



The Squid Speaks – Vol. 8, March 5, 2014

Welcome to all our new registrants since the last newsletter! Only 14 more days until Left Coast Crime 2014 in Monterey, California.

Squid FAQ

Dear Squid: What should the well-dressed squid wear to the convention?

Left Coast Crime is a casual convention. Comfortable shoes and layers to cope with fluctuating temperatures inside the convention are best. Some squids do like to dress up for the Awards Banquet on Saturday night.

Dear Squid: What weather can I expect while exploring the great outdoors in Monterey?

The average high temperature in Monterey in March is 60°F; the average low is 45°F. The highest temperature ever recorded in March was 85°F; the lowest March temperature was 32°F. It's safe to leave your snowshoes at home, but do bring a jacket.

Volunteers Needed!

Panel Room Volunteers

We still need LOTS of volunteers to help our panels run smoothly. This is a great way to make sure you have a front row seat at a panel (or three) you want to attend. The main responsibility is to hold up signs so the panel moderator knows how much time is left before the end of the program. Check our wonderful [Panel Schedule](#) and then [email Lucinda Surber](#) with a list of some panels you are interested in attending. Please prioritize your list, and note how many total panels you are willing to help with.

Hospitality/Silent Auction Room Volunteers

We still need volunteers to help welcome people to the Hospitality Room while keeping an eye on the Silent Auction donations. If you can help on Thursday between 9:00-11:00 AM or 1:00-3:30 PM, Friday between 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, Saturday 11:00 AM-1:00 PM or 3:00-4:00 PM, or Sunday between 9:00-11:00 AM, please [email Joe Mallon](#).

Banquet Menu Choice

When you registered, you picked among four entrées for the Awards Banquet. We recently sent out an email with a survey link so you could confirm whether you still plan to attend, and if so, to reaffirm or change your earlier selection. We need to place our orders with the hotel very soon, so please respond, if you haven't yet. If we don't hear from you, we will assume you are coming and are sticking with your initial choice. And if you can't use your Banquet Ticket, please [email Stan Ulrich](#) or drop your ticket by the Registration Table so that someone on the Waiting List can attend the Banquet.

Author-Hosted Tables

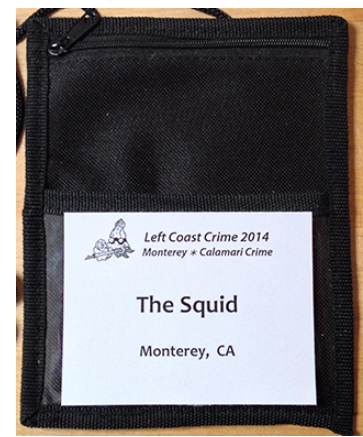
Many of the authors attending Calamari Crime have been kind enough to agree to share a table with their fans at the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening. (We have also left plenty of open tables.) First choice of the Author Tables was offered as an early registration incentive. Other registrants will have the opportunity to sign up to sit at an Author Table when checking in at the convention. Look for the Author-Hosted Table sign-up seats near registration. There will be reminder sheets there to make a note of the table you sign up for so you don't forget! (You may want to tuck your table note inside your Name Tag Holder with your Banquet Ticket.) The Author-Hosted Table sheets will be posted outside the Banquet doors on Saturday to help you locate your table. If you change your mind about sitting at an Author-Hosted Table, please cross out your name so someone else can join the table. (We have a limited number of tables still available for Author-Hosting. Please [email Gay Gale](#) for details.)

Left Coast Crime 101

Welcome to all of you who are attending Left Coast Crime for the first time. Here are some hints to help you enjoy the convention.

- **Registration:** Early registration will open on Wednesday from 3:00–6:00 PM. The registration table will be open beginning at 8:00 AM on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and remain open for most of the day for registration and to answer any questions.

- **Materials:** When you register you will receive an envelope with your name tag, LCC Awards ballot, and your banquet ticket. Inside your book bag you will find a Name Tag Holder, the Program, a Pocket Program that will fit inside your Name Tag Holder, and of course several books. It's a good idea to tuck your banquet ticket inside your Name Tag Holder so you don't lose it! **Please wear your Name Tag at all times during the convention.** It is your ticket into all the events and helps us all get to know each other.



- **Exchange Table:** Outside the Book Room you will find an Exchange Table. If you receive a book or magazine you've already read, please place it on the Exchange Table and help yourself to anything you find there!
- **Promotional Materials Table:** Outside the Book Room you will find a table to place bookmarks, postcards, or other promotional materials. (Please do not place promotional materials on the Exchange Table.)
- **Voting:** Don't forget to deposit your Award Ballot in the Ballot Box near the Registration table by 1:30 PM on Saturday. The Awards will be presented at the Banquet on Saturday evening.
- **LCC 101 Panel:** Come to the Left Coast Crime 101 panel on Thursday at 10:45 in De Anza 1 for more tips about enjoying the convention from Janet Rudolph (LCC founding member), Bill Gottfried (Calamari Crime Co-Chair), Toby Gottfried (Calamari Crime Co-Chair), and Brad Parks (Calamari Crime Toastmaster).
- **Volunteer:** This is a great way to get to know your fellow mystery fans.
- Don't be shy! Introduce yourself to those sitting next to you at a panel, standing in line to get a book signed, browsing in the Book Room, or enjoying a cup of coffee in the Hospitality Room and share your passion for the mystery/thriller genre!

Book Bag Donations

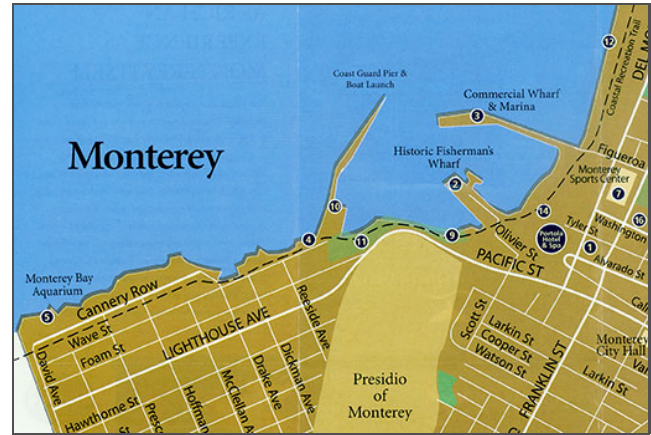
Our thanks to these generous publishers who donated books and magazines for our book bags:

- Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine
- Bellekeep Books
- Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine
- Felony & Mayhem Press
- HarperCollins
- Kensington Publishing
- Minotaur Books
- Mystery Scene
- Perseverance Press
- Poisoned Pen Press
- Random House
- Soho Press

- Thomas & Mercer
 - Tor/Forge
-

Calamari Crawl

This year we are encouraging conference registrants to get out and enjoy the beautiful scenery in Monterey while making a charitable donation to the Monterey Public Library and the Monterey County Free Libraries. A recreation trail runs from Fisherman's Wharf, right outside the back door of the Portola Hotel & Spa, to the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Round trip is 3.8 miles (about 6K). We're not organizing an official event, but participants can choose to walk or run along the trail at any time during the convention week, and then exchange a \$25 donation for a Calamari Crawl certificate/tax receipt. You can also make your Calamari Crawl donation [online in advance](#). There will be sign-ups posted near the registration table if you would like to participate in the Calamari Crawl with a group of old or new friends.



Side Trips

Registration for the Side Trips offered through Premiere Events closed on March 1st. If you registered for the Big Sur Tour, the Carmel Valley Wine Tour, or the Whale Watching Tour, you will soon be receiving an email from Premiere Events about tour time, meeting location, suggested attire, etc.



Two of the trips were canceled because not enough people signed up to meet the tour minimum: The Monterey Movie Tour and the Steinbeck Tour. If you signed up for one of the canceled tours, Premiere events will be getting in touch with you soon about possibly changing to another tour.

If you don't receive the email, or have any questions about the tours, please email [Premiere Events](#).

Looking for a Roommate?

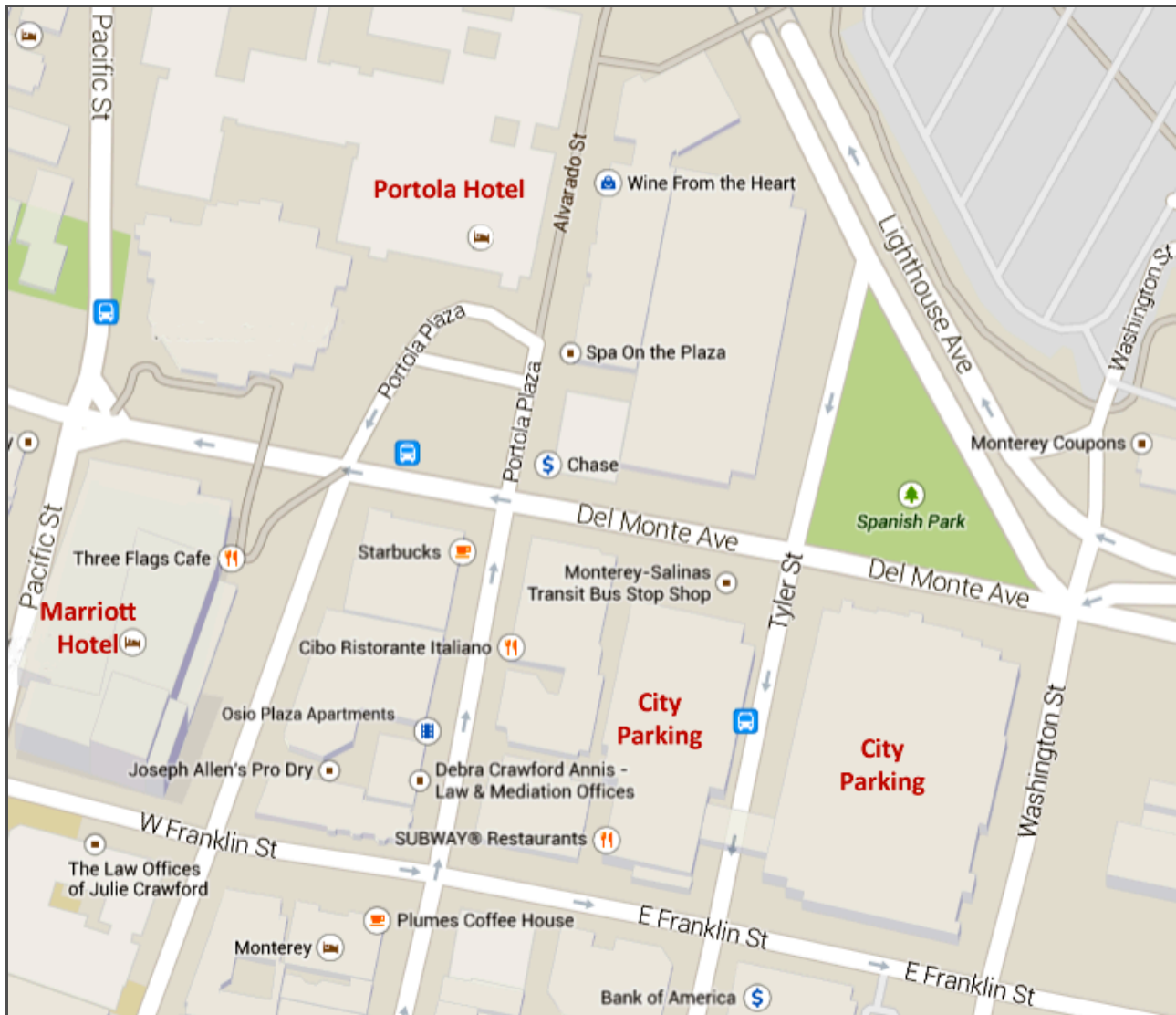
Noemi Levine is our Roommate Liaison. [Email Noemi](#) if you would like to be matched with a roommate and share a hotel room.

Travel Information: Shuttle Service

[The Monterey Air Bus](#) provides “Door to Door” shuttle service from San Francisco and San Jose airports to Monterey hotels. We have confirmed with the Monterey Air Bus that you can make reservations now for shuttle trips to and from the airports. Call 831-373-7777 if you have problems making your reservations online.

Parking

Guests registered at the Portola Hotel are entitled to a discounted \$10 per day self-parking rate (with in/out privileges) from Tuesday the 18th through Sunday the 23rd. The City of Monterey has nearby parking at the Downtown West and East Garages, 340 Tyler St., between Franklin St. and Del Monte Ave., where the rate is \$7/day. These lots are about two blocks from the Portola Hotel Plaza.



Day Passes

Left Coast Crime 2014 reached its capacity on February 18 — however, we are making a limited number of day passes available. Day passes do not include entry to the “food” events: the Thursday reception, Friday and Saturday breakfasts, or the awards banquet on Saturday evening. Day passes are \$75 for Thursday–Saturday and \$50 for Sunday. Day Passes will only be available

online, and when they're gone, they're gone! Visit our [Registration page](#) to purchase Day Passes.

LCC 2015: Crimelandia

We hope you will join us March 12–15 in Portland, Oregon, for Left Coast Crime 2015. The Guests of Honor will be Chelsea Cain and Ridley Pearson, Gar Anthony Haywood will be the Toastmaster, and we will honor the Friends of Mystery as our Fan Guest of Honor. Visit the [Crimelandia website](#) for more information. The early registration fee of \$155 is good through March 23, 2014. You can [register online](#) or visit the Crimelandia table in Monterey.



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