Flax](#) in the national office.

- As most of you know, MWA keeps an approved publishers list. Unfortunately, some publishers meet the criteria to get on the list, but then fail to meet their obligations to their authors and should be removed. The only way MWA can learn about publisher misconduct is from members. If you have a complaint about a publisher, whether listed or not, national wants to hear about it. Shoot an email to [Margery](#).

Chapter Officers

President: Craig Faustus Buck
VP: Sue Ann Jaffarian
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Secretary: Terri Nolan

Board of Directors

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 Elizabeth Little
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Join our SoCalMWA Yahoo! Group

Email SoCalMWA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
 to join
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[continued on page 3](#)

(continued from page 2)

- Much of this sort of chapter information, plus news from your fellow chapter members, is available in our Yahoo! and Facebook groups. Both can send daily digests to your email (or not, if you prefer), so you only have to visit the group if there's something specific you've been alerted to. But if you don't join, you miss out.

For example, two of our chapter members, **Glen Erik Hamilton** and **Gordon McAlpine**, received Edgar Award nominations last month. (Huge congrats to you both!) The chapter's online groups were abuzz with congratulations, but both nominees missed out on much of the glory by not being on the Yahoo! group and only one of them was on the Facebook group. Get the gossip! Instructions for finding the groups are located to the right on the [previous page](#).

And so we come to the end. Until next month...

Craig



The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

Hey, what's up with Craig taking up my space every month? Just kidding, of course. I wanted to pop in to officially say 'Happy New Year' and that I'm looking forward to a great year with SoCalMWA. Looking at the award noms our members have gotten so far, we're off to a great start!

Holly

FRESH BLOOD

SoCalMWA welcomes its new and returning members:

Ann Redisch Stampler



The March of Crime is the newsletter of the Southern California Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America.

Editor: [Holly West](#)

February Contributors:
Gregory Von Dare
Craig Faustus Buck
Thomas B. Sawyer

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

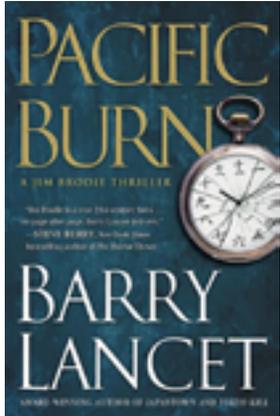


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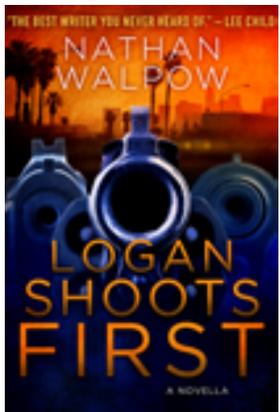
Email
SoCalMWA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

OVER the TRANSOM

Member News

Barry Lancet returns with *PACIFIC BURN* (S&S; Hardcover; February 9, 2016), the third book of “what will likely be a long and successful series” (San Francisco Magazine). In Jim Brodie’s latest outing, he goes up against the CIA, FBI, Department of Homeland Security—and a killer operating on both sides of the Pacific. *TOKYO KILL*, the second book, has been released in paperback. For review copies, please contact Leah Johanson, Senior Publicist, at leah.johanson@simonandschuster.com | 212-698-7144.

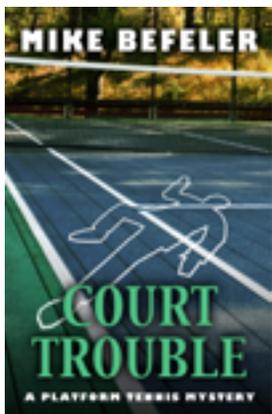
Gay Tolt Kinman’s “Benita” is the fourth story in the Stand-Down series. Benita, the manager of Motel LA, lives in quarters adjoining the office. She doesn’t get out much, until FBI Agent Wedgeworth takes her into custody for the murder of her husband thirty years prior. Kinman also has three short biographical plays: “Baskets to Jade,” about Grace Nicholson, founder and builder of the Pacific Area Art Museum, “Nicholas Owen: Builder of Secret Places,” about a man who made secret hiding places for priests during the reign of Elizabeth I and “Esther Howland: Queen of Valentines,” about the first woman valentine maker who lived in Worchester, MA in the late 19th century. All are on Kindle from Mysterious Woman.



Craig Faustus Buck’s flash fiction story “Shrink Rap,” a twisted tale of love, betrayal and murder, will appear in *Pulp Spirit* #25, publication date March 1. In addition, his story “Aftermath,” a flash sequel of sorts to “Shrink Rap” was purchased by *Flash BangMysteries* for their April/Spring 2016 issue.

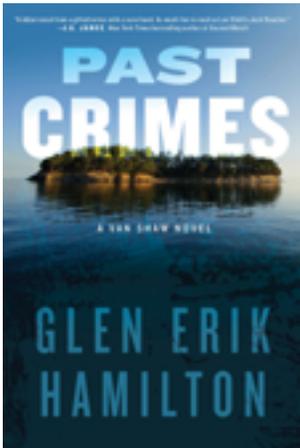
Nathan Walpow’s second Logan e-novella, *LOGAN SHOOTS FIRST*, is now available on Kindle. It joins *LOGAN’S YOUNG GUNS* and a third novella in a trade paperback to be published by Down & Out Books. Nathan’s collection, *PUSH COMES TO SHOVE*, featuring seven stories, a novella and a foreword by Lee Child, is also available for the Kindle.

Laurie Stevens will be featured in the ITW’s “The Big Thrill” in February.



Mike Befeler’s novel, *COURT TROUBLE, A PLATFORM TENNIS MYSTERY*, will be published July 2016. When Mark Yeager’s friend is bludgeoned to death in the dark on a platform tennis court, Mark becomes an amateur sleuth to find which of the four suspects is the murder. Avoiding attempts on his life and struggling after his bout with prostate cancer, he cracks the case and saves the courts from being shut down by the city.

OVER the TRANSOM

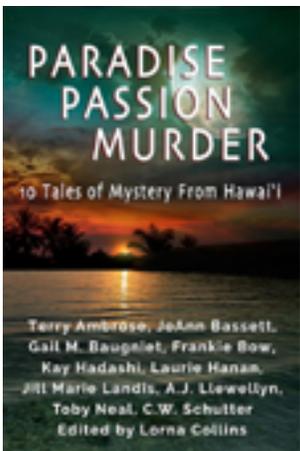


Glen Erik Hamilton's PAST CRIMES has been nominated for Best First Novel in the 2016 Edgar Awards. The annual Edgar Awards banquet and ceremony will be held on April 28 at the Grand Hyatt in New York City.

Bonnie Hearn Hill's GOODBYE FOREVER, the second in her Kit Doyle series, will be published by Severn House in the UK at the end of January and this summer in the United States. True crime blogger Kit Doyle goes underground as a teen runaway as she searches for her former husband's niece and a group of runaways who have all signed their final notes to their parents the same way--with the words, "Goodbye Forever."

D.P. Lyle, MD's updated 2nd Edition of FORENSICS FOR DUMMIES will be released on February 29 by Wiley. It's available for Pre-Order now. Details: <http://www.dplylemd.com>.

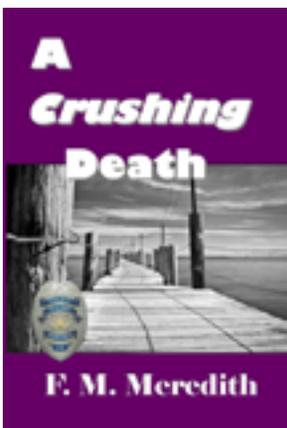
Ellen Byron's PLANTATION SHUDDERS is a Lefty Award nominee for Most Humorous Mystery. The winners will be announced at the upcoming Left Coast Crime Conference Awards Banquet in Phoenix, February 27.



Terry Ambrose coordinated the compilation of an anthology to raise funds to promote literacy in Hawaii titled PARADISE, PASSION, MURDER: 10 TALES OF MYSTERY FROM HAWAII. The anthology also includes stories from JoAnn Bassett, Gail Baugniet, Frankie Bow, Lorna Collins (editor), Kay Hadashi, Laurie Hanan, Jill Marie Landis, AJ Llewellyn, Toby Neal, and CW Schutter. All royalties go directly to Read Aloud America. Publication date was January 26, 2016. More information is available at hawaiianmystery.com.

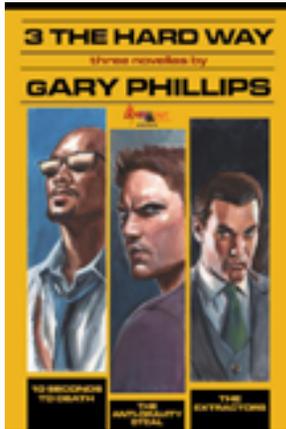
Marilyn Meredith, writing as F. M. Meredith, is happy to report the latest in the Rocky Bluff P.D. series, A CRUSHING DEATH, debuts in March.

Stefanie Stolinsky's HOT SHOT, her newest comedy/thriller, has been accepted for publication by Fiery Seas Publishing, Inc. and will be out in Fall 2016. She's also scripted "Date Night," for a spec pilot.



Barry Wiley reports that his short story "Tall Paul" will appear on *Kings River Life* magazine in February. It is the second short story to be published featuring his youthful heroine, Kyame Piddington, the protagonist of his Adventures in Second Sight series. "Tall Paul" will be his eighth short story to appear on *Kings River Life* over the past year, which includes his Derringer-nominated story "The Great Houdini! Murder Case."

OVER the TRANSOM



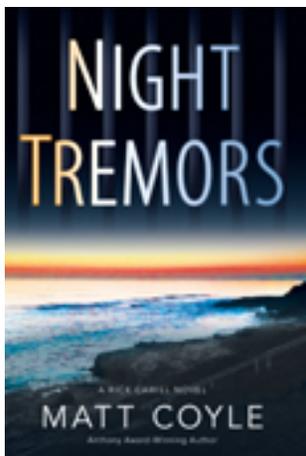
THREE THE HARD WAY is a compilation of three action novellas by **Gary Phillips**. Malcolm Cavanaugh Bleekston, McBleak, is a one pcenter looking to rip off a fellow member of the bourgeois in THE EXTRACTORS. Noc Brenner is a drifter, an extreme athlete adept at underground fighting to free diving. In the ANTI-GRAVITY STEAL, Noc must use all his abilities to fight for peace. And part Shaft and part Batman sans the cowl, Luke Warfield, a philanthropist with a shady background in 10 SECONDS TO DEATH must stop a deadly plan of mass slaughter. From Down & Out Books.

D. J. Adamson blogs a monthly newsletter - “Le Coeur de l’Artiste” to a mailing list of approximately 2,000. The newsletter interviews and reviews mystery authors, at no cost to the author. To be included on the list or to read the latest issue, go to www.djadamson.com.

John Shepphird sold the first season of episodes of his private eye series iPrivateEye to Hooked, a flash fiction app for iPhone. Readers follow text messages (and photos) between characters. The series features Nora who inherited the PI business from her late father. Keeping the brick-and-mortar office doesn’t make business sense, so she sold his desk and file cabinets and created the all-digital iPrivateEye Agency. Clients pay through PayPal. Nora’s first case involves a suspicious bride-to-be investigating her fiancé.



NIGHT TREMORS by **Matt Coyle**, the second book in the Rick Cahill crime series, has been nominated for the Lefty Award for Best Left Coast Crime Regional Mystery. Additionally, Matt has inked a deal with Oceanview Publishing to publish books three and four of the Rick Cahill crime series. Book three, DARK FISSURES, will be out in December 2016.



Do you have writing news to share with our chapter?
Email it to TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com
by February 20 for inclusion in the March issue.



Member
APPEARANCES

Paul D. Marks will be interviewed by Pam Stack on Authors on the Air, Wednesday, February 3 at 6pm and is February's featured guest on Sue Ann Jaffarian's Facebook Fan Club. Links: [Authors on the Air](#), [Sue Ann Jaffarian Fan Club](#).

Glen Erik Hamilton will be launching his second book, *HARD COLD WINTER*, with appearances at Flintridge Books on March 8, Poisoned Pen in Scottsdale on March 9, Book Carnival on March 10, Mysterious Galaxy on March 12 and various Seattle-area locations the following week. Glen will also be at Left Coast Crime in Phoenix, February 25-28. Full details at glenerikhamilton.com.

Pamela Samuels Young will present "Self-Publishing Made Easy: Everything You Need to Know to Create Your Print, eBook and Audiobook" on March 12, 2016, in Long Beach, CA. In this day-long, information-packed workshop, Pamela will reveal everything you need to know to turn your manuscript into a printed book, eBook and audiobook. You can also join the workshop via live streaming. Earlybird discount ends February 20th. Class limited to 50 attendees. For location, details and price, visit: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2464432>.

On February 21, **Sheila Lowe** will be at the Authors Fair at the Grant R. Brimhall Library, 1401 E. Janns Rd., Thousand Oaks, and at Left Coast Crime in Phoenix February 25-28.

Jeri Westerson is launching her 8th book in the Crispin Guest Medieval Noir series, *THE SILENCE OF STONES*. Join her in celebration at the following locations:

Saturday, February 6, 1 pm — Mystery Ink Bookstore. Cake, mead, camaraderie, presentations, and prizes. 8907 Warner Ave #135, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 (714) 960-4000.

Saturday, February 6, 5:30 pm — Th BIG party at Vroman's in Pasadena. Mead! Medieval food! A bagpiper! Presentation! and Prizes! 695 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91101 626-449-5320

Sunday, February 7, 2 pm — Book Carnival in Orange. Mead, cheeses, presentation, and prizes. 348 S Tustin St, Orange, CA 92866 (714) 538-3210

Saturday, February 13, 2 pm — Murder & Tea Book Club Luncheon at the Tam O'Shanter 2980 Los Feliz Blvd, Los Angeles, California 90039. Public is invited. Please RSVP for further information to afoot@gmail.com. Books will be available for sale.

Saturday, February 20, 2 pm — Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore, 5943 Balboa Ave #100, San Diego, CA 92111 (858) 268-4747 Mead, cheeses, presentation, and prizes.

February 25-28, 2016 — Left Coast Crime, Phoenix AZ. Panel on Friday. Details to come.

Member APPEARANCES

Matt Coyle will share a panel with **Lisa Brackmann** and **John Connell** at Mysterious Galaxy in San Diego on Friday, February 12th at 7:30 p.m. Matt will also be on the the Lefty Award Nominees: Best LCC Regional Novel panel on Friday, February 26 at 1:30 p.m. and will moderate the Anti-Heroes panel on Sunday, February 28 at 11:00 a.m. at the Left Coast Crime Mystery Conference in Phoenix, AZ.

Holly West will be on the short story panel on Saturday, February 25, at X with fellow panelists X and will moderate the Unusual Job for a Sleuth panel on Friday, February 26 at 9:30am at the Left Coast Crime Mystery Conference in Phoenix, AZ.

Jan Burke and **DP Lyle**: Upcoming shows for Crime & Science Radio

More details: <http://www.dplylemd.com>

2-13-16: Crime and Science Radio: Crime and Science in the OC: an Interview with Bruce Houlihan, Director of the Orange County Crime Lab



L - R: David Putnam, D.P. Lyle, MD and Dennis Palumbo.
Photo by Pat H. Broeske.

SoCalMWA members **David Putnam**, **D.P. Lyle** and **Dennis Palumbo** discuss “Dark Motivations: What Makes Bad Guys Tick” at the annual Forensics Fest meeting of Sisters in Crime Orange County.

What’s the difference between a mass murderer and a spree killer? (A mass murderer takes down multiple victims all at once while a spree killer unleashes his rage at two or more locales). What do writers often misunderstand about schizophrenia? (Schizophrenics are generally not crazed killers). Why does someone defraud someone via cybercrime instead of carrying out an old-fashioned robbery? (Cybercrime is prosecuted as grand theft and is non-confrontational; robbery is a crime against a person and can result in an unexpected altercation).

The event drew nearly 50 crime-obsessed Sisters and Misters to the January event, which marked the first meeting of the year for SinC O.C.

We want your pictures!

Book events, appearances, SoCalMWA meetings, conferences... start snappin'!
Email them to TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com by February 20
for inclusion in the March 2016 issue.

**PRIVATE EYE WRITERS OF AMERICA ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS
FOR 2016 SHAMUS AWARDS
For Works First Published in the U.S. in 2015**

Following are the categories for the Private Eye Writers of America 2016 Shamus Awards for private eye novels and short stories first published in the United States in 2015. The awards will be presented in the fall of 2016 at Bouchercon.

DEADLINE: For publishers submissions must be postmarked by March 31, 2016. No extensions can be given. Shamus Committees will forward their final list to the Shamus Awards Chair by May 31, 2016.

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible works must feature as a main character a person PAID for investigative work but NOT employed for that work by a unit of government. These include traditionally licensed private investigators; lawyers and reporters who do their own investigations; and others who function as hired private agents. These do NOT include law enforcement officers, other government employees or amateur, uncompensated sleuths.

Independently published books (Indies) may be submitted to the Best Original Paperback PI Novel category.

SUBMISSIONS; Please send one copy of each eligible work to ALL members of the appropriate committee and send a copy to the Shamus Awards Chair, Gay Toltl Kinman. Do NOT submit a book to more than one committee. There is no application fee and no submission form; as a simple cover letter will suffice. If you have any questions, please e-mail Gay Toltl Kinman at gaykinman@gaykinman.com BEFORE submitting.

BEST HARDCOVER PI NOVEL: A book-length work of fiction published in hardcover in 2015 that is NOT the author's first published P.I. novel.

BEST FIRST PI NOVEL: A book-length work of fiction, in hardcover or paperback, first published in 2015 that is the author's first published novel featuring a private investigator as a main character.

BEST ORIGINAL PAPERBACK PI NOVEL: A book-length work of fiction first published as a paperback original in 2015 that is NOT the author's first P.I. novel; and paperback reprints of previously published novels are NOT eligible.

BEST PI SHORT STORY: A work of fiction of 20,000 words or fewer. Stories first published in an earlier year and reprinted in a magazine, anthology or collection in 2015, are NOT eligible.

2016 SHAMUS Awards Committees

SHAMUS CHAIR

Gay Toltl Kinman
900 South Second Street Suite E
Alhambra CA 91801

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Hollow Points

Gregory Von Dore

On Safari, Part 2

While big game hunting on safari has become an irresponsible pursuit in the 21st century, hunting intermediate game in Africa and elsewhere, especially herd and nuisance animals, is still socially acceptable. It's often necessary to keep the size of a herd within sustainable limits in shrinking habitats or to prevent wholesale damage to vital crops and village populations. The large bore, double barreled "elephant gun" we featured in the last installment is unsuited to this kind of hunting. It is literally overkill.

Much like hunting deer or elk in the USA, taking a Thompson's Gazelle, or "tommy", an eland, kudu, impala, springbok or dorcas, requires a great deal of knowledge, patience, stealth and a high precision shot, since these nervous animals will flee at the slightest noise, movement or scent. In this context, the medium caliber bolt action rifle is the best choice.



The Mauser M98 is a favorite of European hunters

Once the sliding bolt action had been perfected in the late 19th century, modern hunting rifles quickly took shape. They consist of a sturdy, breech-loading action, which may be either single shot or fed by a low capacity magazine, a heavy barrel, a traditional wooden stock, perhaps with the raised cheek ridge known as a Monte Carlo, and a slender forestock to provide a grip for the left hand and keep the rifle in balance. Built-in, iron sights are typical but many rifles add a long range telescopic sight, or 'scope. Premium hunting rifles, with price tags upwards of ten-thousand dollars, often use exotic woods such as Turkish walnut for their stocks and have beautiful artisanal engraving of the metal parts, with frequent use of silver or gold inlay.

The German-made Mauser M98 was an early favorite among European hunters due to its precision manufacture, rugged build and high degree of accuracy. Although developed from the military rifle of 1898, the lighter hunting Mauser used a shorter wooden forestock and its outstretched bolt handle was bent downward at about 45 degrees. One key feature of the Mauser that is prized by hunters is the so-called controlled feed. The spent cartridge is gripped by the action until it is ejected. There is no gravity handling or other passive movement of the brass. This means that the rifle will unload and reload when pointed up, down, sideways or at any angle. The M98 weighs just under eight pounds, is 44.5 inches long, with a 24 inch barrel. It has a three to five shot internal magazine and is usually chambered for some variation of the 9mm hunting cartridge.

A magnum variant of the M98 has been produced for decades and is just a more heavy-duty version of the basic rifle, chambered for anything up to a .500 Jeffery hunting round. The standard M98 is far more popular than the magnum. Used Mausers are hard to find because they are often passed down from father to son to grandson, so most beginning hunters have to buy a new one. Or find an estate sale. Other European stalwarts include the Finnish Sako, the Austrian Steyr, German Merkel, the Swedish Tikka, and of course Italy's Beretta and Benelli.

Kicking it Off - That Super Critical Opening Moment

Guest Spotlight by **Thomas B. Sawyer** (excerpted from his book, FICTION WRITING DEMYSTIFIED)

Where and how to start one's yarn – choosing the just right opening words for a novel, play or short story – selecting that optimum moment for the beginning of a screenplay or teleplay – the crucially important first meeting between your fictional creation and your audience is – once again – about hooking them.

Right up there in importance with how you choose to introduce your characters, those initial words involve creative decisions not to be taken lightly. Nor usually are they easily arrived at. The estimable novelist/screenwriter Elmore Leonard, by the way, suggests that most of us should never start with weather.

Look at some incredibly memorable opening lines, two of them dialogue, the others narrative:

“Now is the winter of our discontent...” (William Shakespeare – RICHARD III)

Let me tell you about the very rich – they are different from you and me... (F. Scott Fitzgerald – THE RICH BOY)

“Call me Ishmael...” (Herman Melville – MOBY DICK)

As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams, he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect... (Franz Kafka – THE METAMORPHOSIS)

Or check out some great opening movie scenes, from “Raiders of the Lost Ark” (Scr. Lawrence Kasdan, Story by George Lucas and Philip Kaufman – Dir. Steven Spielberg), to “His Girl Friday” and others. Or the awesome first few minutes of “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” (Scr. William Goldman – Dir. George Roy Hill). Or “The Godfather” (Scr. Mario Puzo & Francis Ford Coppola, based on Puzo's novel – Dir. Francis Ford Coppola), in which a dozen-or-so characters are introduced, all of them – and their complex relationships – vividly-and-economically defined, riveting our curiosity.

Examine how these films hook us, how deftly they handle exposition, how quickly they are into the story. Writers of any type of fiction, as well as authors of nonfiction, can learn a lot from the choices made, from the way those movies begin.

There is much about storytelling technique to be learned from the visual media, all the way from TV commercial spots to epic movies and miniseries. How it looks and how it's written. The effective juxtaposition of sounds and images.

[continued on page 14](#)

Pitch Your Ideas

TMOC is looking for informative articles written by our members. Email us at themarchofcrime@gmail.com with your pitches.

Event Wrap-Up:

Dashiell Hammett Luncheon with Julie M. Rivett

By **Craig Faustus Buck**

SoCalMWA had another semi-regular luncheon on January 10 at the Tam O'Shanter in Los Angeles with Dashiell Hammett's granddaughter, Julie M. Rivett, who called the fabled author a "pragmatist philosopher."

First and foremost, Julie dispelled the most common myth about Dashiell Hammett: the pronunciation of his first name. This pronunciation was something he was particularly touchy about, correcting everyone who mispronounced it. The name is not "Dash-l," as it is commonly pronounced, but "Da-sheel," with the accent on the second syllable. Be forewarned.

As one of the executors of his literary estate, the editor of several collections of his work, an historian of his legacy and a frequent lecturer, Julie told a string of stories that were particularly juicy for those of us who are Hammett fans (and who in the chapter isn't?).

Julie told a slew of family stories, including some juicy and brutally honest tales about Lillian Hellman that are too spicy for a family newsletter. She also said that her grandmother remained friends with Hammett (as he did with all his ex-girlfriends as well) long after they parted. In fact, he would stay with his family whenever he was in town, even when he was living with Lillian Hellman.

The event was also sprinkled with tidbits of delicious trivia, such as the fact that the character of Brigid O'Shaughnessy in *THE MALTESE FALCON* (played by Mary Astor in the movie) was based on Hammett's one-time girlfriend, Peggy O'Toole, who worked at Samuel Jewelry. Or that Peggy also served as the inspiration for one of his strongest female characters, Dinah Brand, in the Continental Op novel *RED HARVEST*. Or that Hammett wrote the treatments for the first two sequels to "The Thin Man" movies, "After the Thin Man" and "Another Thin Man."



Craig Faustus Buck & Julie M. Rivett
Photo by Pat H. Broeske.



Julie M. Rivett. Photo by Craig Faustus Buck.

About 35 members showed up to enjoy the Scot-themed room and scrumptious food. Our next luncheon will be on March 20. Details are in the works, but we are aiming for some sort of law enforcement or forensics presentation (or maybe both).

For information about future luncheons and other SoCalMWA events, [visit the SoCalMWA website](#).

Hollow Points - [continued from pg 10](#)

American hunters have always enjoyed a diversity of high-quality rifles. While Winchester leads the pack, Remington, Ruger, Springfield Armory, Savage and Browning all produce excellent hunting rifles. The Winchester Model 70 is especially well suited to game hunting and has a controlled feed bolt action similar to that of the Mauser. The Model 70's trigger pull is adjustable, to make shooting more comfortable for the owner and increase accuracy.

The Model 70 was introduced in 1936 and was made in the same pattern until 1964. After '64 the rifle was simplified to make manufacture less expensive, the controlled feed action was dropped and checkering (for improved grip) became stamped-on rather than hand cut. The pre-1964 Winchesters are considered collectable and are the first choice of seasoned American game hunters. The model 70 weighs in at eight pounds and comes with barrels ranging from 22 to 26 inches length. It was most often chambered to fire the .30-06, .308 Winchester or .375 magnum cartridge.



“Checkering” the wood of a gunstock provides extra grip.

The Remington 700 BDL Safari Grade is another traditional favorite of American hunters. Similar in size and weight to the Winchester, the R-700 SG is made with a heavy action and can be chambered for the mighty .375 H&H cartridge without any trouble. While the Remington bolt action is sturdy, it lacks the controlled feed mechanism of the Winchester and for that reason is not the preferred choice of many hunters.

The Browning Belgium Safari rifle is not as common as the mass-produced firearms above, but has several interesting points. The heavy barrel has three step-downs of width along its length to promote better balance in the hands, pointability and to reduce

overall weight. The Browning could be fitted with a Mauser-style action that used the desirable controlled feed mechanism. It was made in Belgium by FN and featured an elegant curved bold handle. This rifle was often chambered for the .308 or the Springfield .30-06 cartridge. For hunting use, the Browning Belgium is equal to all North American game and all intermediate African game.

Next time we'll zoom in on the telescopic sight and sail to the mid Pacific for a different kind of safari: a wild boar hunt in Hawaii, where the game is immediately cooked and eaten, with great celebration.

All images used in this article are courtesy of [Wikimedia Commons](#).

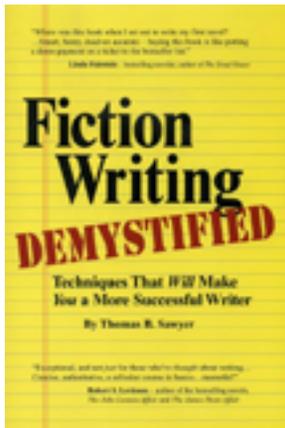
Gregory Von Dare comes from Chicago and was raised on crime, corruption and clout in the big city. He has written non-fiction books, magazine articles and radio scripts, as well as stories, plays and screenplays. He once worked as a pyro detonator and talent manager for Universal Studios Hollywood.

Kicking it Off - That Super Critical Opening Moment ([continued from page 11](#))

Has the influence of film and TV on narrative writing been consistently positive? Of course not. But cinema has definitely changed – and refreshed – the way novelists, historians and biographers practice their art.

I don't know that there is a for-certain technique for writing terrific opening scenes, nor any guarantee that yours will be as effective as those cited. But, like so much of the mindset I acquired while writing for TV, awareness of the problem – of the need for truly arresting hooks and grabbers – will ultimately improve your writing.

And in any case, I deeply believe that whatever extra effort you put into such details will be rewarded – bigtime.



Thomas B. Sawyer is a screenwriter, novelist, playwright, Showrunner/Head Writer of classic TV series, MURDER, SHE WROTE, for which he wrote 24 episodes. Edgar and Emmy-nominated. Wrote 9 series pilots, 100 episodes, comedy and drama, on staff 15 series. Wrote/directed cult feature ALICE GOODBODY. Co-librettist/lyricist of JACK, an opera about JFK. Publishes STORYBASE 2.0 software. Authored best-selling FICTION WRITING DEMYSTIFIED, thrillers THE SIXTEENTH MAN, NO PLACE TO RUN, CROSS PURPOSES. Taught writing at UCLA, now online at Screenwriters University. Find him online at www.ThomasBSawyer.com

February 21, 2016 ~ 8pm

FEATURING:

Eric Beetner, S.W. Lauden, Owen Laukkenen,
Johnny Shaw, Rob Hart, Tom Pitts,
S.G. Redling and Patricia Abbot

NOIR AT THE BAR

Mandrake ~ 2692 La Cienega

[continued from page 9](#)

**PRIVATE EYE WRITERS OF AMERICA ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS
FOR 2016 SHAMUS AWARDS
For Works First Published in the U.S. in 2015**

BEST ORIGINAL PAPERBACK PI NOVEL

Andrew McAleer, Chair
121 Follen Rd
Lexington MA 02421

Thomas Donahue
72 Gannett Road
Scituate MA 02066

Colleen Collins
POB 12159
Denver CO 80212

BEST FIRST PI NOVEL

Ted Fitzgerald, Chair
63 Old Post Road
East Walpole MA 02032

Baron Birtcher
33347 SW Ladd Hill Rd
Wilsonville OR 97070

Barbara Gregorich
400 North Clinton #502
Chicago IL 60654

BEST HARDCOVER PI NOVEL

Douglas Corleone, Chair
1251 Emerson Park Boulevard
Apt. 305
Celebration FL 34747

Karen Palmer
53870 State Highway 30
Roxbury NY 12474

Bill Palmer
53870 State Highway 30
Roxbury NY 12474

BEST PI SHORT STORY

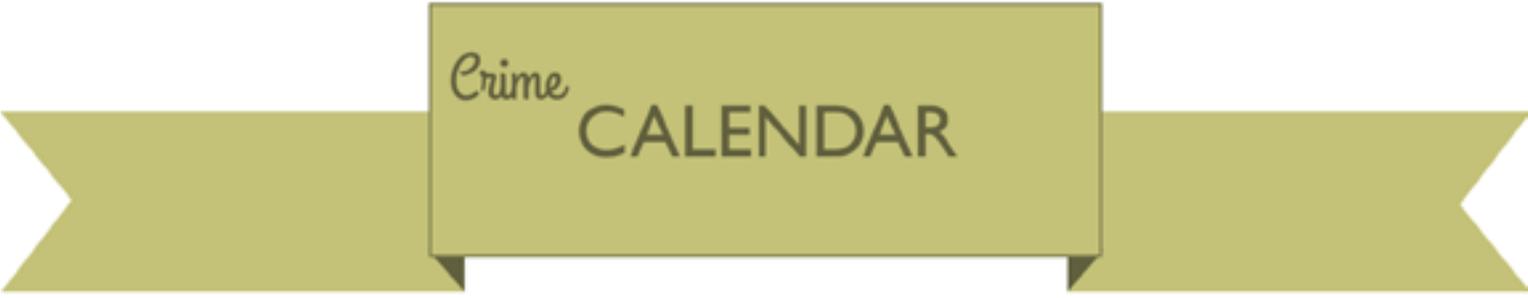
Beth Terrell, Chair
2919 Dunmore Drive
Nashville TN 37214

Matt Coyle
3939 Clairemont Mesa Blvd
San Diego CA 92119

John Hegenberger
6487 Ethan Drive
Reynoldsburg OH 43068

TMOG thanks February's contributors:

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Craig Faustus Buck
Thomas B. Sawyer

A green banner with a ribbon-like shape on the left and right sides. The word "Crime" is written in a cursive font, and "CALENDAR" is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

Crime
CALENDAR

Criminal Happenings in 2016

February 21 - [Noir at the Bar, Culver City, CA](#)

February 24 - [SoCalMWA-Sponsored Happy Hour to Kick-Off Left Coast Crime, Phoenix, AZ](#)

February 25 - 28 - [Left Coast Crime, Phoenix, AZ](#)

March 13 - [Tucson Festival of Books, Tucson, AZ](#)

March 20 - [SoCalMWA Luncheon, Los Angeles, CA \(Details to come\)](#)

April 9 - 10 - [Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles, CA](#)

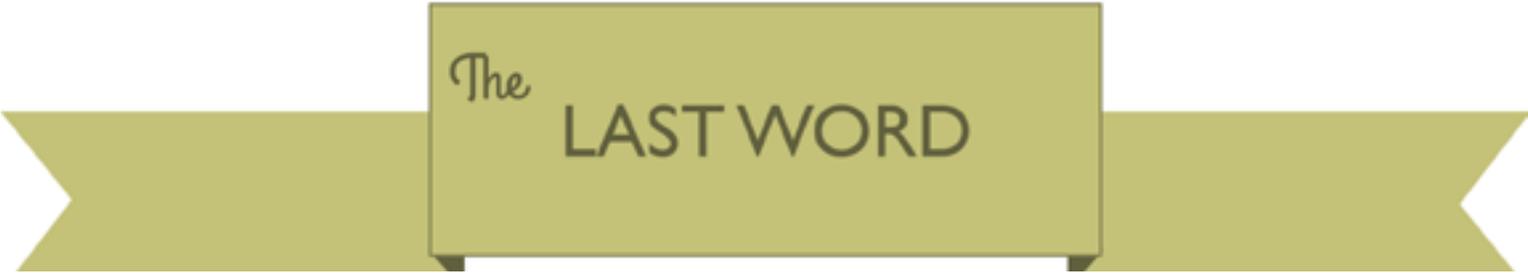
April 29 - May 1 - [Malice Domestic, Bethesda, MD](#)

July 28 - 31 - [Book Passage Mystery Writers Conference, Corte Madera, CA](#)

September 15 - 18 - [Bouchercon, New Orleans, LA](#)

October 1 - [Gumbo & Homebrewed Ale Party, Los Angeles, CA](#)

December 17- [SoCalMWA Holiday Party, Los Angeles, CA](#)

A green banner with a ribbon-like shape on the left and right sides. The word "The" is written in a cursive font, and "LAST WORD" is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

The
LAST WORD

“It wasn’t like they said. It wasn’t his entire life flashing before his eyes.
Only the parts he was pissed off about.”

--Thomas B. Sawyer, THE SIXTEENTH MAN