



The  
MARCH

of CRIME

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**San Diego Meeting:**  
Cop Stories  
& FBI Tales:  
Putting the Facts  
in Crime Fiction

**Saturday, July 18**  
**12pm**

More information:  
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## SoCalMWA Luncheon

### *The Changing Face of Publishing*

**Sunday, July 19, 2015**

**11:30am**

Publishing is in upheaval and all indications are the confusion will continue. As a writer, which path to publishing is right for you? Which path will be right for you in the future?

Join SoCalMWA for a three-course luncheon at the fabulous Tam O'Shanter restaurant to hear an exciting panel of authors and editors whose broad range of experience in today's tumultuous publishing environment will give you new perspectives on your options.

Featuring:

**Lee Goldberg, Kristen Weber**  
**Diane Vallere, and Sue Ann Jaffarian**  
([click here for bios](#))

Tam O'Shanter  
2980 Los Feliz Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90039  
323-664-0228

Members: \$20

Guests: \$30

Includes a three-course lunch:

Choose your entree at the restaurant  
(yes, their famous prime rib will be among your choices)

Doors open at 11:30am  
Event begins at 12:00pm

**[For more information and to secure your reservation\(s\)](#)**  
**[visit the SoCalMWA website.](#)**



## The President's Rap Sheet

### Craig Faustus Buck

Six months ago, in the throes of planning the California Crime Writers Conference with Co-Chair Diane Vallere and the fabulous team of author/planners who gave up prime writing time to volunteer, I looked forward to June 8, the day after the conference, as the beginning of some extended down time when I could actually get back to my own writing.

Ha, ha, ha. As fortune would have it, June 9 turned out to be the launch party for my debut novel, and on June 10 I left for two weeks in Colorado for the birth of my first grandchild. As I write this column, I'm watching six-day-old Noam Everett Buck Bracey suckle his breakfast and I'm wondering if I'll ever find time to write my way out of the quicksand of my WIP's second act.

Life events, no matter how joyful, can be a writer's worst enemy. While real life offers plenty of grist for the quill, it can also be an enormous time suck. Smart writers deal with this by scheduling writing time and sticking to it. I am not among them. My life is a chaotic attempt to carve out chunks of time (preferably five hours or more) from an erratic medley of book marketing, household chores, Email, friends' musical gigs and book events, social media, family time, exercise, public speaking, Dodger games, writers group, cultural events, blog posts, cooking, community politics, eating, drinking, True Detective, sleeping and, of course, MWA.

When something has to be sacrificed, it always seems to be writing time, even if you're on a schedule. Sometimes it's unintentional. Make a five-minute call to report a billing error and spend 45 minutes on hold. Run a five-minute errand and get a flat tire. Take five minutes for a cup of joe and spend an hour cleaning broken glass and coffee off the floor after you drop the pot. Other times it's a seemingly unavoidable choice. Family brunch. Dental appointment. The dog ate the car keys.

Finding time to write is almost always a challenge for authors in the real world. Yet it's a writer's most critical skill. It constitutes the difference between a writer and a wanna-be. Talent is nothing but a waste if you don't glue your butt to the chair. So I propose a group resolution for the chapter: let's make this summer a season for putting our prose to the grindstone.

Craig Faustus Buck

## Chapter Officers

**President:** Craig Faustus Buck  
**VP:** Sue Ann Jaffarian  
**Treasurer:** Eric Beetner  
**Secretary:** Terri Nolan

### Board of Directors

Matt Coyle  
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 Jessica Kaye  
 Paul D. Marks  
 Susan Cummins Miller  
 Maxine Nunes  
 Charles Rosenberg

**Ex Officio:** Jeri Westerson

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 Southern California Chapter  
 P.O. Box 55125  
 Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

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<http://socalmwa.com>  
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### Join our SoCalMWA Yahoo! Group

Email [SoCalMWA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:SoCalMWA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)  
 to join  
 (members only)

### NATIONAL OFFICE

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 New York, NY 10001  
 t. 212.888.8171  
 f. 212.888.8107

[mwa@mysterywriters.org](mailto:mwa@mysterywriters.org)  
<http://mysterywriters.org>



## The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

This month's issue of *The March of Crime* is so packed with information you don't need me to add anything here. But I'd like to point out a few things: in addition to our regular feature, "Hollow Points," by Gregory Von Dare, we've got contributions from Naomi Hirahara ("Booklist's Mystery Month Small Press Feature," and "Deadline Mystery"), Jennifer Moss ("Top 5 Naming Mistakes Writers Make"), and an Arizona meeting wrap-up from Susan Cummins Miller. Thank you to all of this month's contributors.

Finally, SoCalMWA member Ed Kovacs is overseas, working with our Armed Forces in a remote location. Please consider sending him books for the troops ([info on page 10](#)).

I hope you're all having a wonderful summer!

Holly

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

Editor: [Holly West](#)

Contributors:  
 Gregory Von Dare  
 Jennifer Moss  
 Naomi Hirahara  
 Susan Cummins Miller

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)

# FRESH BLOOD

SoCal MWA welcomes its new and returning members:

Mike Befeler  
 Taylor Chehak  
 Robert Loudon  
 Jenn McKinlay  
 Stacey Medlock  
 Jonathan Moore  
 Vicki Righettini  
 Diane Robinson  
 Gena Stinnett  
 Phoef Sutton  
 Sara Winokur



Like us on Facebook

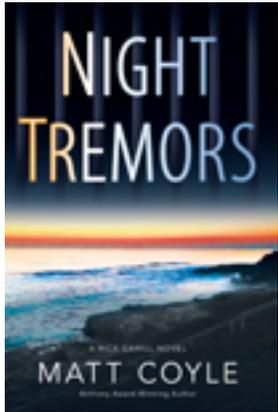
**Join our SoCalMWA  
 Yahoo! Group**

Email  
[SoCalMWA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:SoCalMWA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

**Pitch Your Ideas**

TMOC is looking for informative articles written by our members. Email us at [themarchofcrime@gmail.com](mailto:themarchofcrime@gmail.com) with your pitches.

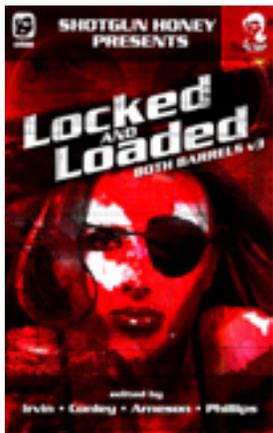
## OVER the TRANSOM



### Member News

**Matt Coyle's** second book in his Anthony Award winning Rick Cahill crime series, NIGHT TREMORS, hit the bookshelves on June 2nd.

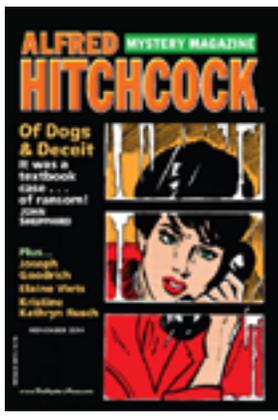
**Gay Tolt Kinman's** "The Purloined Letter", a short two-act play based on Edgar Allan Poe's short story. A letter is stolen from the Queen and the Prefect of the Paris Police asks Dupin, the French Sherlock Holmes, to help solve the mystery of where it is hidden. Her short two-scene mystery play, "Not One More Word," about a best-selling author and his soon-to-be (but not soon enough!) ex-wife, is available on Kindle.



**Travis Richardson** had three short stories come out recently. At the end of April, "Maybelle's Last Stand" came out in the anthology, Shotgun Honey Presents: Locked and Loaded (Both Barrels Book 3). On May 22 his flash fiction beer commercial/angry man story "Here's To Bad Decisions: Red's Longneck Hooch" appeared on [Shotgunhoney.net](http://Shotgunhoney.net). And on June 4, his story "How I Got Into The Navy," appeared in [Out of the Gutter's Flash Fiction Offensive](http://OutoftheGutter.com). Travis was recently nominated for a Macavity Award in the short story category.

Down & Out Books has acquired the new novella CROSSWISE by LA-based writer **S.W.**

**Lauden**. The book follows the adventures of an ex-NYPD officer who chases his coke addict girlfriend to the panhandle of Florida. Murder and hi-jinx ensue. CROSSWISE will be released in March 2016.

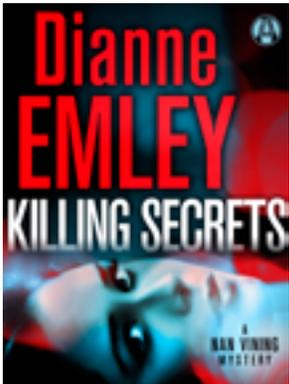


**Tammy Kaehler** became a two-time winner, when AVOIDABLE CONTACT, the third Kate Reilly Racing Mystery, won Best Motorsport Book for 2014 from the American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association (AARWBA), following her win in 2013 for BRAKING POINTS.

Shamus Award winning author **John Shepphird's** short story "Of Dogs & Deceit" (Nov 2014 Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine) was nominated for the Anthony Award. Winner to be announced at Bouchercon in Raleigh, NC. To read "Of Dogs & Deceit" (and all the other short stories nominated) go to <http://bouchercon2015.org/anthony-awards/>.

Following its receipt of a Gold Medal from the Benjamin Franklin Awards (IBPA) in the category Reference, **Amnon Kabatchnik's** "BLOOD ON THE STAGE, 480 B.C. TO 1600 A.D." garnered a Gold Medal from the Independent Publishers Book Awards (IPPY), also in the category Reference.

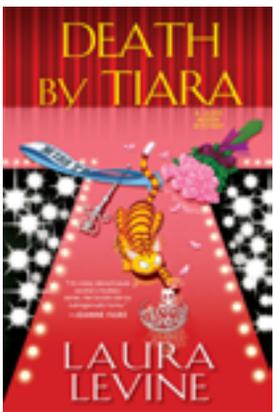
## OVER the TRANSOM



**Dianne Emley's** *KILLING SECRETS*, the fifth in her L.A. Times bestselling series featuring Nan Vining, haunted homicide detective and single mom, will be published by Alibi/Random House on July 21, 2015 in a digital-first edition. The book garnered this stellar quote: “*KILLING SECRETS* is diabolically good ... a top-notch murder mystery. Nan Vining is a heroine you’ll love.” --Allison Brennan, New York Times bestselling author of *COMPULSION*

*DEATH BY TIARA*, the thirteenth book in **Laura Levine's** *Jaine Austen* mystery series, is now out from Kensington Books.

**Dorothy Howell** has released *FATAL CHOICE*. This is the final installment in her Dana Mackenzie mystery series trilogy.



**Phyllis Humphrey**, has just signed a contract with Gemma Halliday Publishing for her two cozy mysteries. In addition, Humphrey, writing as P.J. Humphrey, has put her three novellas, *HOLMES AND HOLMES*, featuring the ghost of Sherlock Holmes, on Amazon. Look for a promotion where those books will go “free” very soon. Her “woman-in-jeopardy” mystery, *EYE WITNESS* - co-written with Carolann Camillo - is scheduled for release in November by Coffeetown Press.

**Paul D. Marks'** story “Howling at the Moon,” from the November, 2014 Ellery Queen’s *Mystery Magazine*, is nominated for both the Anthony and Macavity Awards. He also just sold another story, “Ghosts of Bunker Hill” to Ellery Queen.

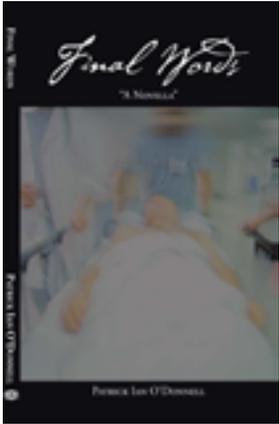
**Craig Faustus Buck's** short story “[Honeymoon Sweet](#),” a tale of newlyweds who break into a beach house for a doomed honeymoon, has been nominated for a Best Short Story Macavity Award. It is also an Anthony Award nominee.

**Nadine Nettmann's** debut, *DECANTING A MURDER*, will be published by Midnight Ink in May 2016. This is the first in a new cozy series about a sommelier-in-training who discovers a dead body at a vineyard; when she finds out that her best friend is the prime suspect, she sets out to use her amateur sleuthing skills and knowledge of wine to clear her best friend’s name; chapters are paired with wine recommendations to set the mood.

**Robert S. Levinson**, who has a new story, “Here’s What Happened,” in the new issue of *Ellery Queen Magazine*, has had another, “With Eyes Like That,” acquired by the publication. Still on newsstands is the summer double-issue of *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine* with Bob’s “Little Miss Somebody” among featured stories.

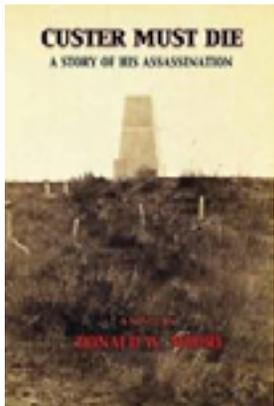


## OVER the TRANSOM



**Patrick Ian O'Donnell's** seventh whodunit, a novella entitled, FINAL WORDS, is now available in paperback (\$14.95) and e-book (\$3.99) formats. The last cryptic words uttered by his dying uncle lead Colin Gunderson to uncover the secrets held in the depth of his newly inherited Pasadena home.

**John Edward Mullen's** debut novel, DIGITAL DICK, will be released July 4th. After he witnesses a bloody murder, Dick Young, a computer with a human personality, offers to assist the San Diego Police Department in catching the killer. But when the search for the murderer turns up a second body, Dick's Satisfaction Index plummets. He breaks company with the police and begins investigating the case on his own. As he follows the clues, Dick learns more and more about people: how they live, how they love, and how they murder. He will need that knowledge to overcome the killer who threatens to destroy Dick and everyone Dick holds dear.



**Donald W. Moore's** CUSTER MUST DIE; A STORY OF HIS ASSASSINATION is a mystery story taking place in the West. Custer was shot in the head. Dr. Henry Porter believes the wound was caused by a .41 caliber bullet. Who shot Custer? Elizabeth Custer hires Major Culhane to investigate. Culhane discovers a suspicious corporal who was with Custer. He pursues the man to Tombstone, Arizona Territory where a Pinkerton Man pressures him to drop the case. The investigation might involve the President of the United States. Custer Must Die sells on Amazon.com in softcover and Kindle.

On June 26, **Liz Martinez** gave a presentation about contributing anthologies in order to boost one's writing career at Seton Hill University's In Your Write Mind 2015 conference. Liz is the editor of the anthologies HIT LIST: THE BEST OF LATINO MYSTERY (Arte Publico Press) and INDIAN COUNTRY NOIR (Akashic Books) and the author of STICKS AND STONES (Dark Oak Books), an amateur-sleuth mystery novel published under the pen name Bettye Paige. INDIAN COUNTRY NOIR has just been released as an Audible audiobook. Enter to win a free download by signing up for the free newsletter at [Ochard Press Mystery](http://OchardPressMystery.com).

Do you have writing news to share with our chapter?  
Email it to [TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com](mailto:TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com)  
by July 20 for inclusion in the August 2015 issue.

## Member APPEARANCES

Meet and Greet **Vanessa A. Ryan** signing her cozy mystery, *A PALETTE FOR MURDER*, Saturday, July 18 12-4PM, Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 3rd Street Promenade, 1201 3rd Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401, 310-260-9110.

**Gay Tolt Kinman** will present “Make a Mystery,” an interactive workshop on how to write a mystery, for the Teen Program at the Burbank Public Library, Buena Vista Branch on Wednesday June 24, 2015 from 7 to 8 pm.

**Jeri Westerson** will be speaking about self-publishing at the monthly Sisters in Crime meeting on Sunday, July 12. Doors open at 2 pm. Books will be available for sale. South Pasadena Library Community Room, 1115 El Centro Street, South Pasadena CA 91030.

**Deborah J Ledford** is slated to appear at the Sisters in Crime Desert Sleuths Chapter WriteNow! 2015 annual conference. She will be presenting a screenwriting track with TV & film actress Christina Cox. The conference will also feature Keynote Speaker Sara Paretsky, Simon Wood, Hilary Davidson, and Midnight Ink Acquiring Editor Terri Bischoff. <http://desertsleuths.com/conference>.

**John Edward Mullen** will hold the Book Launch Party and Book Signing for his debut novel, *DIGITAL DICK*, at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 18th at Mysterious Galaxy bookstore, 5943 Balboa Ave #100, San Diego, CA 92111.

### A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

- \* Gather **50** of the best male mystery writers in the world.
- \* Mix generously with more than **400** devoted readers
- \* Stir in the thrill of each guest being seated at a table with an author
- \* Sprinkle in an often-hilarious one-minute commercial by each writer
- \* Fold in our Headliners, **Phillip Margolin** and **C.J. Box**
- \* Toss in an amazing bookstore and a lively autographing session
- \* Blend four outstanding male high school student writers chosen by their schools
- \* Coat with the Irvine Marriott’s famous mushroom soup (and other delights)
- \* Simmer on **November 14th** until thoroughly gratified

The result?

### Men of Mystery!

Winner of the Raven Award from MWA



## Hollow Points

Gregory Von Dore

### Pull...

Shotguns are perhaps the only firearms that have a large, international following for purely sporting use. Indeed, shotgun sports are so respected that they are included in the summer Olympics. While any shotgun can be a dangerous weapon, the guns used in sport shooting are specialized, provide hours of fun and challenge, and can be beautiful examples of the gunsmith's craft, as well as having price tags as large as a house. Shotgun sports are also very popular with women and teens. Many accomplished female shooters compete at the highest levels internationally. One common factor is that all shotgun sports use fast-moving targets.

Modern shotgun sports include trap, skeet, five-stand and sporting clays. Most of these venues seek to abstract or recreate the experience of hunting field birds or waterfowl – but without sacrificing any living animals. Trap shooting is a test of skill and hand-eye coordination. A machine to throw the targets is placed downfield from the shooters. It is usually recessed and protected by a “trap house.” Shooters stand in one of five positions on a curved firing line and shoot single or double targets thrown from the trap. The shooter's command of “pull” sends the target flying. Clay pigeons move away from the shooter at various heights, angles and speeds. A successful shooter breaks target after target, each one on a random, unpredictable path. After shooting from all five positions, the number of “breaks” is added up and the highest score is the winner. A 12 ga. gun with single or double barrels is the instrument of choice.



*Clay pigeons are the standard targets of shotgun sports.*

A clay pigeon, if you've never seen one, is a hard, miniature frisbee, about four inches in diameter. The target is made of fired black clay, painted a high-visibility color such as neon orange or lime green. Targets spin when they are flung into the air and a hit is signaled by pieces flying off from the center. A really good hit turns the target into “smoke” and disintegrates the clay. However, even a minor hit – anything that breaks the target – is considered valid and is scored as a point.

Skeet shooting differs in that the targets fly from two towers, high and low, and cross the path of the shooter from right to left or vice versa. In skeet, a single target may come from one tower, two targets may come from one tower, or one target may come from each tower, crossing somewhere near the middle of the range. As skeet is shot at a relatively close distance, the ammunition and guns are usually selected for that particular sport. A skeet gun has slightly shorter barrels and it's common to see people shooting with smaller gauges such as 16 ga. or even 20 ga. A real maestro of the sport might opt for a .410 gun.

The third most popular form of shotgun sports is known as “sporting clays” – my own favorite. In “clays” you hike through a wooded area, arriving at various “stations.” Each of these spots will have a specific target for you to shoot. The clay might come overhead from behind, left to right, away, through the trees, and there's even a “rabbit” target where the clay is rolled along the ground, bouncing and hopping as it goes. And very hard to hit. Sporting clays are a recent addition to shotgun sports, but they provide a golf-like atmosphere and a variety of unique challenges from one locale to another, as opposed to the more regulated skeet and trap fields.

[Continued on page 16](#)

## Booklist's Mystery Month Small Press Feature

by Naomi Hirahara

In May, Booklist, a publication of the American Library Association, along with their online offering, Booklist Reader, celebrated Mystery Month. Booklist Reader's editor, Keir Graff, compiled profiles of select small presses, both domestic and foreign, that publish mysteries and crime fiction. While not all-encompassing or comprehensive, it still may prove to be useful to those seeking to place a manuscript outside of the Big Five or Amazon imprint system. (Also refer to [MWA's approved list of publishers](#) for more presses – again there are more beyond those mentioned). Here's a directory with links to the publisher website and Booklist Reader profile.

*\* currently included on MWA's approved list of publishers*

Bitter Lemon Press\* <http://www.bitterlemonpress.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/15/books-and-authors/small-press-lineup-bitter-lemon-press/>

Brash Books <http://www.brash-books.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/06/books-and-authors/small-press-lineup-brash-books/>

Crooked Lane <http://www.crookedlanebooks.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/04/books-and-authors/small-press-lineup-crooked-lane/>

Hard Case Crime\* <http://www.hardcasecrime.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/01/books-and-authors/small-press-lineup-hard-case-crime/>

Islandport Press\* <https://twitter.com/islandportbooks>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/20/books-and-authors/small-press-lineup-islandport-press/>

Le French Book <http://www.lefrenchbook.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/18/books-and-authors/small-press-lineup-le-french-book/>

Midnight Ink\* <http://www.midnightinkbooks.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/11/books-and-authors/small-press-lineup-midnight-ink/>

New Pulp Press <http://www.newpulppress.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/05/books-and-authors/small-press-lineup-new-pulp-press/>

Oceanview Publishing\* <http://oceanviewpub.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/29/mystery-fiction/small-press-lineup-oceanview-publishing/>

Open Road Media\* <http://www.feedyourneedtoread.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/30/books-and-authors/small-press-lineup-open-road-media/>

[Continued on page 14](#)

## *A Special Message from SoCalMWA Member Ed Kovacs:*

Dear SoCalMWA Members,

I write this from a U.S. military facility located in a former Soviet republic in Eastern Europe. I've been here working as a private security contractor since the icy cold days of very early February, and expect to be here for another two-to-six months.

I work daily with mostly navy, but also some army and air force personnel who have sacrificed a lot to be here; many of them love to read books and a few are even aspiring novelists!

This is hardship duty; some of you might understand what that means. There is a small lending library in a plywood hut that needs an infusion of new reading material. There is no English-language reading material available for purchase in this geographic area. Sorry, but I'm restricted from saying exactly where we are.

E-book readers are great, but there are certain posts where the soldiers are not allowed to use electronic devices, but are allowed to read print books.

If anyone would like to donate copies of their novels--or any books--I will make sure they are placed in the library.

The only caveat is that all packages must be shipped Priority Mail. The postage will be the same as if you were mailing to a domestic address in the United States. A Priority Mail Flat Rate envelope or box would probably be the best way to go.

If you would like a confirmation that your package was received please include your name and e-mail address.

Please send books to:

Ed Kovacs  
SCIS  
PSC 825 Box 201  
FPO, Armed Forces Europe  
09712-0001

Thanks,

Ed



## Top 5 Name Mistakes Writers Make

by **Jennifer Moss**, author and founder of [BabyNames.com](http://BabyNames.com)

As an onomast and an author, I'm very sensitive to names in fiction. Yes, your characters are metaphorically your "babies," however you shouldn't name them as you would a child. Here are five mistakes that writers make regarding names in fiction:

1. The name is not age-appropriate. Recently I watched a television pilot set in California in the late 1970s. A couple's teenage daughter, Emma, was missing. I flinched. It would have been extremely rare for a teenager to be named Emma in 1979. In fact, it would still be rare for 2015. Emma has been on the top ten list for baby names for the past five years, which means Emma will be a teenager in about the year 2028. Use the U.S. Social Security site, where you can look up the top 1,000 names in any year going back to 1900. Research the names that were popular the year your character was born. If you don't use a name from his or her birth year, then you should have a great reason why.
2. You, the author, are naming your characters. The characters in your story are not named by you, they are named by their parents. As an author, you should consider your character's ethnic background, geographic location and parents' personalities. What immigration generation are they? If it's only second generation, then it may be acceptable to have a more ethnic name. However if assimilation is important to the parents—or your character—then perhaps not. Your character's backstory is integral to his or her name.
3. You don't use terms of endearment. I rarely call my daughter by her name, Miranda, unless she's really in trouble. I call her "baby" or "booboo," even though she'll be soon graduating college. To make your dialog natural, use terms of endearment between parents, children, lovers, and friends. Listen to your own conversations with loved ones. How many times do you actually use their given names? Probably less than you think. One best-selling author continuously makes the same mistake of continuously using a husband's name in the wife's dialog. "Yes, Alex, I know what you want," and "Did you want to eat out tonight, Alex?" This is a common practice for TV or movie writers, in order to quickly identify the characters to new viewers. However in written fiction, it sounds unnatural and out of place.
4. You use the wrong terms of endearment. TV writers also tend to use relationship terms like "Sis" or "Brother" to indicate characters are siblings. These terms are extremely dated and not used in current-day conversation. And don't get me started on Mija. Not every Hispanic mother calls her offspring Mija and Mijo, contractions meaning "my son" or "my daughter." My mother-in-law is Mexican—born in Mexico—and has four children. I have never once heard her use that term. Whether it's common practice or not, the terms are clichéd and overused.
5. Your character name is too complicated. This is one naming practice I recommend for both characters and babies: make the name easy to spell and easy to pronounce. Readers sound out names in their heads, so you don't want them tripping up on a name like Orxynthadriod. Did that name cause you to stumble out of this article because you couldn't pronounce it? This is especially important for writers of science fiction, fantasy, or any genre in which you want to create names that don't exist in the real world. Great sci-fi/fantasy writers like Tolkien and Martin get it: Bilbo Baggins, Hamfast Gangee, Stannis Baratheon, Jorah Mormont. George RR Martin even went so far as to create naming practices

[continued on page 12](#)

## Deadline Mystery

by Naomi Hirahara

Since many of us in this chapter live in Tinseltown, we see our share of aspiring screenwriters with their laptops in various coffeeshops. Lately, more of our mystery colleagues are snagging TV/movie/new media deals, a trend which tickles me to no end. We all know of Charlaine Harris' success with "True Blood" on HBO, Tess Gerritsen's inspired "Rizzoli & Isles" on TNT, and Michael Connelly's "Bosch" on Amazon Prime. But did you know that Charlene's lesser known Aurora Teagarden novels were the basis of the movie, "A Bone to Pick: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery" on Hallmark Movies and Mysteries Channel?

Here are some quick selective updates:

Megan Abbott is adapting her novel, *THE FEVER*, for a possible series for MTV in conjunction with Sarah Jessica Parker's production company, Pretty Matches.

**Joanne Fluke's** first Hallmark Movies and Mysteries adaptation, "Murder, She Baked: A Chocolate Chip Cookie Mystery," made its debut in May, making it the network's most-watched and highest rated movie debut. Congratulations, Joanne, SoCalMWA member!

When the pilot episode of "Wayward Pines," adapted from a series written by Blake Crouch, aired on FOX TV in May, it debuted simultaneously in more than 126 countries – the most ever for a scripted series, according to [deadline.com](http://deadline.com)! The pilot episode was directed by M. Night Shyamalan, who also serves as executive producer.

And finally debut writer Joe Ide found his pre-published novel, *IQ*, in a seven-way bidding war, with Alcon Television Group and Atlas Entertainment teaming up to develop the mystery as a TV series. *IQ*, which is set in East Long Beach, will be published by Mulholland Books.

From time to time, I'll be posting new additions to DEADLINE MYSTERY here, so stay tuned. If you have news on options or actual deals to report, let me know at [bachi@naomihirahara.com](mailto:bachi@naomihirahara.com).

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### Top Five Name Mistakes Writers Make - [continued from page 11](#)

in his *A SONG OF ICE AND FIRE* SERIES. For example, his Wildlings typically don't have surnames. Children born out of wedlock receive the surname "Snow." Hodor (which is not the character's name) is nicknamed Hodor because the only word he can say is "Hodor," and so on. Martin has done so well with character naming that even a character's title, Khaleesi (meaning Queen), is now being used for (real) babies. Remember, names are just as fundamental to a society as they are to an individual's identity.

So take time to name your characters—even minor ones—and have fun with the process. Every name has a story, and your story should have interesting and meaningful names.



**Jennifer Moss** is the author of *TOWN RED*, *WAY TO GO*, and *TAKING THE RAP*, a series of mysteries published by Black Opal Books. She is also the founder of [BabyNames.com](http://BabyNames.com), [PetBabyNames.com](http://PetBabyNames.com), [CharacterNames.com](http://CharacterNames.com) and the author of the *ONE-IN-A-MILLION BABY NAME BOOK* (Perigee Press, 2008). Moss has been a name enthusiast all of her life and is a longtime member of the American Name Society. She lives in the mountains near Yosemite National Park with her

## You Oughta Be In Pictures

Photos Submitted by **Patricia Smiley & Lee Goldberg**



L - R: Sybil Johnson, Tammy Kaehler, Patty Smiley, and Rochelle Stabb appear on a panel at the Wiseburn Library on 5/14.



L - R: Phillip Reed, Craig Faustus Buck, and Phoebe Sutton at the 2015 California Crime Writers Conference



Lee Goldberg introduces Craig Faustus Buck and Phoebe at the launch of their Brash Books titles *GO DOWN HARD* and *FIFTEEN MINUTES TO LIVE*.



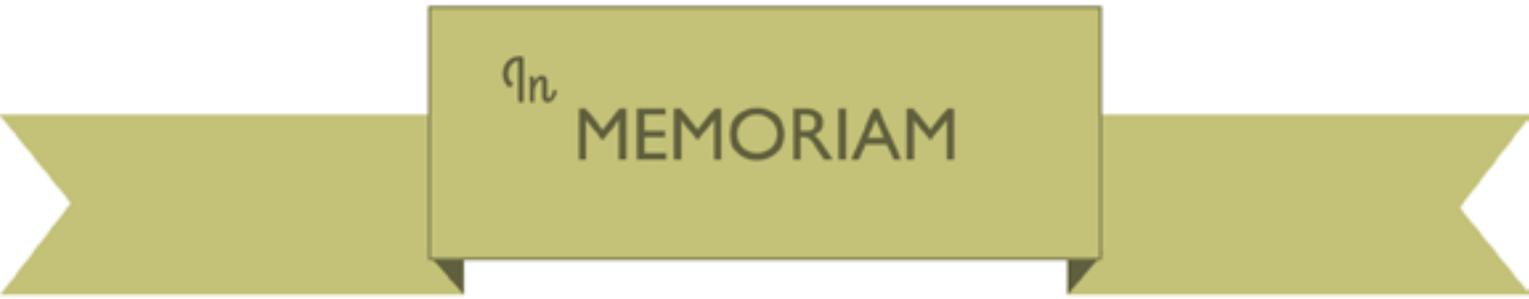
L - R: Craig Faustus Buck, Lee Goldberg, Phoebe Sutton

**We want your pictures!**

Book events, appearances, SoCalMWA meetings, conferences... start snappin'!

Email them to [TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com](mailto:TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com)

by July 20 for inclusion in the August 2015 issue.



In  
MEMORIAM

**Dorothy Rellas**, published author and long-time MWA and SoCal Chapter member, passed away on Monday, June 22, 2015.

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**Booklists Mystery Month Small Press Feature** - [continued from page 9](#)

Pegasus Books\* <http://www.pegasusbooks.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/28/mystery-fiction/small-press-lineup-pegasus-books/>

Poisoned Pen Press\* <http://www.poisonedpenpress.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/21/books-and-authors/small-press-lineup-poisoned-pen-press/>

Polis Books <http://www.polisbooks.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/08/books-and-authors/small-press-lineup-polis-books/>

Prospect Park Books\* <http://www.prospectparkbooks.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/26/mystery-fiction/small-press-lineup-prospect-park-books/>

Pushkin Vertigo <http://pushkinpress.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/14/books-and-authors/small-press-lineup-pushkin-vertigo/>

Ransom Note Press <http://www.ransomnotepress.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/13/books-and-authors/small-press-lineup-ransom-note-press/>

Seventh Street Books\* <http://www.seventhstreetbooks.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/19/books-and-authors/small-press-lineup-seventh-street-books/>

Severn House\* <http://www.severnhouse.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/27/mystery-fiction/small-press-lineup-severn-house/>

Soho Press\* <http://sohopress.com/soho-crime/>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/22/books-and-authors/small-press-lineup-soho-press/>

Stark House Press <http://www.starkhousepress.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/07/books-and-authors/small-press-lineup-stark-house/>

TouchWood Editions <http://touchwoodeditions.com>  
<http://www.booklistreader.com/2015/05/12/books-and-authors/small-press-lineup-touchwood-editions/>

## Meeting Wrap-Up

by **Susan Cummins Miller**

SoCalMWA Hosts Craig Johnson in Tucson

On Monday, May 18, SoCalMWA and Clues Unlimited's Christine Burke co-hosted "Craig Johnson in Conversation with J.M. 'Mike' Hayes." SoCalMWA members **Hayes, Elizabeth Gunn, Pamela Asbury-Smith, and Susan Cummins Miller** promoted the event and helped serve a light lunch to 175-200 readers and writers, some traveling from as far away as Florence, Phoenix, and Sierra Vista, Arizona. Craig, prompted by Mike, offered a reading from his newest Walt Longmire mystery, DRY BONES, and answered questions about the writing process and turning his books into "Longmire"—originally an A&E series, and soon to be seen on Netflix. Boy howdy, can Craig give us all lessons in how to work an audience. Everyone left happy, and at least two writers indicated they planned to join MWA.



From L to R: Pamela Asbury-Smith, J.M. "Mike" Hayes, Elizabeth Gunn, Craig Johnson, Susan Cummins Miller (photo by S.C. Miller)



Craig Johnson (photo by S.C. Miller)



Craig Johnson and Mike Hayes (photo by S.C. Miller)

## Hollow Points - [continued from pg 8](#)

Shotgun sports are so popular that they have been included in the modern Olympics since 1900. Both skeet and trap are competed although the trap field in the Olympics uses multiple traps to throw targets. A variation called “double trap” where two targets are thrown has been used since 1990. For those concerned about scattering so many lead pellets into the environment, most kinds of shotgun ammunition are now available with steel shot, which bio-degrades into harmless iron oxide, or rust. immobilize a suspect without killing him. Police also use shotguns as non-lethal weapons, firing shells loaded with rock salt or “beanbags” – a fabric sack with plastic or other pellets in it, designed to bruise but not even

The popularity of shotgun sports among the upper classes has driven a rise in premium, collectable shotguns. Hand-made shotguns are available for the shooter with serious money to spend, and they can be works of superb craftsmanship and decoration that borders on art. The British probably dominate the world of custom, hand-made shotguns, led by such historic makers as Purdey, Holland & Holland and Charles Boswell. All these firms offer custom made guns, with prices ranging from \$10,000 to well over \$200,000. Fabri and Beretta from Italy offer a similar level of custom guns. So do Boss, Merkel and Schuler in Austria, and Aguirre y Aranzabal of Spain – to name just a few.



*Many women participate in shotgun sports worldwide.*

Custom shotguns are carefully fitted to the individual shooter, then lovingly hand-made and finished. But it's the engraving that lifts them into the realm of artifacts and heirlooms. A custom shotgun's engraving can include portraits of favorite dogs, hunting lodges, wild game or anything that takes the owner's fancy. Guns can be inlaid with gold and other metals, tiny jewels can be included and various acids and other treatments can uniquely color the metals of the gun. If you're interested in how it's done, view <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSKBPBTnmIM>.

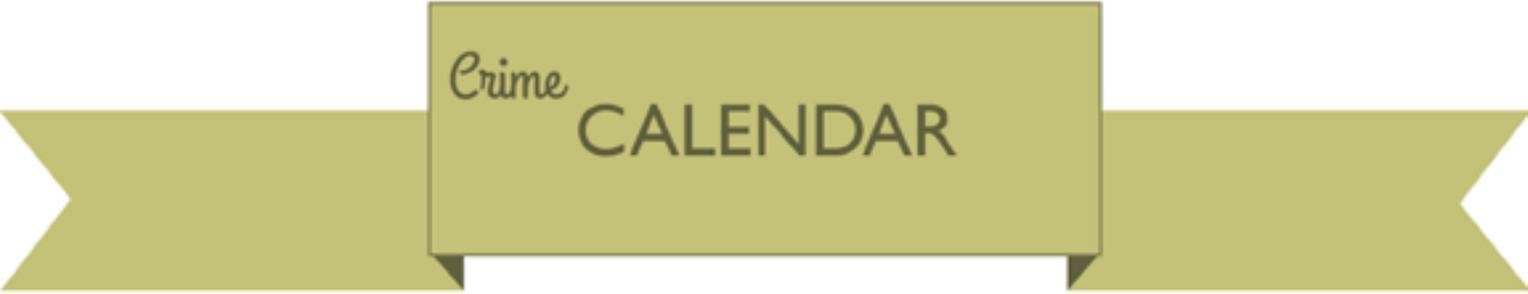
Next time, we'll begin a look at the rifles of the 20th century, a time of world conflict when it was very profitable to be a gun maker.

*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.

### Looking for Mystery Short Stories

Orchard Press Mystery is back after a hiatus of several years. Liz Martinez is the executive editor and is looking for mystery short stories to publish on the site. OPM is a paying market. Submissions guidelines can be found at [Orchard Press Mystery](#).

A banner with a central olive-green box containing the text "Crime CALENDAR". The word "Crime" is in a cursive font, and "CALENDAR" is in a bold, sans-serif font. The banner has ribbon-like ends on both sides.

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PUTTING THE FACTS IN CRIME FICTION**

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2015 AT NOON

Real cops, real stories, real life grit to make your work shine with veracity.

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Former FBI Special Agent George Fong  
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**More Criminal Happenings in 2015**

July 7 - 11 - [Thrillerfest](#), New York City, NY  
July 18 - [SoCalMWA Meeting: Cop Stories & FBI Tales](#), La Jolla, CA  
July 19 - [SoCalMWA Luncheon: The Changing Face of Publishing](#), Los Angeles, CA  
July 24-27 - [Book Passage Mystery Writers Conference](#), Corte Madera, CA  
September 26 - Gumbo Party at the Fitzhugh's  
October 8-11 - [Bouchercon](#), Raleigh, NC  
November 14 - [16th Annual Men of Mystery Conference](#), Irvine, CA

A banner with a central olive-green box containing the text "The LAST WORD". The word "The" is in a cursive font, and "LAST WORD" is in a bold, sans-serif font. The banner has ribbon-like ends on both sides.

The  
LAST WORD

“The nun hit me in the mouth and said, “Get out of my house.”

--James Scott Bell, TRY DARKNESS