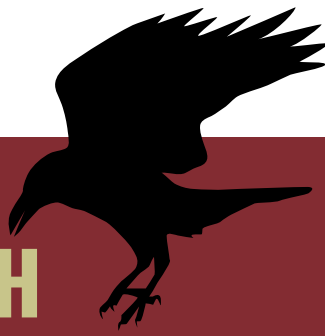


MARCH 2025

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



SoCalMWA Author Reading Series

March 27, 7:30 p.m.



Grab your favorite cup of tea and sweet biscuits and join SoCalMWA for an Evening of Cozy Mysteries! Our author lineup will be announced soon.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

This is an ongoing series.

Over the course of this year, members will have an opportunity to appear (as well as attend as an audience) readings from a wide range of Mystery/Thriller genres. The readings will be hosted via Crowdcast, and everyone is welcome to attend!

The upcoming dates and genres are:

March 27, 2025—Cozy

May 29, 2025—Historical

July 31, 2025—PI/Procedural

September 25, 2025—Thriller/Suspense

November 20, 2025—Noir

Each month, we'll open sign-ups for the lottery to choose readers.
COZY AUTHORS ONLY: [email us](#) if you'd like to be considered for a spot.

What's inside

.....

[Author Reading Series p. 1](#)

[President's Rap Sheet p. 2](#)

[Editor's Corner p. 3](#)

[Edgar® Symposium p. 4](#)

[Over the Transom p. 5](#)

[Appearances & Events p. 6](#)

[RWA Workshops p.8](#)

[Crime Calendar p. 9](#)

[The Last Word p. 9](#)



"Historical" Musings

BY LESLIE S. KLINGER



It's hard to believe that it's been more than a month since the devastating fires in Pasadena and the Palisades. Traffic has been disrupted in L.A. as a result of the (partial) closure of Pacific Coast Highway. I live in Malibu, and though I can now drive into Santa Monica, it's like passing through a war zone. The images remind me of the footage of the Gaza destruction that we see nightly on the news. It's a miracle that there was so little death or injury caused by these apocalyptic fires, and for that, we are grateful.

As things return to normal for those of us lucky enough to have escaped destruction or serious damage to our homes, writing beckons. I've been immersing myself in an annotated edition of an "historical" mystery novel set in the early 1960s—Hugh Pentecost's *The Cannibal Who Overate*. It's comical to me to think of that era as "historical," but I keep reminding myself that I need to explain to some readers things like "Bromo-Seltzer" and "Jack Paar" and even who was President of the United States. Of course, the dollar amounts mentioned in the story are gasp-worthy—a luxury 5th Ave. penthouse apartment at the top New York City hotel, facing Central Park, for a mere \$194,000!

Pentecost (the *nom de plume* for Judson Phillips) was one of the founders of MWA and its president in 1947. (Phillips was also named a Grand Master in 1973.) This year is our 80th anniversary, and we'll be celebrating that milestone at the Edgars® banquet on May 1 in New York City. If you've never attended, consider treating yourself—it's a grand party, the biggest gathering of writers, editors, agents, and publishers of the year, and a wonderful opportunity to mingle with our biggest stars! This year, John Sandford and Laura Lippman, two of the best of our ranks, will be feted as Grand Masters, and our new National President, Lisa Scottoline, will be hosting! We're also sponsoring the Edgars® Symposium on Wednesday, April 30.

Our spring schedule is busy: the Tucson Festival of Books, our new Author Readings series, the *L.A. Times* Festival of Books, and a Chapter meeting or two. We're also co-hosting a gathering with NorCal and Rocky Mountain Chapters of MWA at Left Coast Crime in a few weeks—watch for an e-mail with more info!

Les

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Leslie S. Klinger

VICE PRESIDENT
Jennifer Younger

TREASURER
Aimee Kluck

SECRETARY
Holly West

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Lawrence Allan
Fred Andersen
Pat H. Broeske
Gay Toltl Kinman
Gary Phillips
John Shepphird
Patricia Smiley

Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter

c/o Leslie S. Klinger
10866 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 1500
Los Angeles, CA 90024

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

Resilience



BY HOLLY WEST

I've been thinking a lot lately about the word "resilience." I'm not a very resilient person, and for the last couple of years, I've been working hard to build mine up. The ability to tolerate distress strikes me as an important skill to have if one wants to live a more...what? A happier life? More balanced? Satisfying?

Okay, so I don't know exactly. But better somehow. In the end, I decided increasing my own resilience was a worthy goal because it would help me live with less fear and anxiety and that, when the need arises, I could better assist others during hard times.

I thought I was getting better at it until my dog died in October, and it felt like all that progress whooshed right down the toilet. But that's not quite true. I'd attained coping skills and tools for processing grief that I didn't have before I started on my journey to improve my resilience. Having resilience doesn't mean that life isn't hard, even unbearable, at times. We don't stop feeling—quite the contrary—taking the time to *feel* our emotions rather than compartmentalizing them or trying to ignore them is an integral part of building resilience.

Lest I wander too far into self-help territory, resilience applies to our writing lives, too. Resilience to keep going when your WIP seems unmanageable. Resilience when you read feedback from your beta readers or editor. And, of course, resilience in the face of rejection or disappointment. Because there is plenty of that in the publishing biz, and none of us is immune.

You know what helps us build resilience? Friends! Left Coast Crime happens in a couple of weeks, and I hope to see many of you there. I'll be moderating two panels, both on Friday, March 14: "Traditional Mysteries" at 9 a.m. and "Historical Sleuths" at 4 p.m. I'm also hosting an Author Connection with Lina Chern, the Mary Higgins Clark Award-winning author of *Play the Fool*. We've called it "Tipsy Tarot," and the first drink's on us!

Happy spring, my friends. You've earned it.

Holly

The March of Crime

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

Edgar® Week Symposium

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

Register now for the 2025 Edgar® Week Symposium!

Pay online via the MWA Store: [Member Rate](#) (\$95) or [Non-Member Rate](#) (\$125)

Date: Wednesday, April 30

Location: Marriott Marquis Times Square—Empire Complex—7th Floor
1535 Broadway (between 45th & 46th Streets)

PROGRAM

8:30–8:50 a.m. — **Registration**

8:55–9 a.m. — **Welcome from MWA’s Executive Vice President, James L’Etoile**

Panels

9–9:50 a.m. — **Can You Juggle?** How to keep multiple storylines straight and carry them through to the end without dropping a single ball.

Moderator:

Lisa Scottoline (2025 MWA National President)

Panelists:

Sarah Easter Collins (2025 Best Novel Nominee—*Things Don’t Break On Their Own*, Farrar Straus & Giroux - MCD)

Sulari Gentill (2025 Mary Higgins Clark Nominee—*The Mystery Writer*, Sourcebooks - Poisoned Pen Press)

Carol Goodman (2025 Mary Higgins Clark Nominee—*Return to Wyldcliffe Heights*, HarperCollins Publishers - William Morrow Paperbacks)

Isabella Maldonado (2025 Best Paperback Original Nominee—*A Forgotten Kill*, Amazon Publishing - Thomas & Mercer)

Charlotte Vassell (2025 Best Novel Nominee—*The In Crowd*, Penguin Random House - Doubleday)

10–10:50 a.m.—**Do You Remember the First Time?** Meet the debut authors joining us at their first Edgars.

Moderator: Terry Shames (Macavity award-winning author of the Samuel Craddock series, featuring a small-town Texas police chief, and the new Jessie Madison thriller series)

Panelists:

Ash Clifton (2025 Best First Nominee—*Twice the Trouble*, Crooked Lane Books)

Audrey Lee (2025 Best First Nominee—*The Mechanics of Memory*, CamCat Books)

Kai Lovelace (2025 Robert L. Fish Nominee—“Head Start” - *EQMM*, Sept-Oct 2024)

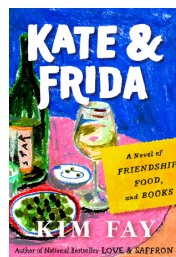
Anna Stolley Persky (2025 Robert L. Fish Nominee—“The Jews on Elm Street” - *EQMM*, Sept-Oct 2024)

Alexis Stefanovich-Thomson (2025 Best Paperback Nominee—*The Road to Heaven*, Dundurn Press)

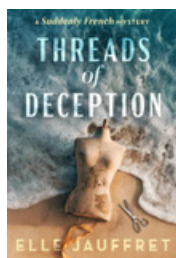
[continued on pg 7](#)



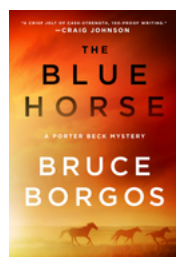
Craig Faustus Buck's short story "Home Game," originally published in *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine* (July-August 2024), has been selected by co-editors Otto Penzler and John Grisham for inclusion in their anthology *The Best Mystery Stories of the Year 2025*, due out on September 23.



Kim Fay's new novel, *Kate & Frida* (G.P. Putnam's Sons), will be released on March 11.



Elle Jauffret has been nominated for a 2025 Agatha Award for Best Debut Novel for *Threads of Deception*.

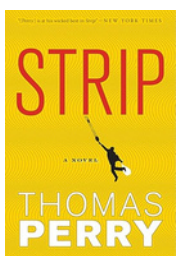


Fans of **Bruce Borgos** and Nevada sheriff Porter Beck will see the third installment in the series release on July 8. *The Blue Horse* (Minotaur Books) is a murder mystery set against the backdrop of controversial government roundups of wild horses. Advanced Reader Copies can be requested at [NetGalley](https://www.netgalley.com) now.



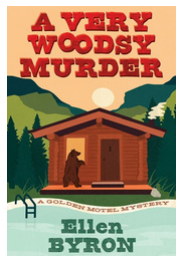
Burn to Shine, the latest in *NY Times* bestseller **Jonathan Maberry's** Joe Ledger series, debuts March 4. Joe and Havoc Team are pitted against radicalized militia groups who are planning a major strike in the United States. The series is now in development for TV with Chad Stahelski, director of the John Wick movies.

The ACD Society—a community dedicated to studying and enjoying the works of Arthur Conan Doyle—named **Nicholas Meyer** a Doylean Honoree for his novel, *Sherlock Holmes and the Telegraph from Hell*, on January 16.



The movie "Bear Country," starring Russell Crowe, which is based on **Thomas Perry's** 2010 novel *Strip*, began filming in Australia during February.

The Independent Press Award named **Amnon Kabatchnik's** *Murder in the West End: The Plays of Agatha Christie and Her Disciples* a 2025 Distinguished Winner, while the 2025 Feathered Quill Book Awards gave the book its Gold/First Place award in the International Category.



A Very Woodsy Murder, **Ellen Byron's** first Golden Motel Mystery, is nominated for a Best Contemporary Novel Agatha Award.

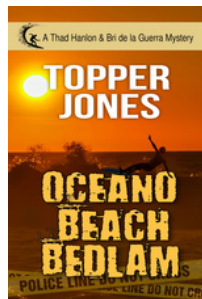
APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Paul Levine will moderate the panel, “From Page to Screen,” at Left Coast Crime in Denver on March 13 and will serve on the “Law” panel the following day. In February, he tossed the questions, and *New York Times* #1 bestselling author Kristin Hannah fielded the answers about *The Women*, her critically acclaimed Vietnam novel, at the Granada Theatre in Santa Barbara.

Elle Jauffret was a guest speaker at the Southern California Writers Conference 2025 and will be a panelist at this year’s Wondercon and San Diego Writers Festival.

On March 21, **Topper Jones** will be at The Book Bungalow (94 West Tabernacle Street St. George, UT 84770-4087) at 7 p.m. MDT to celebrate the launch of *Oceano Beach Bedlam*, the second book in his Thad Hanlon & Bri de la Guerra Mystery series. There’ll be a short reading, Q&A, door prizes, book signing, and treats.



Nancy Cole Silverman is scheduled to appear at the Fullerton Day of Authors on Saturday, March 22, at the Cal State Fullerton Titan Student Center. Ms. Silverman will deliver a talk on the creation of fictional characters within historical settings, focusing on how to make them credible and realistic.

Mike Befeler will be on the Senior Sleuth panel at the Left Coast Crime convention in Denver on Saturday, March 15, at 10:15 a.m. Elizabeth Crowens will moderate and fellow panelists are Janet Finsilver, Julie A. Hennrikus, and Ellen Kirschman.

Nicholas Meyer will be in attendance at Wondercon 2025 in Anaheim with a “Spotlight on Nicholas Meyer” on Friday, March 28, at 3:30 p.m.



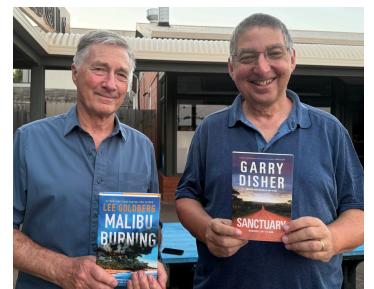
March 11 at 7 p.m., **Kim Fay** will be in discussion with J. Ryan Stradal to launch her new book, *Kate & Frida*, at Vroman’s, 695 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena. [Event details.](#)

Jeri Westerson will be at the following locations: Saturday, March 15 at 2 p.m.—A.K. Smiley Library, talking about *Rebellious Grace*, a Tudor era King’s Fool Mystery, with a free raffle item and free book bags with purchase while they last. (125 W. Vine St, Redlands). On Sunday, March 30, 1–3 p.m.—The Open Book, an event with Elizabeth Cowens in conversation with Jerry Kegley, president of the Curious Collectors of Baker Street, a Los Angeles Sherlock Holmes Society. Free book bags with purchase while they last. (6316 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Woodland Hills).

Sheila Lowe and **Judith Mathison** will be reading and signing at The Open Book in Canyon Country on March 1 between 2–4:30 p.m. and at Smitten in Ventura on March 29 at 11:00 a.m.

Jennifer J. Chow will be at Left Coast Crime on these panels: Friday, March 14 at 2:45 p.m. “Lefty Humorous Nominees,” moderated by Janet Rudolph with fellow nominees: **Ellen Byron**, A.J. Devlin, Catriona McPherson, and Rob Osler. Saturday, March 15 at 2:45 p.m. “A Bit of Magic” moderated by Kate Lansing with fellow authors: Cate Conte, Daryl Wood Gerber, and Gigi Pandian.

While **Lee Goldberg** was on a research trip in Melbourne, NSW in February, he met with his friend Garry Disher, the multiple Ned Kelly award-winning author often referred to as “The Michael Connelly of Australia,” and they gifted each other with signed copies of their recent books.



continued from pg.4

Edgar® Week Symposium

Panels

11–11:50 a.m. —**In the Mood.** Setting the scene and building suspense.

Moderator:

David Putnam (Bestselling author of the Bruno Johnson series, the Dave Beckett series, and the Imogene Taylor series)

Panelists:

Michelle Chouinard (2025 Mary Higgins Clark Nominee—*The Serial Killer Guide to San Francisco*, Minotaur Books)

Seraphina Nova Glass (2025 Paperback Original Nominee—*The Vacancy in Room 10*, (Harlequin Trade Publishing - Graydon House)

Deb Miller Landau (2025 Best Fact Crime Nominee—*A Devil Went Down to Georgia: Race, Power, Privilege and the Murder of Lita McClinton*, Pegasus Books - Pegasus Crime)

Ayla Rose (2025 Lilian Jackson Braun Nominee—*Murder on Devil's Pond*, Crooked Lane Books)

Steven Sheil (2025 Best Short Story Nominee—"The Art of Cruel Embroidery" *AHMM*, July-Aug 2024)

Robert Thorogood (2025 Best TV Episode Teleplay Nominee)—"Episode Two" - The Marlow Murder Club, Masterpiece PBS)

12–1 p.m.—**Lunch Break (on your own)**

1–1:50 p.m.—**Taking Candy from a Baby.** Writing Mysteries for Young People.

Moderator: Diana Hansen-Young (Writer, artist, and mom, Diana's been a member of MWA since the 1979 publication of her first short story in *Mike Shayne Mystery Magazine*)

Panelists:

Alexa Donne (2025 Best Young Adult Nominee—*The Bitter End*, Random House BFYR)

Janet Fox (2025 Best Juvenile Nominee—*Mystery of Mystic Mountain*, Simon & Schuster BFYR)

Margaret Peterson Haddix (2025 Best Juvenile Nominee—*Mysteries of Trash and Treasure: The Stolen Key*, HarperCollins - Quill Tree Books)

Maureen Johnson (2025 Best Young Adult Nominee—*Death at Morning House*, HarperCollins - Harper Teen)

Natalie D. Richards (2025 Best Young Adult Nominee—*49 Miles Alone*, Sourcebooks - Sourcebooks Fire)

Ginger Reno (2025 Best Juvenile Nominee—*Find Her*, Holiday House)

2–2:50 p.m. —**It Takes Character.** From detectives readers will follow anywhere to the narrators who can't be trusted.

Moderator:

Larry Light (MWA National Board of Directors)

continued on pg. 8

continued from pg. 7

Edgar® Week Symposium

Panelists:

Robert Jackson Bennett (2025 Best Novel Nominee—*The Tainted Cup*, Penguin Random House - Random House Worlds/Del Rey)

Liv Constantine (2025 Best Short Story Nominee—“Everywhere You Look,” Amazon Original)

Bonnie Kistler (2025 Best Paperback Original Nominee—*Shell Games*, HarperCollins - Harper Paperbacks)

Ashley Lawson (2025 Best Critical-Bio Nominee—*On Edge: Gender and Genre in the Work of Shirley Jackson, Patricia Highsmith, and Leigh Brackett*, The Ohio State University Press)

Joanna Schaffhausen (2025 Sue Grafton Nominee—*All the Way Gone*, Minotaur Books)

Amy Tintera (2025 Best Novel Nominee—*Listen for the Lie*, Macmillan Publishers - Celadon Books)

3–3:50 p.m.—**Hitting the Books.** Research and borrowing from reality (fiction/nonfiction).

Moderator: Joseph Goodrich (Edgar® Award-winning dramatist and author who’s been described by *Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine* as “One of the most versatile writers in the mystery field.”)

Panelists:

Kimberly Belle (2025 Best Paperback Original Nominee—*The Paris Widow*, Harlequin Trade Publishing - Park Row Books)

Rhys Bowen (2025 Mary Higgins Clark Nominee—*The Rose Arbor*, Amazon Publishing - Lake Union)

Frank Figliuzzi (2025 Best Fact Crime Nominee—*Long Haul: Hunting the Highway Serial Killers*, HarperCollins - Mariner Books)

Katie Tietjen (2025 Mary Higgins Clark Nominee—*Death in the Details*, Crooked Lane Books)

Michael Wolraich (2025 Best Fact Crime Nominee—*The Bishop and the Butterfly: Murder, Politics, and the End of the Jazz Age*, Union Square & Co.)

4–5 p.m.—**From the Writer’s Desk.** Interviewed by Oline Cogdill (2013 Raven Award Winner)

Our 2025 Grand Masters Laura Lippman and John Sandford.

RWA Digital Author Toolkit Series

The Romance Writers of America® (RWA) is hosting a Digital Author Toolkit series featuring workshops focused on various topics of interest to writers. MWA members are invited to attend for a discounted rate (RWA non-member pricing is normally \$89). Questions? [Email RWA](#).

“Protecting Your Intellectual Property”

Presenter: Maggie Marr, *USA Today* best-selling author, entertainment attorney, and producer.

Wednesday, April 7, 7 p.m. CT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Discount Code: IPMWA

CRIME CALENDAR



2025

March 13–16: Left Coast Crime, Denver, CO

March 15–16: Tucson Festival of Books, Tucson, AZ

March 27: SoCalMWA Virtual Readers Series, Crowdcast

April 25–27: Malice Domestic, Bethesda, MD

April 26–27: LA Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles

April 30: Edgar® Symposium, New York, NY

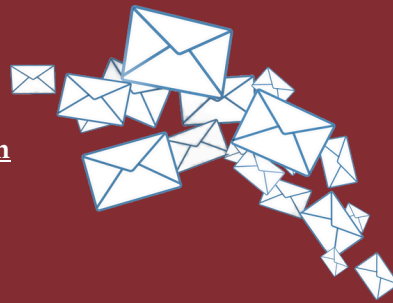
May 1: 79th Annual Edgar® Awards Banquet, New York, NY

May 14–18: Sleuthfest, St. Petersburg, FL

June 17–21: Thriller Fest XX, New York, NY

September 3–7: Bouchercon, New Orleans, LA

If you know of an event that belongs on the Crime Calendar, email themarchofcrime@gmail.com with the info.



THE LAST WORD



“Small-town policing, Doc. Like the kids say, it is what it is.
Guess I’ve learned to live with it.”

Panic Attack
by **Dennis Palumbo**