

# MARCH OF CRIME

MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA—SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

## 'ONE BOOK' BEGINS WITH HUGHES

By Gary Phillips

*He stood there until he was trembling with pity and rage. Then he fled, but his flight was a slow as flight in a dream, impeded by the deep sand and the blurring hands of the fog. He fled from the goodness of that home, and his hatred for Laurel throttled his brain. If she had come back to him, he would not be shut out, an outcast in a strange, cold world. He would have been safe in the bright warmth of her.*

-- *In a Lonely Place* by Dorothy B. Hughes

Beginning at Left Coast Crime 2010, Booked in L.A., March 11, and ending at Left Coast Crime 2011, The Big Chile, March 24 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the So Cal chapter is initiating a One Book program. Like what book clubs do and even cities have done, we're asking the membership to read one specific book in this timeframe, *In a Lonely Place* by Dorothy B. Hughes. The novel was reissued by the Feminist Press in 2003.

The book is told from a single (and singular) point of view, ex-fighter pilot Dickson "Dix" Steele, living in post WWII Los Angeles. He's bunking in a college buddy's swank Hollywood apartment, who just happens to be away, ostensibly writing a crime novel. Why did we choose this book? Well, one reason is Hughes has passed on so we don't have to choose among the living. Secondly, she won two Edgars from us; in 1951 for Outstanding Mystery Criticism in the *Albuquerque Tribune*, and in 1979 for her bio, *Erle Stanley Gardner: The Case of the Real Perry Mason*. In 1978, Hughes was also named a Grand Master.

Three of Hughes's books were made into films: *The Fallen Sparrow* starring John Garfield, *Ride the Pink Horse*, directed by and starring Robert Montgomery with a screenplay by Ben Hecht, and *In a Lonely Place*, directed by Nicholas Ray, with Humphrey Bogart and Gloria Grahame (who was divorcing Ray at the time).

But the film of *In a Lonely Place* is not the book – the book is more powerful. In a review of the novel that ran on [bookslut.com](http://bookslut.com) in 2004, Sarah Weinman wrote, in part, "The reader may not learn Dix's true

connection until the very end, but by the time they do, Hughes has created an atmosphere of almost unbearable suspense. It uses a similar device that popped up in Jim Thompson's *The Killer Inside Me* and many books by many authors since, but Hughes trumped Thompson on two counts: First, *In A Lonely Place*, published in 1947, predated Thompson's book by five years. Second and more importantly, Hughes is far more subtle at revealing the level of Dix's depravity."

Later on she notes, "If it's not evident from the write-up, when I first read *In a Lonely Place*, I was blown away, and commend the Feminist Press for reissuing this. Hughes didn't just pre-date Jim Thompson, she also pre-dated Patricia Highsmith, Ruth Rendell, and other so-called Masters of Psychological Suspense or Noir. And her writing style stands up to the test of time; there are occasions where the prose is slightly clunky but overall, the book moves awfully fast and Hughes does a wonderful job in insinuating just what Dix is up to without ever quite spelling it out. In short, *In a Lonely Place* is an intelligent piece of fiction."

Over this next year we plan to do some online discussions of the book; its tone, sub-plots, narrative drive, the setting, context of the time period, themes and so forth. We also hope to outreach to various book clubs and creative writing classes, maybe have a film showing, and do at least one panel or public talk about the book and Hughes, who lived in Santa Fe for many years.

We welcome your suggestions on how best to make the One Book program a success. Please email Gary Phillips with your thoughts. [GDogg855@aol.com](mailto:GDogg855@aol.com)

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## The President's Rap Sheet

Naomi Hirahara 

**Chapter President**



### Our Diamond Year

This year is MWA's diamond year, in that we as a national organization are celebrating our 60th anniversary. Back in 1945, about a dozen mystery writers came together to rally around issues that affected their livelihood as well as promoted interest in the genre. Apparently, a large problem was ensuring that paperback writers received their fair share of rental library sales. Another area of concern was author subsidiary rights.

Sixty years later, the issues that we currently grapple with are very similar. Instead of rental libraries, we are in the brave new world of electronic books, attempting to understand how this form will affect our royalties and future book sales. Then, like now, we see the merits of coming together, sharing information and advocating industry practices that are in the best interest of the mystery writer.

To mark this special year, the Southern California chapter of MWA and National MWA are co-sponsoring the Thursday evening reception of Left Coast Crime 2010 in Los Angeles. Left Coast Crime hasn't been in the region since the conference was in Pasadena in 2003. I feel that we need to take full advantage of this year's conference and let people know that MWA is not only for published authors, but anyone interested in the advancement and celebration of mystery writing.

One area that I'm particularly committed to is education and literacy. I will be involved in the committee for Helen McCloy/MWA Scholarship for Mystery Writing (more about that in future newsletters) and I am this year's chair of our national MWA: Reads program. Last year, we supported a book drive for the Navajo Nation. This year, we will turn our attention to another U.S. region that is in need of books. National MWA will also be launching MWA University, a traveling writing workshop that I hope our SoCal MWA members will be involved in. Locally, we will also be asking our chapter's instructors to help develop a program that we can take into secondary—or even elementary—schools.

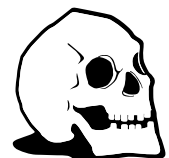
Also, as you can read more in the pages of this newsletter, we will be launching the SoCal MWA One Book program. We are encouraging all our chapter

members and, of course, everyone interested, to read Dorothy B. Hughes's book, *In a Lonely Place*. Hughes, as it turns out, was an important part of MWA's history. She was among the 54 who attended an early organizing meeting (other attendees included Erle Stanley Gardner, Anthony Boucher, Rex Stout and Manfred Lee [Ellery Queen]). Just imagine being in that room!

The high point of our spring season will be, of course, at the end of April, with National MWA's sponsorship of the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books' Mystery Pavilion, our LAT FOB booth next to the Mystery Bookstore, and the Edgar Awards, which has, since its inception, been held in New York City. Two of our members, Charlie Huston and Clyde Phillips, have been nominated for Edgars in the Best Novel and Best Television Episode Teleplay, respectively, and we heartily wish both of them the best.

If you might be open to volunteer at our table at LCC Los Angeles or booth at LAT FOB, please contact James Scott Bell, at [jsb@jamescottbell.com](mailto:jsb@jamescottbell.com). And for more information, about MWA's storied history, refer to <http://www.mysterywriters.org/?q=History>.

Let's all celebrate our Diamond Year!



## CHAPTER NEWS

At the upcoming Left Coast Crime, **Tom Sawyer**, author of the bestselling thriller, *NO PLACE TO RUN* /former Head-Writer/Showrunner of the classic series, "Murder, She Wrote," will interview William Link, co-creator of "Columbo" and "Murder, She Wrote," to promote his new book of short-stories, *THE COLUMBO COLLECTION*. Bill and Tom will also appear on a panel together, on the topic of creating and sustaining a mystery series.

**Jan Burke**, Elizabeth Devine, and **Joseph Wambaugh** were among the first to be honored by the California Forensic Science Institute at the Hertzberg-Davis Forensic Science Center at California State University, Los Angeles. In a ceremony in December, these three joined Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, retired LA County Sheriff's Department lab director Barry A.J. Fisher, and others recognized for "significant contributions to CFSI, outstanding career achievements and dedicated community service."

**Terri Nolan** will be moderating a panel at Literary Orange at UCI on April 10th "Mysteries: Around the World" with Cara Black, David Francis, and Steven M. Thomas.

**Robert S. Levinson** follows a trio of panel appearances at Left Coast Crime with the official launch of his eighth novel, *THE TRAITOR IN US ALL*, on Tuesday, March 16, 7:30 p.m., at Skylight Books in the Los Feliz area, first in a month long series of in-store presentations. Artwork on the book jacket is from an oil by famed artist James Strombotne, whose work hangs in major museums and private collections. Buyers attending the events will have opportunity to acquire a complimentary limited edition print suitable for framing and signed by both Bob and Strombotne.

**Robert L. Hecker's** one act play, "Mrs. Invisible," was performed at a theatre in Maryland and at the North Park Playwright's Festival in San Diego. ALAP (Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights) is having a reading of the same play at the Westwood Branch Library on Mar 3. And the LA Center Theatre has requested a look at his full length play "Jail Ward."

**Andrew Neiderman**, who also writes as V.C. Andrews, has established an official V.C. Andrews page on Facebook. The page is already over 6,200 fans. Authors might want to check it out to see some of the ways Neiderman is keeping the fans interested and expanding the fan base. Go to the Official V.C. Andrews Fan Page on Facebook. Neiderman, who wrote *THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE*, which was a major Warner Bros. film, has also written and developed the libretto for the stage musical which is now set to premiere in London at the Leicester Square theater on October 19. It is being produced by the Rival Theater Company and they are actively working on the cast. The music was composed by Sarif Tribou from Holland. Neiderman describes the differences as significant in that the musical is more satirical. The Seven Deadly Sins are now the evil lawyer's secretaries, and in a major song and dance number perform and brag about their sin. The musical will be in previews from October 11-18th.

The Lambda Literary Foundation, the L.A.-based nonprofit devoted to LGBT writing and publishing, has just launched a new literary website: [www.lambdaliterary.com](http://www.lambdaliterary.com). **John Morgan Wilson's** monthly column of LGBT writing and publishing news, Book Buzz, is one of the features and he would love to see more contributors and items. Just about anything fits the bill besides standard book release announcements and local author events (such as readings). To see what he's looking for, go to <http://www.lambdaliterary.com/category/book-buzz/>. Submit brief items to [jmwwriter@aol.com](mailto:jmwwriter@aol.com).

The second annual Tucson Festival of Books will be held March 13 and 14--a stupendous array of tents and happy readers on the U of Arizona campus. **Elizabeth Gunn**, **Susan Cummins Miller** and **J.M. Hayes** will present a panel followed by a book-signing. Elizabeth will interview 2009 Edgar winner C. J. Box. Other notables expected: Larry McMurtry, Elmore Leonard.

## Killer Quotes

“He was the kind of cop who spits on his blackjack every night instead of saying his prayers.”

—*Farewell, My Lovely* by Raymond Chandler

## The Crime Calendar

**Left Coast Crime**-- Los Angeles, CA., March 11—14, 2010  
<http://www.leftcoastcrime.org/2010/>

**Los Angeles Times Festival of Books**—Los Angeles, CA, April 24 & 25, 2010  
<http://www.latimes.com/extras/festivalofbooks/>

**Malice Domestic**-- Arlington, VA., April 30 - May 2, 2010  
<http://www.malicedomestic.org/>

**Mayhem in the Midlands** - Omaha, Nebraska, May 27 - 29, 2010  
<http://www.omaha.lib.ne.us/mayhem/>

**Bloody Words** - Ottawa, Canada, May 28 - 30, 2010  
<http://www.bloodywords.com/BW-2010index.html>

**Deadly Ink** - Parsippany, NJ, June <http://www.deadlyink.com/>

**PulpFest** - Columbus, OH, July 30 - August 1, 2010 <http://www.pulpfest.com/>

**Killercon** - August 26-29, 2010 [www.killercon.com](http://www.killercon.com)

**Killer Nashville** - Nashville, TN, August 20 - 22, 2010  
<http://www.killernashville.com/>

**West Hollywood Book Fair**—West Hollywood, CA, September 26, 2010

**Bouchercon**--San Francisco, CA, October 14 - 17, 2010 <http://www.bcon2010.com/>

**The Great Manhattan Mystery Conclave**-- <http://www.manhattanmysteries.com/>

**Noir Con** - A conference dedicated to the celebration of Noir. Philadelphia, Pa, Nov. 4 - 7, 2010 <http://noircon.com/>

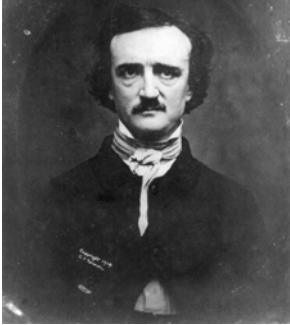
**Murder and Mayhem in Muskego** - Muskego, WI, Nov. 13, 2010  
<http://www.murderandmayhemimuskego.com/>

**Murder in the Grove**--<http://www.murderinthegrove.com/>

**New England Crime Bake**-- <http://crimebake.org/index.htm>



## YOUR EDITOR SPEAKS JERI WESTERSON



Book events are in full swing for most authors about now. The winter hiatus is long over and the work of selling that book has begun anew. A book tour often means a lonely and exhausting drive from town to town, in bookstore after

bookstore. Will it be successful? Will anyone come? But now, for the next few months, we don't have to be lonely anymore. Authors in southern California have a chance to meet and commiserate at two big events in the southland. In March, Left Coast Crime is served up right here in our own backyards, in downtown Los Angeles. Many of our members from across the country will be on panels and wandering about. I have the honor of moderating for the first time on an historical mystery panel at the ungodly hour of 8:30 AM on Friday. Bloody Marys for everyone! Also, be looking for our

chapter's presence there at the convention, waving around registration forms.

At the end of April, our chapter will again sponsor a booth as well as the mystery track at the fabulous Los Angeles Times Festival of Books at UCLA. It's an amazing gathering of authors of all stripes. For many years prior to getting published, I vowed, "Next year!" at the possibility of signing at this great festival. I'm happy to say that this will be my second year with pen in hand at four locations. See you there!  
[themarchofcrime@gmail.com](mailto:themarchofcrime@gmail.com).

### Save the Date

Joint Pre-Los Angeles Times Festival of  
Books Reception

Friday, April 23, 5 PM

Mystery Bookstore  
1036 Broxton Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90024-2824  
(310) 209-0415

## Nab a Free Day Pass to Left Coast Crime 2010

All MWA members will be admitted free to Left Coast Crime 2010 on Sunday, March 14 at the Omni Hotel at 251 South Olive Street, Los Angeles. Show your membership card at the LCC registration desk for admission to authors' panels from 10am to 1pm and the booksellers mall.

Please go to [www.leftcoastcrime.org/2010](http://www.leftcoastcrime.org/2010) for a schedule of events and additional information.

### Congratulations to Our LCC Finalists!



Kris Neri's paranormal mystery, *HIGH CRIMES ON THE MAGICAL PLANE* was nominated for a Lefty Award by Left Coast Crime 2010.

And Gary Phillip's *FREEDOM'S FIGHT* and Jeri Westerson's *SERPENT IN THE THORNS* were both nominated for the Bruce Alexander Historical Mystery Award, to be presented at LCC.

### Congratulations to Our Edgar Finalists!

Congratulations to the two Edgar nominees in the SoCal MWA chapter. Charlie Huston won a nomination for Best Novel for *MYSTIC ARTS OF ERASING ALL SIGNS OF DEATH* (Random House - Ballantine Books), and Clyde Phillips won a nomination for "Living the Dream" – *Dexter*, Teleplay (Showtime).



# Write Mind

By Dennis Palumbo

Welcome to *Write Mind*, a new column that addresses the psychological issues that often plague writers. In the coming months, we'll explore such common dilemmas as writers' block, procrastination, fear of rejection, and many others. Hopefully, I'll offer some unique ways of thinking about and addressing these perennial issues.

So, who am I? Formerly a Hollywood screenwriter (the film *My Favorite Year*; the TV series *Welcome Back, Kotter*, among others), I'm now a licensed psychotherapist in private practice, specializing in working with creative people.

But I also write mysteries. My work has appeared in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, *The Strand* and elsewhere, and just last year a collection of my stories, *From Crime to Crime*, was published. My first mystery novel, *Mirror Image*, will be out in August from Poisoned Pen Press.

The point is, whatever creative concern you're struggling with, I guarantee I've been there, done that. I've been stymied by writers' block, grappled with procrastination, and been brought low by rejection. As well as most other thorny issues writers deal with on a daily basis.

Take, for example, envy. I'm thinking about a patient of mine, a novelist, that I've been seeing for some months. Despite the gains he's made in therapy, he felt his work was continually undermined by his envy of other writers.

He told me he had to stop reading his Author's Guild bulletin, as well as publishing websites, because seeing the deals being made by other writers angered and deflated him. He'd grown increasingly self-critical about his work habits---normally a source of pride and satisfaction---since hearing rumors about a best-selling author's penchant for "knocking out a new thriller" every six months. It had reached a point where learning of a friend's having lunch with a potential new agent could trigger a depression.

None of these feelings were unfamiliar to me. During my former career as a screenwriter, it seemed as though envy was the unspoken constant in almost every conversation with other writers. The dirty little secret of the writing life. Except it was the worst-kept secret I'd ever known.

For some, of course, hearing of another's success can be a spur to greater efforts. For others, the result can be a crippling paralysis.

It took me a long time to understand, and to accept, that envy is a natural by-product of the achieving life. Throughout our childhood experiences in our families, and then our schools, and ultimately in the adult world, we strive to achieve in a matrix of others who strive to achieve---such that comparison is not only inevitable, but often the only standard by which to measure that achievement.

With time and maturity, we hopefully develop the self-awareness (and self-acceptance) to measure ourselves by more

*Continued next page*



## Pen on Fire

On May 15, at 7 p.m., the Pen on Fire Speakers Series will celebrate the publication of *Orange County Noir*, edited by Gary Phillips. On hand, speaking on a panel about writing short stories, will be MWA members Gary Phillips and Barbara DeMarco-Barrett, as well as author Mary Castillo and Orange Coast magazine editor Martin J. Smith. Cost: \$20 include wine, non-alcoholic drinks, and hors d'oeuvres. Location: Scape Gallery, 2859 E. Coast Hwy., Corona del Mar. More info at [penonfire.com](http://penonfire.com); click on Speakers Series, or call Barbara at 949-337-2752. Registration is required as seating is limited.

*"Write Mind" continued*

internal monitors; to enjoy the expression of our creative talents for their own sake.

But we also live in the real world and need the validation of that world. For a writer in a commercial marketplace, that means enduring intense competition and the almost daily spectacle of others enjoying extravagant rewards in fame and money, all while negotiating the often gut-wrenching peaks and valleys of one's own career.

In other words, that means living with envy.

The key to surviving envy, as is the case with all feelings, is to acknowledge it. By that, I'm not referring merely to the *fact* that you're envious, but also the *meaning* that you give to it.

For example, if a writer sees envy as a sign of some kind of moral weakness or character failing--a view possibly engendered and reinforced in childhood--the effect on his or her work can be quite debilitating.

Equally harmful is seeing your envy as a disparaging comment on your work, a confirmation of a lack of faith in your own writing. "If I let myself feel envy," one patient told me, "it means I don't believe in the possibility of my own success."

Another patient bravely insisted that "envy is counter-productive." So terrified of anything that might derail his firmly held belief in "positive thinking," the meaning he gave to envy--as well as any other "negative" emotion--was of an insidious obstacle on the tracks of his forward momentum.

Only by investigating what envy means to us can we risk acknowledging it. The plain fact is, it's just a feeling, like other feelings--which means it's simply information, data about what's going on inside of us.

If nothing else, envy informs us of how important our goals are. It reminds us of the reasons we undertook the creative life in the first place, and challenges us to commit once more to its rigors and rewards.

Moreover, in my own case, I find that I'm rarely troubled by envy if I'm writing well, if I'm truly engaged with my current project. When I'm fully "caught" by what I'm working on, intrusive thoughts about the creative and/or career triumphs of others usually don't enter my mind. Usually.

So the choice is yours. You can deny your envy, or use it to re-double your efforts. You can talk it to death among your friends (also a great procrastination ploy, by the way), or you can suffer in silence. Or, hopefully, you can accept it with humor and self-acknowledgment, and perhaps explore what its meaning is for you.

But one thing I know. For a writer, to coin a phrase, nothing's certain except death and taxes. *And envy.*

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If you have questions or comments, please visit Dennis Palumbo at his website, [www.dennispalumbo.com](http://www.dennispalumbo.com). To read more about the kinds of issues addressed in this column, see his book *Writing From the Inside Out*, published by John Wiley & Sons

## Very Drafty

Recently I came across an interview with M. Night Shyamalan, (author of the screenplay *The Sixth Sense*.) *The Sixth Sense* was the sleeper hit of the summer of 1999. It's reportedly grossed over \$500 million worldwide.

Shyamalan was interviewed in a magazine called *Scenario*. Shyamalan said he wrote ten versions of *The Sixth Sense* before it was bought by Disney's Hollywood Pictures. That all by itself shows tenacity, but here's the part that killed me.

(Spoiler alert: If you haven't seen this brilliant film, don't continue reading this until you do.) It wasn't until the fifth draft that Shyamalan figured out that the Bruce Willis character, the main character, Malcom, was dead. Five drafts.

He said he just kept feeling that there was something huge he wasn't getting. Something right on the edge of his consciousness. He told himself he just had to keep writing and eventually, he'd figure it out. So he did. And he did.

*Submitted by Susan Arnout Smith, OUT AT NIGHT (Minotaur, 2009)*

## Transom Notes

**Susan Goldstein** has sold her Hollywood murder mystery, *HOLLYWOOD FOREVER*, to Five Star. The hardcover release is slated for January 2011.

The anthology, *MIDNIGHT WALK*, edited by **Lisa Morton**, has just won the Black Quill Award for Best Dark Genre Anthology:

<http://www.darkscribemagazine.com/3rd-annual-winners/>

**D.P. Lyle, M.D.** will have a new book out April 1, entitled *STRESS FRACTURE*, from Medallion Press, and it is the first in his new Dub Walker thriller series. DP Lyle will be signing at the Mystery Bookstore Party on Friday April, 23rd and in their booth at the LA Times Festival of Books on Saturday April 24th. Also at *Mysterious Galaxy* on Saturday April 17th with Naomi Hirahara. The details are: *Mysterious Galaxy*, San Diego, CA Saturday, April 17, 2010. 2 PM, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, # 302 San Diego, CA 858-268-4747; The Mystery Bookstore Annual Book Festival Party Friday, April 23, 2010 at 5 PM, 1036-C Broxton Ave. Los Angeles, CA 310-209-0415; LA Times Festival of Books April 24, 2010, Los Angeles, CA.

March release: *SPRINKLE WITH MURDER* by **Jenn McKinlay** and April release: *CUT TO THE CORPSE* by **Lucy Lawrence**, a sequel to Sept 2009 release *STUCK ON MURDER*. Jenn McKinlay will be signing copies of *SPRINKLE WITH MURDER* on Sat, March 6th at the Poisoned Pen in Scottsdale, AZ. Jenn will also be

talking to the local Desert Sleuths (Sisters in Crime) chapter about proposal writing on Wed, March 17th at 6:30 PM at Cafe Carumba in Scottsdale, AZ. Jenn will be at Authors at the Teague on Sat May 8th at 2:00 PM in Glendale, AZ. She will be signing copies of *SPRINKLE WITH MURDER*, and her April release *CUT TO THE CORPSE* under the pen name Lucy Lawrence.

**Darrell James** has signed a three book deal with Midnight Ink for the Del Shannon series of mystery/thrillers. Book one, *SHADOW OF SHADOWS*, will be release mid-late 2011.

**Robert S. Levinson's** eighth mystery/thriller, *THE TRAITOR IN US ALL*, reaches bookshelves in early March, in time for Left Coast Crime... Short stories by Bob are in the upcoming *ORANGE COUNTY NOIR* anthology as well as the current *BETWEEN THE DARK AND THE DAYLIGHT*.

**Naomi Hirahara's** fourth Mas Arai mystery (first hard cover), *BLOOD HINA*, was released on March 2. Future events include signings at Book'em Mysteries, 1118 Mission St., South Pasadena, on Saturday, March 20, at 2 PM and *Mysterious Galaxy*, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, on Saturday, April 17, at 2 PM with Dr. Doug Lyle. Naomi, whose short story, "The Chirashi Covenant," will be included in *LOS ANGELES NOIR 2: THE CLASSICS*, will also be doing a signing with Denise Hamilton, Gary Phillips, Robert Ward, Robert Levinson, Jervey Tervelon and Susan Straight at Skylight Books, 1818 N. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, on Saturday, March 27, at 5 PM.

## Raising Funds for Library Project



MWA members Christopher Rice and John Morgan Wilson were part of a February 22 reception and silent auction at the Andaz Hotel in West Hollywood to raise more private funding and awareness for the city's \$64 million Library Park project, which has already broken ground. That's Christopher (second from right) and John (center) with (from left) Mayor Abbe Land, Mayor Pro Tempore John Heilman, and Chair of the West Hollywood Library Fund Chris Bonbright, far right.

Christopher, a major donor, is on the Library Park board of directors; John was on the host committee for the event. The city has reached more than half its \$10 million private funding goal. To see a video about this state-of-the-art library complex, due to open next year, go to <http://www.weholibraryfund.org/>. John has also re-upped for another term on the planning committee of the West Hollywood Book Fair, which will be held this year on Sunday, September 26. Mark your calendars!



## MARCH OF CRIME



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

Editor: Jeri Westerson

To submit material for *The March of Crime*, email the editor at [TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com](mailto:TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com)

To advertise in TMOC, visit our website at [www.SoCalMWA.com](http://www.SoCalMWA.com) for information.

Any opinions expressed herein are those of each author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Mystery Writers of America or the local chapter.

### Next Meeting:

#### **Genre Outlaws: Fiction Without Borders**

**Meltdown Comics**  
7522 Sunset Blvd.

**Los Angeles, CA 90046**

*Three veteran authors discuss breaking the rules, challenging readers' expectations and writing outside the boundaries of traditional genre in a roundtable discussion moderated by author Christa Faust.*

**Steve Niles**  
**Linda O. Johnston**  
**Matt Wallace**

Free for members and non-members but RSVPs are encouraged.

RSVP at [rsvp@socalmwa.com](mailto:rsvp@socalmwa.com).  
Complimentary refreshments will be served!

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## LAST WORD



"Mystery on the Menu," the annual Cerritos Library event that featured fifteen authors, the majority (if not all) members of So Cal MWA.