

April 2021



The
MARCH

of CRIME

Inside this issue

[President's Rap p 2](#)

[Editor's Corner p 3](#)

[Over the Transom p 4](#)

[MWA Publications p 5](#)

[Member Appearances p 6](#)

[Last Word p 6](#)

SoCalMWA Presents:

An Afternoon with Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist and Author
CHRISTOPHER GOFFARD

Sunday, April 25

1–2:30 p.m. PT

Virtual via CrowdCast



Christopher Goffard is a novelist, podcaster, and journalist who has been a staff writer at the *Los Angeles Times* for the last 15 years. For most of his career he has reported on crime and courts, sometimes mining the experience for fiction. His novel *SNITCH JACKET* was a finalist for the Edgar Award for Best First Novel in 2008. He shared in the Pulitzer Prize for the *Times*' coverage of the Bell scandal, and has twice been a Pulitzer finalist for feature writing. He wrote and hosted two Number One podcasts, "Dirty John" (which became a TV series) and "Detective Trapp." His third podcast, "The Trials of Frank Carson," will premier this spring. He has published two books of nonfiction, *YOU WILL SEE FIRE: A SEARCH FOR JUSTICE IN KENYA*, and *DIRTY JOHN AND OTHER TRUE STORIES OF OUTLAWS AND OUTSIDERS*, which collects much of his best journalism.

LA TIMES FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

A full week of online fun!
April 17–23
MWA Publications p 5

[More info](#)

**California Crime Writers
Conference**
with Guest of Honor
CARA BLACK

It's virtual, it's free, and it's
coming this summer!
June 12 & 13

[More info](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THIS FREE EVENT](#)





The President's Rap Sheet

Jessica Kaye

Happy April! Spring is here, flowers are blooming. Vaccination appointments have opened up for those 50 and older, and on April 15 appointments are opening for those 16 and older.

More good news for many is that IRS has extended the filing date for 2020 tax returns. Extra time for procrastinating always comes in handy.

There is a lot happening in the mystery community this spring. The *LA Times* Festival of Books is back to being an April event but presented as a virtual book fair, as it was last fall.

Our own virtual speaker series continues, featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning Christopher Goffard on April 25. Please sign up for that free event.

Registration has opened for the 2021 California Crime Writers Conference, being held on June 12. It is a free online event this year. There is a full day of panels and presentations and our Guest of Honor is bestselling author Cara Black. Tell a friend!

Until next month, please continue to stay safe.

Jessica



CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: [Jessica Kaye](#)
VP: Jennifer Younger
Treasurer: [Sarah M. Chen](#)
Secretary: [Travis Richardson](#)

Board of Directors

[Fred Andersen](#)
[Gay Toltl Kinman](#)
[Terri Nolan](#)
[August Norman](#)
[Edward Arno](#)
[Ona Russell](#)
[Nancy Cole Silverman](#)

Mystery Writers of America
 Southern California Chapter
 2140 N. Hollywood Way #7304
 Burbank, CA 91510

Contact: info@socalmwa.com
 Website: <http://socalmwa.com>
 Twitter: [@socalmwa](https://twitter.com/socalmwa)

[Like us on Facebook](#)

SoCalMWA Discussion Group

- Member introductions
- Ideas for book launches & other book promotion
- Publishing insights & tips
- Book deal announcements
- Blog post promotion & discussion
- Book reviews
- Support & Networking
- And more!

[SUBSCRIBE HERE](#)



The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

This year, spring cleaning has taken on a whole new meaning for me. With one vaccine done and the second shot soon, the world feels like it's on the verge of opening up for me and many others.

But after more than a year in quarantine, there are some “messes” I need to clean up. There is the usual dusting of baseboards and scrubbing of grout (not that I plan to do either of these things, spring or not) but there are a few not-so-usual things, like curbing some of the bad habits I've acquired over the last 13 months. While I'm at it, I might even put on a real bra. Then again, maybe I won't, to quote one of my favorite Judy Blume titles.

As you might know, Bouchercon 2021 is in New Orleans this year and thus far, they're planning for an in-person event. Am I the only one who can't yet wrap my head around the idea of large groups of people gathering indoors? But the urge to go is definitely there, especially since I just looked at their website and our very own **Steph Cha** is the Rising Star Guest of Honor. Another SoCalMWA member, **Jonathan Maberry**, is the Kid's Bouchercon Guest of Honor. How cool would it be to celebrate them in person?

Alas, I'm still on the fence, even knowing refunds will be offered if the convention is cancelled. But if I do go, I can promise you this: I will put on a real bra for the occasion.

Love and miss you all.

Holly

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

Editor: [Holly West](#)

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

Contact us at:
themarchofcrime@gmail.com

Join the SoCalMWA Discussion Group

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

NATIONAL OFFICE

Mystery Writers of America
1140 Broadway #1507
New York, NY 10001
t. 212.888.8171
f. 212.888.8107

mwa@mysterywriters.org
<http://mysterywriters.org>

FRESHBLOOD

SoCalMWA welcomes its new members

Rex Pickett



Rex is the author of the novel *SIDEWAYS*, which was adapted into the award-winning film of the same title. The film won over 350 plaudits from various critics and film organizations, capturing five Academy Award and seven Golden Globe nominations. He's also the author of two *Sideways* sequels—the IPPY Gold Medal award-winning “Vertical,” and “*Sideways 3: Chile*”—and is the screenwriter of “My Mother Dreams the Satan's Disciples in New York,” which won the 2000 Academy Award for Best Live Action Short. His debut crime novel, *THE ARCHIVIST*, will be released on November 9 by Blackstone Publishing. A southern California native, his Rex Pickett Papers are currently enshrined at Geisel Library, a yearlong archival process that formed the inspiration for *THE ARCHIVIST*.

OVER the TRANSOM

Michael Kurland's Saboy-Welker Novel *WHATEVER THE COST*, sequel to *THE BELLS OF HELL*, will be released for sale in the U.S. on April 2. "Freely mingling real-life heroes and villains with his fictional cast, Kurland ... makes wartime intrigue look so easy and fun you may want to try a spot of it yourself..."—*Kirkus* review. "Kurland expertly weaves Saboy's sometimes madcap antics into Welker's serious work without betraying the rules of a good espionage novel. Readers will eagerly await the next in the series."—*Publisher's Weekly*. The next in the series, *A TERRIBLE RESOLVE*, is in the works.

Laurie Stevens' screenplay "The Harvest Season," co-written with author K.S. Miranda, is an official selection for the 2021 Chicago Indie Film Awards.

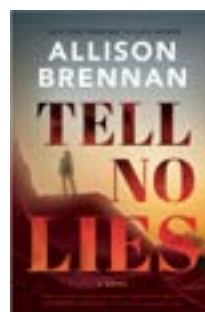
Mary Wickizer Burgess has sold *CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE: A Gail Brevard Mystery #7*, to John Betancourt at Wildside Press. The book is scheduled for late spring and will be available through Amazon and other fine sources.

Same book, different cover. A paperback edition of **Ellen Byron's** Agatha Award-winning Cajun Country Mystery, *MARDI GRAS MURDER*, is finally available through Harlequin's Worldwide Mystery imprint.

The second book in **Allison Brennan's** Quinn & Costa series, *TELL NO LIES*, is out now. *Kirkus* Reviews calls Kara Quinn "[A] strong and damaged protagonist as compelling as Lisbeth Salander."—*Kirkus* Reviews. For more information visit allisonbrennan.com.

THE ARCHIVIST, a debut mystery by *SIDEWAYS* author **Rex Pickett**, will be published by Blackstone Publishing on Nov. 9. Introducing young project archivist Emily Snow, what begins as a tragic love story slowly tautens into a full-blown murder mystery. Pre-order of the hardcover and audiobook can be found on Amazon and other bookselling sites.

Shea E. Butler's short chat story, "Lost Idols," was published on March 23 on the short story app, *SHORTZ*. Can a journalist find out what really happened to movie star Layla Lawrence? Find out in this four episode story on the chat story app, *SHORTZ*. Her previous chat story for *SHORTZ* entitled "911" was recently their number one scary story on the app.



OVER the TRANSOM

USA Today bestselling author **Karen Odden** signed a new book deal with Crooked Lane Publishers for two historical mysteries set in 1870s London and featuring Inspector Michael Corrvan of Scotland Yard. The first, **DOWN A DARK RIVER**, will be released this fall. In the aftermath of an 1877 legal trial that put three senior inspectors in prison for corruption, the Yard is reorganized but still on shaky footing. Faced with public scrutiny and distrust, Corrvan investigates a series of murders in which the killer places the dead young women in small lighter boats and floats them down the Thames. More at karenodden.com.

Tom Sawyer is proud to be a contributor to MWA's exciting new handbook, **HOW TO WRITE A MYSTERY: A HANDBOOK BY MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA**, edited by Lee Child, with Laurie R. King. The release date is April 27 (Scribner). More info below.

Gay Toltl Kinman's: "Partners," a short piece, is also included in **HOW TO WRITE A MYSTERY**. Her **DEATH IN SAN ANTONIO MYSTERY STORIES** includes four stories set in—where else—San Antonio, Texas, featuring newly-minted P.I. Brooke. Stories include murder, mayhem—and worse. Some of her cases are for a loan shark who leads a very interesting life—and pays well. All the stories were published separately on Kindle, as well as this book. Finally, a new [Mysteryrat's Maze Podcast](#) is up. This special bonus episode is an excerpt from Kinman's **DEATH IN RANCHO LAS AMIGAS**. The audiobook is read and produced by actor and mystery author **Harley Jane Kozak**.

Ona Russell's essay, "In the Tent," was selected by the San Diego Decameron Project as one of the top 10 (out of 100) written works that were performed at the Project's gala event. Four participating literary organizations sponsored the Project, inspired by *The Decameron*, Giovanni Boccaccio's 14th-century narrative penned during Italy's Black Plague. Organizers solicited original, unpublished work related to the pandemic. Ona's essay describes, among other things, how the purchase of an outdoor tent helped her overcome a bad case of writers' block. [Read the essay here](#).

New MWA Publications

April 2021

WHEN A STRANGER COMES TO TOWN

(April 20)

In the newest collection of stories by the Mystery Writers of America, each author weaves a fresh tale surrounding the eerie feeling that comes when a stranger enters our midst, featuring stories by Michael Connelly, Lisa Unger, and Joe Hill.



HOW TO WRITE A MYSTERY: A Handbook by the MWA

(April 27)

70 successful mystery writers answer the question: *What advice do you wish you'd had at the beginning of your career?* Includes SoCalMWA members Hal Bodner, Allison Brennan, Rachel Howzell Hall, Naomi Hirahara, James Madeira, Gay Toltl Kinman, T. Jefferson Parker, Gary Phillips, and Tom Sawyer.



Member APPEARANCES

On April 6 at 7 p.m., the [Pen on Fire Speaker Series and Salon](#) will present “An Evening of Noir” featuring **Barbara DeMarco-Barrett** in conversation with Daniel Pyne, Halley Sutton, Eric Beetner, and Wendy Heard. As the current president of Orange County Sisters in Crime, Barbara reports that on April 10 at 9 a.m. the chapter will present [“Mastering the Muddle in the Middle,”](#) a workshop featuring Hank Phillip Ryan. Free to SinC members worldwide, \$10 for all others.

Sheila Lowe will be speaking to the SinC/HI chapter on April 21 via Zoom (and just spoke to the DE chapter about the “Clark Rockefeller” murder case). She is continuing to re-release her Forensic Handwriting suspense series, fully edited and with all new covers.



Tori Eldridge, multi-award nominated author of *THE NINJA'S BLADE* (Lily Wong book 2), presents “Four-Act Structure for Action and Thrills” on April 17, 1–3 p.m. PT at Capital Crimes (SinC Sacramento). [Free registration here.](#) Catch Tori the next day in the ITW Town Hall Event: The Author/Agent Relationship on April 18, 11 a.m. PT with J.D. Barker, Robert Dugoni, and Jenny Milchman. Tori is the ITW Debut Authors Coordinator, and this is a free Zoom webinar for ITW members.

Travis Richardson and **Lawrence Maddox**, along with other writers from the Sleuthsayers crimewriters blog, contributed their memories about **Paul D. Marks**. You can find the tributes [here](#).

Paul D. Marks's wife, Amy, has announced the date for his memorial service and has given me permission to post it here: Please come join us for a virtual celebration of Paul Marks' life and works. April 11, 4–5pm PT. Come share your thoughts and memories or just come to listen and remember. We'll drink a virtual toast as well. To get the Zoom invitation, please send a message to one of the following people on Facebook: [Paul's Facebook page](#), Amy Marks, **Elaine Ash**, **AE Wasserman**, Rob Lopresti or Leigh Lundin.

The LAST WORD

“I swerved around the car and pedaled, faster and faster, away from my blood-soaked memories.”

—Tori Eldridge, *THE NINJA'S BLADE*