



The Squid Speaks - Vol. 7, February 17, 2014

Welcome to all our new registrants since the last newsletter! Only 31 more days until Left Coast Crime 2014 in Monterey, California.

Squid FAQ

Dear Squid: Why isn't Calamari Crime having an event at the Monterey Bay Aquarium so we can hang out with all your friends?

Unfortunately the Monterey Bay Aquarium is way out of our price range. The best rate we could get for our Opening Reception was over \$130 per person, which would have left us very little money for anything else. Instead we are holding our Opening Reception at the Portola Hotel.



Aquarium Early Incentive

As an incentive for early registration we offered free tickets to the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The Squid has just tentacled two names out of the fishbowl, and we are pleased to announce that Richard Brandshaft and Colleen Casey are our lucky winners. The [Monterey Bay Aquarium](#) is about a mile and a half from the Portola Hotel, and is open from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM every day.



Thanks to our New Sponsors!

Our thanks to [HarperCollins](#) for sponsoring an afternoon in the Hospitality Room. Several HarperCollins authors will be signing their books in the Hospitality Room on Friday afternoon. The schedule will be announced soon.

We would also like to thank [SinC NorCal](#), the Northern California Chapter of Sisters in Crime, and [MWA NorCal](#), the Northern California Chapter of Mystery Writers of America, for making contributions towards Hospitality. Be sure to visit the MWA and Sisters in Crime tables to learn more about these fabulous organizations and meet some of their members.

The Panels Are Here!

We are thrilled to announce that we have posted the [Nearly Final Panel Schedule](#)! The Calamari Crime Panel Committee (Programming Chair Robin Burcell, with the help of Marlyn Beebe & Elaine Yamaguchi) has worked endless weeks and hours putting together a wonderful program for LCC 2014. Decisions about what panels to present and the panelists to put on them were based solely on the needs of the convention and what will work for the type of program we have in mind. This year we had an unprecedented 300 authors, writers, and experts, all wanting to be on a panel. It's not an easy thing to do, trying to find a home for so many. And as much as we'd love to place everyone, it isn't physically possible. If you requested a panel, watch your email over the next several days. If you receive a notice about a panel assignment, please respond promptly to let the program committee know if you can or cannot serve on it.

Awards Banquet Menu Choices

We are finalizing the menu choices for the Saturday Awards Banquet with the chef of the Portola. Sometime in the next week or so you will receive an email asking you to reconfirm your menu choice so we can submit an accurate count. We appreciate your prompt response to the email!

Hotel Registration Deadlines for Conference Rate

The deadlines for making reservations at our conference rate are coming up very soon. Reservations must be received at the Portola by February 21st, and at the Marriott by February 24th. More information about the hotels is available on our [Hotel webpage](#). If you have misplaced your hotel reservation information, please email [Stan Ulrich](#).

Calamari Crime Needs You!

Out thanks to everyone who has already volunteered for Left Coast Crime 2014: Calamari Crime. As an all-volunteer organization, LCC can't organize conventions without volunteers like you! Emails have gone out to all who expressed interest in volunteering when they registered, but there are plenty of volunteer opportunities for everyone!

- **Bag Stuffing**

If you would like to help stuff books into the book bags on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning, please email [Joe Mallon](#) and let him know if you are available on Tuesday or Wednesday.

- **Registration Desk**

Sign up for a two-hour shift helping Registrar Stan Ulrich and Registration Captain Terry Jacobsen manage the registration desk. We need both experienced Registration Desk volunteers and those who have never done this fun job of welcoming convention registrations and handing out the registration envelopes and tote bags. To volunteer for the Registration Desk, please email [Terry Jacobsen](#).

- **Information Desk**

Sign up for a shift at the Information Desk: greet attendees, pass out information and maps, answer questions, direct attendees to the sights, shops, and restaurants in Monterey and nearby. This job is most suited for Monterey area residents. To volunteer for the Information Desk, please email [Joe Mallon](#).

- **Hospitality Room / Silent Auction**

Sign up for a shift monitoring the Hospitality Room and Silent Auction Items. Responsibilities include keeping an eye on the Silent Auction items and answering questions, making sure that the hotel staff removes trash, the room and tables are kept neat and tidy, and beverages are restocked as needed. Most important: make all our attendees feel welcome and comfortable. To volunteer for the Hospitality Room, please email [Joe Mallon](#).

- **Help with Silent Auction Saturday Evening**

Help our Auction Chair Noemi Levine move the Silent Auction items to the foyer for final bidding during the Cash Bar Cocktail Hour before the Awards Banquet. Noemi will also need help processing the winning bids and distributing items after the Banquet. To volunteer, please email [Joe Mallon](#).

- **Program Room Volunteer**

Sign up for a shift managing a program room. Responsibilities include making sure the hotel staff has picked up trash, holding up signs so the panel moderator knows how much time is left before the end of the program, and escorting the panelists to the signing space after the panel. Written instructions will be provided. If you are interested, please email [Lucinda Surber](#) with a list of some panels you would like to help with.

- **Book-Signing Assistant**

Sign up for a shift helping the Book Signing Captain Pat Morin. Duties include placing signage, greeting and directing authors to their seats, and managing lines to

avoid congestion. Please email [Pat Morin](#) to volunteer to help with Signing.

- **Awards Banquet Volunteers**

Welcome diners at the door and help people find their seats at the Awards Banquet on Saturday, March 22nd. Please email [Kathryn Rybka](#) if you would like to help.

- **Calamari Crawl Volunteer**

Sign up for a shift distributing [Calamari Crawl](#) certificates/tax receipts. Please email [Pat Macholl](#) if this sounds like the job for you!

Side Trips

Monterey and surrounding areas offer much to see and experience. We've worked with Premiere Events to arrange five optional tour opportunities to explore the Monterey Bay area before and after the Left Coast Crime 2014 convention. The trips include Whale Watching in Monterey Bay, a Monterey Movie Tour, a trip to the National Steinbeck Museum, a Scenic Tour of Big Sur, and a Carmel Valley Wine Tasting trip. The deadline for registering for any of the tours is March 1st. Email [Premiere Events](#) if you have any questions about the tours. [Tour Descriptions and Registration Form](#)

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