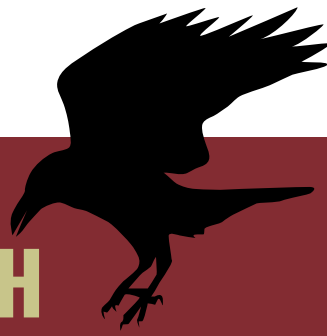


DECEMBER 2025

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



Holiday Party

You & Your Guest are Invited to a
HOLIDAY PARTY!

SinCLA & SoCal MWA invite you to celebrate the holidays!
 Enjoy an afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship at Carl's Cafe
 on the Radford Studio Lot in Studio City.

Lunch includes Tacos- Carne Asada, Carnitas & Chicken,
 CaesarSalad, Spanish Rice, Beans, soft drinks & a Cash Bar.
Bring a gift-wrapped book for an exchange.

DEC 14, 2025 | 1 – 4 PM
 4024 RADFORD AVENUE, STUDIO CITY, CA



What's inside

[Holiday Party p. 1](#)

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

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

[Over the Transom p. 4](#)

[Member News p. 5](#)

[Crime Calendar p. 6](#)

[Call For Authors p. 6](#)

[The Last Word p. 6](#)





I Love Being A Writer



BY LESLIE S. KLINGER

Several things this month reminded me why I love being a writer. First, at the invitation of our dedicated bookseller Debbie Mitsch of Mystery Ink, I moderated a panel at the Orange County Book Fair in Tustin. I hadn't attended this event before, and it was a much more manageable experience than the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books. It was in a lovely neighborhood, complete with a charming old-school bookstore (Arvida Books, with new and lots of used books), and there was plenty of parking. There were at least a dozen booths—I didn't get to see them all—exhibiting books and related crafts, and three panel venues.

Here's the punchline: It was pouring rain, and the organizers provided tents for every exhibitor and panel, as well as giant umbrellas for the panelists. To my amazement, the place was packed! Not only was the panel I moderated (on cozies, btw) well-attended, but Debbie's bookstore was too. I sold more books there in one hour than I usually sell in two days at the *LA Times* Festival!

Maybe it was the rain that made people buy books—how else to justify coming out in the downpour?—but I think it was the nature of those who came. These are our people: hard-core book lovers, who wanted to connect with authors (including those like me whom they had never heard of) and fellow readers!

My second reminder was a bad bathroom experience (I promise it's not gross). The toilet in my guest room wasn't working properly and my housekeeper said to replace the "flapper." I knew it was the bulb thingy inside the tank, so I bought a new one. The only way I could manage to get the old flapper off the toilet was to destroy it.

Then I tried to install the new one. Naturally, I didn't figure out that it was the wrong size until after I had removed the old one. The result was that I had disabled that toilet for two days. Normally, that wouldn't have been a terrible hardship, but I'm remodeling my house, and the only other working toilet in it was down a (temporarily) unlit staircase.

[continued on page 4](#)

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 Tolt 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](#)



Wrapping Up Another Year



BY BONNIE HEARN HILL

“Had CC de Poitiers known she was going to be murdered, she might have bought her husband, Richard, a Christmas gift.”

A Fatal Grace, by Louise Penny

On that happy note, welcome to our December issue of *The March of Crime*. Thanks to all of you who submitted material last month for my first issue as editor, and special thanks to Holly West, who had my back and guided me over technical speedbumps.

I appreciated Elle Jauffret’s article and hope more of you will submit your own tips and reflections for our members.

I hope you were able to watch the excellent “An Evening with Noir Writers” in November. I thoroughly enjoyed this presentation and the readings, and I hope you’ll watch it if you didn’t have a chance to see it.

As I write this from my home in Central California, the rain has finally stopped, and the air feels fresh again, which is my idea of perfect writing weather. May this season provide you with inspiration and ideas.

I’m going to focus the December segment of my Central California TV book club on books for the new year, so if you have any suggestions, please send them my way. I picked up some excellent member titles this week and will be featuring two of them in January.

Bonnie

The March of Crime

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

Editor: Bonnie Hearn Hill

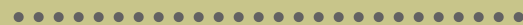
Opinions expressed herein are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter.

Contact us at:
themarchofcrime@gmail.com

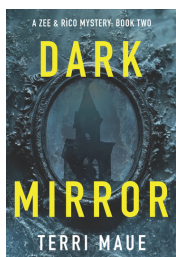
Join the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group

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

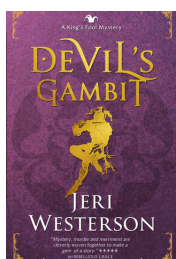
NATIONAL OFFICE
Mystery Writers of America
1140 Broadway #1507
New York, NY 10001
t. 212.888.8171
mwa@mysterywriters.org
<http://mysterywriters.org>



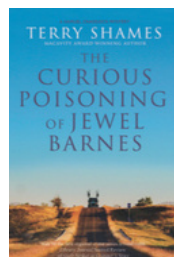
A Spy In Saigon, by Nancy Cole Silverman, the fourth book in the Kat Lawson Mysteries, puts Kat in Vietnam on an undercover assignment. With the lives of trafficked children at stake, Kat has to make a decision that may put her in the crosshairs of an enemy sworn to kill her.



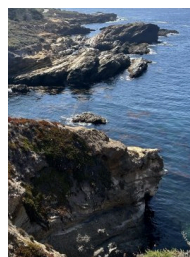
Terri Maue's second book in the Zee & Rico mystery series, *Dark Mirror*, will be released by Camel Press in January. Zee Morani's friend, author of a controversial novel, is dead. A stalker confesses but claims it was an accident. The police are satisfied; Zee is not, especially not after an anonymous tip.



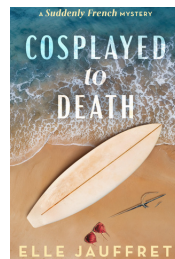
Jeri Westerson's upcoming January release of her Tudor mystery series The King's Fool Mysteries #4 *Devil's Gambit* is available for pre-order on [Amazon](#), Draft2Digital, Google Books, and Kobo. Reviewers can post to [Netgalley](#).



Terry Shames's 12th book in the Samuel Craddock series, *The Curious Poisoning of Jewel Barnes*, was released from Severn House early this month. The book is about family secrets, corporate greed, and life-threatening decisions.



"Linked In Death," a story by Patrick Ross, has been published by Close To The Bone Publishing. A billionaire venture capitalist reaches out to life insurance investigator Beth Shaw on LinkedIn with a three-word message. "I was murdered."



Elle Jauffret will celebrate the release of her new novel, *Cosplayed to Death*, on December 6 at 2 p.m. at [Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore](#), 3555 Rosecrans St., Ste. 107, San Diego, CA 92110. Details.

I Love Being A Writer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

In short, I was tangibly reminded of what I've known all my life and really should remember: I have no talent for making or fixing things with my hands. But at least I can write!

When I write, I don't always get it right the first time, but I can fix the words, sentences, and paragraphs to build and do what I want. That's what we do—we create things, even worlds, in our minds and then we put them down where we can share them with someone else. For me, they come out a lot better than that lamp that I made in high school shop class.

It's the holidays, and that means SoCalMWA holiday party time! It's a great time to re-connect with old friends and connect with new ones. We're joint-venturing again with Sisters in Crime Los Angeles, so the opportunities will be even richer. Hope to see you there! And best wishes for 2026!

Les



For the launch of *Fallen Star*, the new novel by **Lee Goldberg**, the author was interviewed by Christopher Farnsworth, author of Robert B. Parker's *Buried Secrets* at the Calabasas Library.

Georgia Jeffries spoke at “WeHo Reads: Going Dark to Bring Light” with co-panelists Jennifer F. Chow, Nick Duretta, and Tori Eldridge on December 30 online via Zoom and YouTube.



Presented by the City of West Hollywood and Cody Sisco, editor of the 2025 anthology *Made-in L.A.: Hollywood Adjacent*, in which Georgia's story “Little Egypt” appears.

Also the author of *The Younger Girl*, she is pictured here with Howard Rodman (*The Great Eastern*) celebrating classic noir lit at NoirCon in Palm Springs.



Sheila Lowe was featured in part one of two interviews with mortician Tracy and her *Are You Dying To Know* podcast partner Trish in Australia. When she was writing a mortuary scene in *Maximum Pressure*, Sheila found a lot of good information on the AYDTK YouTube page. She also reached out to Tracy to make sure she'd gotten everything right. The two podcasters read the book, loved it, and invited her on the show.

Although it took a year for their schedules to mesh, but the interview was fun for all, and some of their 200,000 followers are already talking about the book.

SoCalMWA Presents:
AN EVENING WITH NOIR AUTHORS

FEATURED GUESTS

ERIC BEETNER **DUANE SWIERCZYNSKI**

PLUS READINGS BY:

FRED ANDERSEN **DAN BRONSON** **CRAIG FAUSTUS BUCK** **J.M. PETRICK**

Thursday, November 20
7-8:30 P.M. (PT)

Noir Authors Show How It's Done

Noir fiction is dark fiction, and some outstanding writers shared various shades of dark when SoCalMWA concluded the 2025 Author Reading Series with “An Evening With Noir Writers” November 20.

Featured authors were **Eric Beetner** and **Duane Swierczynski**, who read along with **Fred Andersen**, **Dan Bronson**, **Craig Faustus Buck**, and **J.M. Petrick**. The discussion was as informative and entertaining as the readings, and each writer presented a slightly different take on noir.

[Watch the replay here.](#)



Elle Jauffret's book, *Threads of Deception*, sold out at the Burbank Book Festival.

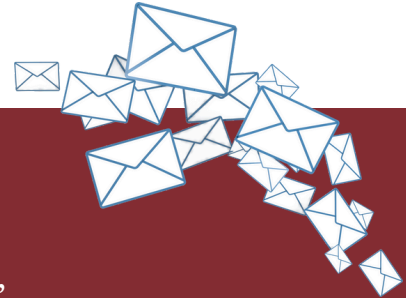




2025

December 14: Holiday Party, 1-4 p.m.

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.

Call For Authors

Jeri Westerson is looking for authors to guest post on her [blog](#) for December. Do you have a Christmas or Hanukkah cozy? Or any upcoming novel not so cozy? Or have writing tips worth discussing? Or just released something? Contact [Jeri](#).

THE LAST WORD



“The city of Calabasas, on the western edge of the San Fernando Valley, had a split personality disorder that uncomfortably revealed itself along Calabasas Road, which ran parallel to the Ventura Freeway.”

Fallen Star

by Lee Goldberg