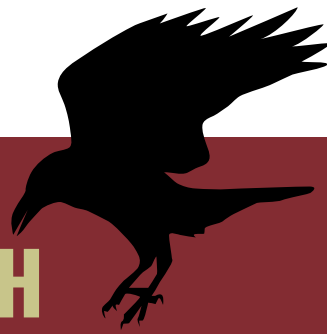


JUNE 2025

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



Surveillance Technology

June 8 with Speaker Adam Sikes

SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY
IN THE AGE OF A.I.

Featuring Adam Sikes,
A former CIA paramilitary officer

- ✓ Sunday, June 8
- ✓ 1-2:30 p.m. (PT)
- ✓ Wende Museum of the Cold War,
10808 Culver Blvd, Culver City

Join SoCalMWA for an illuminating talk on the advances and methods of surveillance technology in the age of AI and big data.

RSVP
socialmwa.com

We've reached the point where escaping AI is nearly impossible. What does this mean for the world of surveillance technology? Former CIA paramilitary officer Adam Sikes will give his perspective and expertise on this important topic.

RSVP NOW!

What's inside

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Edgar® Awards Re-Cap

BY LESLIE S. KLINGER



Ah, the Edgars®! One of my favorite events of the year (and it always seems to coincide with my birthday)! I always use the trip to NYC as an excuse to get together with a bunch of Sherlockians, and this year was no exception. I sat with old friend Glen Miranker, who has perhaps the finest collection of Sherlockiana in the world. Among his collection are numerous—dozens—of “pirated” editions of the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. As we battle the issues of AI and the use of copyrighted material, it’s good to remember that copyright protection was not always the norm. This was especially true in America in the late nineteenth century, where it was routine for newspapers and book publishers to reprint books that were popular in England—without any compensation to the author!

We inducted two Grand Masters into the MWA “hall of fame” this year: longtime pal Laura Lippman, who has won virtually every award out there, and the venerable John Sanderson, author of more than 80 novels! They both gave very generous speeches, extolling the writing community and MWA in particular for its support and network of friends. The category awards themselves were, of course, the highlight of the evening. The event was well-supported by publishers, and I was honored to present the “Best Critical/Biographical” Edgar®, a category of work that honors our chosen genre by studying our leading lights and history. This year’s winner was the outstanding *James Sallis: A Companion to the Mystery Fiction* by Nathan Ashman, published by McFarland. If you haven’t discovered McFarland’s wares before, you should understand that their books are largely passion projects—usually works by scholars who focus on topics unlikely to interest mainstream publishers, such as companions to television shows or film series or analyses of subgenres in the mystery world.

Pal Lyndsay Faye and I also attended the “nominees’ reception,” where we had a chance to meet many new folks. As you know, you don’t have to be a member of MWA to be eligible for an Edgar®, but we’ve often found that getting a nomination leads to the author joining! It may sound like an empty mantra, but it really is a great honor to be nominated. Hundreds of works are submitted every year, and only a few can be selected. Having served on many juries, I can tell

[continued on pg.5](#)

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Summer's Here

BY HOLLY WEST

I'm not happy to report that temperatures in my area are forecast to be in the high-low 100s this weekend. But even so, there's lots to look forward to in the summer, and while I'm not ready for the heat, I'm definitely ready for some fun.

Work-wise, summer has always been my most productive season. Higher temperatures force me to get up earlier simply because the dog needs walking, and I want to do it before it gets too hot. That means I'm at my desk earlier, and since mornings are my best writing hours, it all works out.

Last month, I told you that I was going on vacation. I also said I planned to write. I wish I could tell you that I was a writing machine, but predictably, that is not the case. I did do some plotting for a short story and wrote a couple of scenes, though. That'll have to be enough.

Writing aside, it was amazing to disconnect almost completely! No social media, no phones at meals, and limited texting (let's face it, I'm never gonna stop keeping up with my group chat). I *highly* recommend it.

With that said, I've been thinking about social media lately. I haven't deleted my Facebook account, but I haven't signed in for weeks and don't intend to go back. I left Twitter in early 2025, and although I kept my account to prevent anyone from taking my username, I deleted all of my tweets. Threads is a hot mess, and while I like BlueSky, I don't post often. Instagram is the only place I'm active these days.

I don't think I'm alone in my desertions, but I feel a little disconnected from my writing community, and I don't like that. What, if anything, will replace social media? We'll have to see.

Finally, please see my announcement [here](#). Changes are afoot, and that's always discomfiting for me, but it's time.

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.

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Discussion Group

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(members only)

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t. 212.888.8171
mwa@mysterywriters.org
<http://mysterywriters.org>



New March of Crime Editor Wanted

SoCalMWA Newsletter

After fifteen years of editing *The March of Crime*, it's finally time for me to step down and pass the torch to a new editor. If you're interested in taking on this paid volunteer position, please email me at themarchofcrime@gmail.com for details.

Crime Books for Donation

Member Announcement

Diane Crayne Gardner has about forty true crime and crime-themed fiction books she'd like to donate to anyone or any organization that wants or needs them. Email Diane for details.

Anthony Award Nominees

Congratulations to our Members!

SoCalMWA has several members nominated for Anthony Awards this year:

Best Hardcover:

California Bear by Duane Swierczynski

Best Historical:

Bootlegger's Daughter by Nadine Nettmann

Short Story:

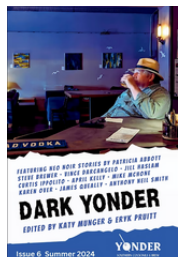
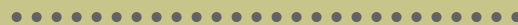
"Something to Hold On To" by Curtis Ippolito

Best Cozy/Humorous:

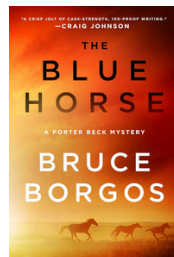
A Very Woodsy Murder by Ellen Byron

Ill-Fated Fortune by Jennifer J. Chow

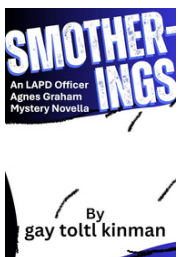
Best of luck to these nominees!



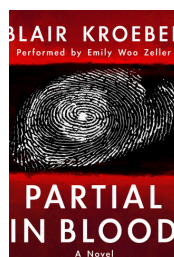
Curtis Ippolito, author of *Burying the Newspaper Man*, has been nominated for an Anthony Award in the Best Short Story category for his story, “Something to Hold On To,” published in *Dark Yonder* issue 6.



Bruce Borgos’s latest Porter Beck mystery, *The Blue Horse*, will be published by Minotaur on July 8.



Gay Tolti Kinman has published a new novella titled *Smotherings*. In 1942, LAPD officer Agnes Graham investigates two murders in Hollywood, bucking the department’s *laissez-faire* investigation of the first murder.



Blair Kroeber’s audiobook exclusive *Partial in Blood* is now available on all major audiobook platforms. Narrated by the award-winning Emily Woo Zeller, *Partial in Blood* introduces Allegra Tarot, a former film and T.V. actress who leverages her acting chops to work as a skip tracer and P.I. on the gritty backstreets of modern-day Hollywood.



No Hill to Die On, **Martin Roy Hill’s** fourth entry in his Peter Brandt Mysteries, was published in May by 32-32 North. A brother lost in war. A shocking claim. A deadly truth. Former war correspondent Peter Brandt’s probe into his brother’s death in Vietnam reveals deadly secrets from the past.

Edgar® Awards Re-Cap continued from pg.2

you that it is always painful to have to pass over great work because of limitations on the number of nominees. Some writers disdain awards, but I think an Edgar® nomination—a judgment of your peers that your work is exceptional—is something special.

Of course, the Edgars® banquet is always an opportunity to visit lots of friends, and I’d happily go every year just for that. It’s the best reminder of why we’re members of MWA: Our community is built on mutual support and admiration of the hard work and sacrifice that goes into writing. Hope to see you there in 2026!

Meanwhile, we have a calendar chock-full of upcoming events. Watch for a special announcement of our big craft panel in August, co-sponsored with SinCLA! If you missed last year’s event at the Skirball, you’ll definitely want to make this one!

Les

APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Barb Goffman and **Gay Tolt Kinman** celebrate Goffman's Agatha Award win for Best Short Story. "The Postman Always Flirts Twice" appears in *Agatha and Derringer Get Cozy*, edited by Kinman and Andrew McAleer.

Barbara Pronin will talk about her publishing journey and sign copies of her eighth novel, *Winter's End*, at Book Carnival in Orange on Saturday, June 7, at 3 p.m. The WW II historical, a 5-Star Reader's Favorite award-winner, is praised by best-selling author Faye Kellerman as "a page-turner with honest characters who capture your heart and soul."

D.S. (Darryl) Mori is the 2025 Winner of The William F. Deek-Malice Domestic Grant for Unpublished Writers. The award for emerging mystery authors was presented at the Malice Domestic convention in Maryland in April.



Mary Kennedy, **Donis Casey's** "Tell Me Your Story" guest for June, is a practicing psychologist and the author of the Talk Radio Mysteries and the Dream Club Mysteries. Her fifth Talk Radio Mystery, *Death of a Shady Shrink*, was released March 28. Visit Mary at marykennedy.net, and read her story [here](#).



Matt Coyle (*Yesterday's Echo*) and **Georgia Jeffries** (*The Younger Girl*) celebrate their book signings in the SoCalMWA and SinCLA booths at the *LA Times* Festival of Books. Mystery fans and authors connected between cloudbursts to make the 2025 LATFOB a big success.



Ken Funsten, CFA, appeared on "Harry's Poetry Hour"—a weekly program on the Motion Picture and Television Fund's retirement home's ZOOM channel, *Creative Chaos*—on May 20, reading his translation of Arthur Rimbaud's 1871 breakthrough "Le Bateau Ivre," or "My Ripped Boat."

Ona Russell moderates historical mystery guest readers **Anne Louise Bannon**, **A.D. Price**, **Paddy Hirsch**, **Naomi Hirahara**, and **Maria Alexander** on Thursday, May 29 as part of SoCalMWA's Author Reading Series.

CRIME CALENDAR



2025

June 8: [Event with Adam Sikes, former CIA Paramilitary Officer, Los Angeles, CA](#)

June 17–21: [Thriller Fest XX, New York, NY](#)

July 19: Books, BBQ, & Beer, Los Angeles, CA

July 31: Author Readings—Procedurals/PI, Crowdcast

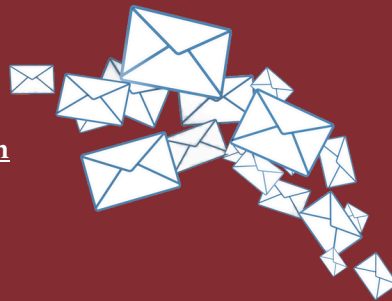
August 13: Skirball Panel, Los Angeles, CA

September 3–7: [Bouchercon, New Orleans, LA](#)

November 20: Author Readings—Noir, Crowdcast

For events without links, save the dates, and we'll send details as soon as they're available.

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



THE LAST WORD



“The rain that was falling today, it wasn’t a cleansing rain. It wasn’t purifying. It only smeared around the existing muck, leaving a confusion of filth over everything.”

Partial in Blood
by **Blair Kroeber**