

# MARCH OF CRIME

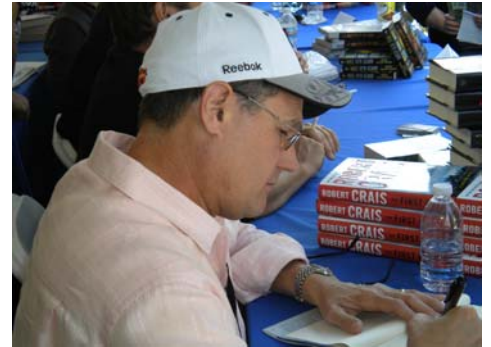
MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA—SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

## LA TIMES FESTIVAL OF BOOKS 2010

The 2010 Festival of Books is now a thing of the past, but our booth gave out a lot of material to interested parties as well as sold quite a few book bags, mugs, and T-shirts. Here are a few pictures of some of the signers at The Mystery Bookstore.



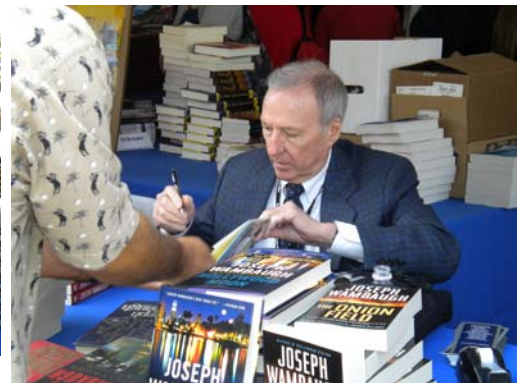
Michael Connelly.



Robert Crais.



Our Fearless Leader Naomi Hirahara.



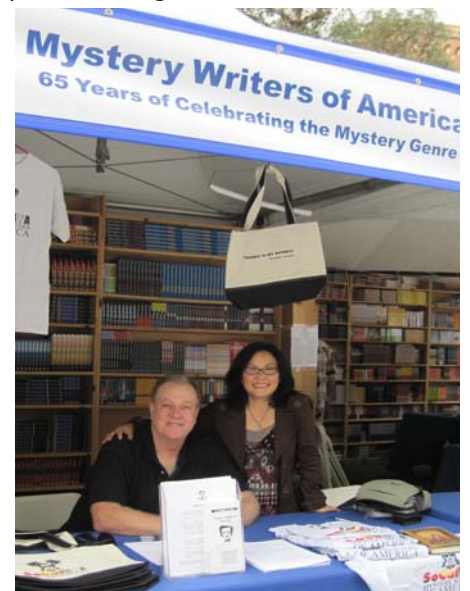
Joseph Wambaugh.

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Mary Higgins Clark and Carol Higgins Clark.



James Scott Bell and Naomi Hirahara at the MWA Booth.

## The President's Rap Sheet

Naomi Hirahara 

### President Message



Before I entered my year of the SoCal MWA chapter presidency, I had little idea about what the National MWA board did. It's most likely due to the unmatched proficiency of our past chapter president, Leslie Klinger, who makes everything look effortless.

After a wonderful weekend orientation in New York City in January, our real work began. We have teleconference meetings once a month, but in addition to that are e-mail discussions on a number of pressing issues. Moreover, each member of the board, which includes the presidents of each chapter, has to sit on at least two committees.

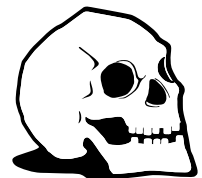
I am a member of the Education Committee, chaired by Hank Philippi Ryan and supported by Reed Coleman, which is planning a prototype of an MWA University, a set of classes that will be sponsored by various chapters. I'm also the chair of the MWA: Reads, a literacy campaign. With the completion of Left Coast Crime and the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, I'll be focusing my attention on working with the Library of Congress in doing a book drive for libraries in rural Mississippi. There's also interest within our chapter to do oral history interviews with aging mystery writers and former leaders of MWA; we'll keep you posted on this.

National's membership committee, chaired by our own chapter's Lee Goldberg, has been committed to advocate for the interests of writers, both unpublished and published. I know that some have claimed that MWA's requirements for active status smack of elitism, but they are

really designed to protect the interest of professional writers, both present and future. As a young developing writer in my twenties, I was a victim of an unscrupulous agent and book doctor, so I know firsthand how important it is to educate our membership on acceptable practices in the publishing industry. Lee has spent countless hours working with the demands of this committee—all work that is not perhaps seen or fully appreciated.

Many writers are not joiners or group-oriented, but I hope that you realize that your membership in MWA does help strengthen our genre. And if the mystery genre and reading in general grows, so will the potential readership for the book that you are writing.

May we all renew our commitment (and our membership) to the goals and mission of MWA!



# Master of Your Domain? Think Again.

By **Marion Moore Hill**

I had heard horror stories about people stealing the domain names of writers who fail to re-register before their registration period expires, then charging them lots of money to get the domain name back. Typically, I guess, I assumed it wouldn't happen to me. I've had a website ([www.marionmoorehill.com](http://www.marionmoorehill.com)) since 2001. A company in my town helped me set up a site, registered my domain name--for a nominal fee--and hosted the domain for years. When the domain name periodically came up for renewal, my domain host sent a reminder and I paid them to renew. To save money, I designed the site myself using Front Page. It looked somewhat amateurish, even to me, but that was what I had for years.

Then in 2009 I hired a friend of a friend, who was just getting into website design and consequently didn't charge much, to re-design my site. It looks terrific now! She also suggested I move the domain hosting to [www.ipower.com](http://www.ipower.com), which she'd had good experience with and which was much cheaper than my original host. Since a few months remained on my registration, I didn't transfer that responsibility to ipower and have them re-register the domain.

Big mistake. My domain expired on April 10, 2010. I had received no warning notice from anyone, and unfortunately had failed to note on my calendar when to renew. On April 11, I tried to access my website but was sent to a site for "directNIC," which now apparently controlled my domain. I called ipower to see what was going on. The young woman I spoke to (whose first language wasn't English but who did seem to want to help), checked the status of my site, told me the registration had expired and said I must re-register through directNIC. I wish she had told me about other

options I had, but apparently that info wasn't part of her training.

I went back to the "directNIC" site to see what they'd charge me to renew. But instead of telling me in a straightforward way what the deal was, I was taken to a long list of rules, disclaimers, etc. It sounded fishy to me, especially since I'd heard some writers pay hundreds or thousands to regain domain names. I quit the site and contacted my web designer to see if she knew what my recourse was. She said my sight might be in a grace period and suggested going back to my original domain host. I did so, but the rep I talked to said he knew of no grace period and essentially said, "Not our problem" (since they no longer hosted my domain).

I began researching the question of re-registration myself on the internet but found that frustrating too. What came up were sites of companies offering to register a site initially, or offering to snatch some poor website owner's lapsed domain name for a fee. In frustration, I went back to the ipower website. There, after clicking through a few pages, I found a discussion of the "Deletion Cycle" that applies to lapsed domain names: In the hope that this may help other writers, I'm summarizing here.

1. When a domain name first expires it's in Expired status, which can last from 1 to 45 days (usually 28-45 days). During this period, a domain name can be renewed quickly and inexpensively, but you have to act fast since the Expired period varies with the registrar. After I read this info, I called back my original domain host, explained that my domain had just expired and was in a grace period, and requested that they re-register my name. (Re-registration apparently has to be

*Continued on Page 5 "Domain"*

## Killer Quotes

“ A good story cannot be devised; it has to be distilled. ” —**Raymond Chandler**

## The Crime Calendar

**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/>

**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>



## Save the Dates

*Saturday, May 22, 2010—11 am*

**Law and Order:**  
 LAPD Homicide Detective Anthony Manzella  
 and L.A. County Deputy D.A. Michael DePasquale  
 dispel the myths of law enforcement  
 Moderated by Patricia Smiley

*Tom Bergin's Tavern*  
 840 S. Fairfax Ave, LA (323) 936-7151  
 RSVP to our website: [www.socalmwa.com](http://www.socalmwa.com)

*Sunday, June 13, 2010— 1 pm*

**Thriller Writers**  
**Christopher Rice & Gregg Hurwitz**  
 Join us for the Orange County-MWA joint Presentation  
 15600 San Canyon, Irvine, CA 92618

**Free! Lunch is Provided**

Space is Limited RSVP [jeriwesterson@gmail.com](mailto:jeriwesterson@gmail.com)

# YOUR EDITOR SPEAKS

JERI  
WESTERSON



The LA Times Festival of Books is behind us, but I am always filled with a sense of elation before, during, and after. To see that many people—people of all stripes—enjoying the written word is heartening in a time of such competition for one's

attention. When consumers are still reeling from a near depression and jobless numbers have barely moved, people are still reading. And how are they reading? In so many different ways these days. Paper is still dominant, but there are e-readers like the Kindle, the Sony Reader, and the Nook from Barnes & Noble; the new iPad that's supposed to give Kindle a run for its money with its deal with publishers; aps for your phone. I'm anticipating that chip to be directly inserted into the brain.

But that can wait.

Ironically, with all that new technology, I was the most excited about one particular purchase I made at the Festival: A full sized bound monochromatic copy (the book is 17 x 12 inches, not exactly light reading) of the Ellsmere Manuscript. Now, I know that most of you are saying "Wha--?" The Ellsmere Manuscript housed in the Huntington Library in San Moreno,

California, is, for all intents and purposes, the very first novel written in English. Middle English, that is, by your friend and mine, Geoffrey Chaucer. It's THE CANTERBURY TALES penned on parchment by talented monks or clerks for a very rich patron not long after Chaucer's death in 1400 AD. The calligraphy is exquisite. The illustrations of the twenty-three pilgrims are a fantastic snapshot of life in fourteenth century England. And even though the hand is difficult to read (along with deciphering the Middle English) it's that tangible *something* that reaches across Time to speak to readers today. Not only are the stories still touching, eloquent, and full of humor, we can see that this was perhaps the transition—at last—from the spoken story to the written word. True, there were still many at the time who could not read, but as a people we were now on the inevitable journey to literacy.

I, for one, am pretty happy about that!

[themarchofcrime@gmail.com](mailto:themarchofcrime@gmail.com)

## "Domain" from Page2

done through the original designated registrar, or a registrar to whom the registry responsibility has been transferred.) After putting me on hold twice and keeping me there a while, the rep agreed to re-register my domain name for only \$15. Whew! (He actually re-registered it through directNIC, and perhaps I could have done that myself, but the renewal process at directNIC's website didn't feel right to me.)

2. If you fail to re-register while your site is still in Expired status, it goes into Redemption Grace Period, where it stays for 30 days (a definite period). At this point, it can still be retrieved and renewed, but it gets much more expensive to do.

3. If you don't get it re-registered while in RGP, it goes into Pending Delete for 5 days, during which time you can't renew or redeem it. After 5 days, the domain name is released to the public and is up for grabs. Some companies specialize in snatching websites, and if you wish, you can use such a service to try to recapture your domain.

To read the info for yourself at the [www.ipower.com](http://www.ipower.com) site, click on "Support," then on

"Domain help," then on "Trouble-shooting: Why does it say 'information not available for my domain?'" At the bottom of a page of possible answers to that question, click on "Domain expiration periods and terms."

Obviously it's best to re-register before a domain name expires, but aging memories being what they are, oversights happen. Once a name has expired, you need to re-register fast. I feel I learned cheaply what could have been a very expensive lesson.

Since this all happened, I've heard from writer friends about other domain registrars they like, such as [www.GoDaddy.com](http://www.GoDaddy.com) and [www.networksolutions.com](http://www.networksolutions.com). I'm also told that it's important, when initially registering a domain, that the registrar list YOU as the registration contact, so renewal notices will come to you and not to the hosting company. (I didn't know to do that, or know much else about domains at the time.) Once the dust settles a bit, I plan to check into other registrar options.

*Marion Moore Hill, who lives in Oklahoma and belongs to Southwest Chapter MWA, writes the Scrapy Librarian Mysteries about a tough, funny Oklahoma librarian and the Deadly Past Mysteries of contemporary novels that relate to various Founding Fathers. [www.marionmoorehill.com](http://www.marionmoorehill.com)*

# Style Inspiration

By James Scott Bell

So, who do you like style-wise? Do you use your favorite authors for inspiration?

For years I've kept a notebook of style excerpts I love. Not to copy, but to draw motivation from. They help me try to take my style a step further than my comfort zone. Here are a few of mine, starting with the Great One himself, Raymond Chandler.

This is from *Farewell, My Lovely*:

*It was a blonde. A blonde to make a bishop kick a hole in a stained glass window.*

And this is from his short story "Red Wind":

*There was a desert wind blowing that night. It was one of those hot dry Santa Anas that come down through the mountain passes and curl your hair and make your nerves jump and your skin itch. On nights like that every booze party ends in a fight. Meek little wives feel the edge of the carving knife and study their husbands' necks. Anything can happen. You can even get a full glass of beer at a cocktail lounge.*

From *Playback*:

*Mine was the better punch, but it didn't win the wrist watch, because at that moment an army mule kicked me square on the back of my brain. I went zooming out over a dark sea and exploded in a sheet of flame.*

By the way, you may occasionally suffer from "style envy" when you read these items. If so, just remind yourself that every writer is different, and you too have a singular voice. Your duty is to develop that voice. Do that and you can sit back and enjoy great style without stress. Soak it up, and by osmosis you could be learning how to write what one of my favorite stylists, John D. MacDonald, called "unobtrusive poetry."

Here is MacDonald himself, from *Darker Than Amber*:

*She sat up slowly, looked in turn at each of us,*

*and her dark eyes were like twin entrances to two deep caves. Nothing lived in those caves. Maybe something had, once upon a time. There were piles of picked bones back in there, some scribbling on the walls, and some gray ash where the fires had been.*

A new writer I met at a book signing, Steven M. Thomas, offers this in *Criminal Paradise*:

*I caught a whiff of his body odor as he turned. He had slathered himself with cologne in lieu of bathing, but his scent penetrated the chemical astringency. He smelled like a neglected cage.*

Style adds tone. Robert B. Parker is a master at this, as he shows in *Pale Kings and Princes*:

*The sun that brief December day shone weakly through the west-facing window of Garrett Kingsley's office. It made a thin yellow oblong splash on his Persian carpet and gave up.*

So start your own collection, and take your style to the next level.

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*James Scott Bell is a bestselling thriller writer and writing teacher. Visit his website at [www.jamesscottbell.com](http://www.jamesscottbell.com)*

## Red Hen Press Short Story Award

for publication in the Los Angeles Review  
\$1000 Award  
Deadline: June 30, 2010  
Judge: Dylan Landis

Established in 2001, in celebration of the new century and a new tradition of literature, this award is for an original short story with a maximum of 25 pages. Submission is open to all writers and themes. This year's judge is Dylan Landis. Award is \$1000 and publication of the awarded story by Red Hen Press in the Los Angeles Review. Entree fee is \$20 for two stories, 25 page limit per story. Please include your name on the cover sheet only. Send SASE for notification. Entries must be postmarked by June 30.

**Red Hen Press Attn: Short Story Award, P.O. Box 40820, Pasadena, CA 91114**

# Chapter News

At Malice Domestic, in addition to receiving the prestigious Agatha Christie "Poirot" award, **William Link** launches his book of new short stories, "The Columbo Collection." Link and his (late) collaborator, Richard Levinson, created the internationally popular television series starring Peter Falk as the rumpled, but brilliant detective. Published by Crippen & Landru, Link's book is available in trade paperback edition as well as a limited collector edition, hardcover and signed. The jacket features a colorful Hirschfeld illustration of Peter Falk as Columbo.

LOVE KILLS, the fourth in **Dianne Emley's** bestselling Detective Nan Vining series on sale May 25. THE DEEPEST CUT, the series third, is out in paperback.

William Morrow will publish THE QUEEN OF PATPONG, **Timothy Hallinan's** fourth Poke Rafferty Bangkok thriller on August 18. Tim and his editors were having a civilized disagreement about the title, so Tim took the discussion public -- he listed the three potential titles, plus a plot summary, on Facebook and Crimespace, and also wrote a guest blog for The Huffington Post, polling for reader favorites. The title was not the one Tim liked best, but he's gotten used to it, and now thinks it was the right choice all along. By the way, more than 900 people voted, taking all three sites into consideration.

**Douglas Corleone** ONE MAN'S PARADISE, winner of the 2009 Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Award, will be released on April 27, 2010 by St. Martin's Press.

**Elaine Nelson's** short story, "Between the Lines," was the Flash Fiction winner of the Abbey Hill Literary 1st Quarter 2010 short fiction contest. The story will be posted on the Abbey Hill Literary site ([www.ahliterary.com](http://www.ahliterary.com)) no later than April 1st.

Associate member **Richard W. Morris** will be appearing at a meeting of the Southern Arizona Skeptic Society discussing his recently released book GOD ON TRIAL -- a murder mystery philosophical novel -- at the University of Arizona Medical School in Tucson on June 20, 2010.

**Sheila Lowe** will be in Portland, OR, a featured speaker at the National Association of Document Examiners conference, and signing her Forensic Handwriting Mysteries at Murder by the Book on May 5.

**Gayle Lynds's** new spy thriller, THE BOOK OF SPIES, is in bookstores. It received a starred review from Library Journal and is available in audio, large print, and book club editions. At BEA on May 25 in New York, Gayle sat on a thriller panel with Steve Berry, Harlan Coben, Jon Land, and Brad Meltzer. And on Friday, May 28, she will be teaching a workshop and sitting on a panel at the Backspace Writers Conference in New York.

**Rebecca Cantrell**—winner of the Left Coast Crime Bruce Alexander Historical Mystery Award 2010 for A TRACE OF SMOKE—will see her next book released on June 22, A NIGHT OF LONG KNIVES.

**Stephen Schwartz's** BOULEVARD comes out in trade paperback in August. BEAT, sequel to BOULEVARD, comes out in October, 2010, in hardcover. He'll also be featured in a PW profile in July.

FATAL BEAUTY by **Burl Barer** gets the "reverse tie-in" when Barer and the book's non-fiction main character, convicted murderer Rhonda Glover, appear on the Oxygen Network's SNAPPED. The book, having cleared legal review, has an official release date of January 4th, 2011. The show's air date has yet to be announced. Barer's MOM SAID KILL was recently dramatized on Investigation Discovery's "Deadly Women." Again, television ties in with the book, rather than the book being a tie in. Season 3, Episode 13 "Bloodlines" is now available for video on demand from Amazon.com.

**Avery Aames** (pseudonym for member Daryl Wood Gerber) THE LONG QUICHE GOODBYE is the first in A Cheese Shop Mystery series by Berkley Prime Crime, set for release July 6, 2010, mass paperback.

**Ken Kuhlken's** THE BIGGEST LIAR IN LOS ANGELES will come out from Poisoned Pen Press on May 1. It's the sixth offering but number 1 (chronologically) in the Tom Hickey California Century series.

**Shilpa Agarwal's** debut novel, HAUNTING BOMBAY, a San Francisco Times Bestseller, was just released in paperback by Soho Press.

The latest title in **Kris Neri's** Agatha, Anthony, Macavity Award-nominated Tracy Eaton mystery series, REVENGE FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE, has just been published by Cherokee McGhee Publishing. Kris will be teaching a private, 5-week, beginning-to-advanced characterization course for the Guppy Chapter of Sisters in Crime, starting Monday, June 14.

**Thomas Perry's** next novel, STRIP, will be published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt on May 13.

## Snap Shots: Left Coast Crime—A good time was had by... me!

By Jackie Houchin

Cozies, humor, geezer lit: are these (dare I say it) "frothy" mystery sub-genres going out of style? According to the panels I attended at the recent Left Coast Crime convention in Los Angeles, the answer is a resounding "No!"

LCC even awarded the prestigious "Lefty" to Rita Lakin (70+) for her "Getting Old is a Disaster" mystery with a sassy (and funny) 75-year-old protagonist. Seniors rule!

Look at some of these panels offered: "Bring Your Blankie, Let's Get Cozy!" "Die Laughing," "Cozy Up," "Geezer Lit," "Thrilling Cozies," "LOL," and "Liars."

Sure, there were "hard boiled" panels, noirs, and true crime (and of course talks and interviews by stellar crime-fiction authors), but I was there for a light-hearted good time.

Earlene Fowler (Benni Harper series) is one of my favorites. She's been writing good, clean, heartwarming, (and yes, suspenseful) mysteries for 17 years. She writes a book every 18 months, and says "You can push back a little" if you don't like your publisher's demands. (Oh, ho!)

Another of my favorites, Parnell Hall (Puzzle Lady series), got laughs simply by walking into the room, but his deadpan "I'm a moron," opener brought the hall down. (No wonder they chose him for Guest of Honor at Malice Domestic!)

Hannah Dennison (Vicki Hill series) claims her rookie reporter protagonist is like Lucy Ricardo. She listed the "taboo things" cozy writers are NEVER to put in their novels ... including NO SALT! (Ya gotta ask her!)

For the "LOL" panel, humorous Chick Lit author Harley Jane Kozak had her panelists don rainbow hued clown wigs. Most did it with aplomb.

Later, in the "Liars" panel, Rhys Bowen asked Rita Lakin, Parnell Hall, and Harley

Kozak leading questions (such as, what was your most embarrassing moment, what did you want to be when you grew up, etc). The audience then had to decide if their answers were true. What a bunch of liars these fiction writers are! But to the listeners' chagrin, the most outrageous stories were often absolutely true. Or so they swore!

Annette Mahon (Quilting Bee series) writes about a group of elderly ladies who meet at church to stitch and solve mysteries. Cynthia Riggs published her first book at age 70. Her Martha's Vineyard protagonist was 92. She hopes to keep her going to 99 and beyond! And then there was Mike Befeler (Retirement series) whose friendly face and "Geezer Lit" hat soon became recognizable everywhere in the hotel.

Sheila Lowe (Claudia Rose mysteries), Hailey Lynd (Art Lover mysteries) and Kate Carlisle (Bibliophile mysteries) were on the "Forgeries" panel. Their books are more "soft boiled" than cozy, but certainly not gritty, grisly, or ghastly. Lynd talked about art forgeries, Carlisle talked about fake autographs in old books. Both peered down the table at Lowe and said her Forensic Handwriting Expert should make an appearance in *their* books to authenticate artist/author signatures. Whoa! Will there be collaboration soon?

There were Cheese Shop mysteries, Cooking, Knitting, Crocheting, and Quilting mysteries, Pet Sitters, Reporters, and Puzzle Makers. You name the hobby, vocation, or talent, and there is a devotee somewhere solving mysteries. They are fun, "safe," sometimes romantic, often informative, puzzling, amusing, and very entertaining.

Older, funny, "delicate but dangerous" protagonists are alive and well. Long may they live!

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*Jackie is a freelance writer, book reviewer, and theatre "critic." She's a member of WMA, SinC and CWC.*

[www.jackiehouchin.com](http://www.jackiehouchin.com)



# Write Mind: Faith and Doubt

By Dennis Palumbo

A misspent childhood watching Saturday morning cartoons has left an image indelibly imprinted on my memory, that of a character torn by indecision--a conflict between doing right or wrong--being prodded by a tiny angel whispering in one ear, an equally tiny devil whispering in the other.

Since these stories were aimed at kids, the ethical dilemmas were usually pretty clear-cut; i.e., whether or not to tie an over-sized napkin around your neck and eat your co-star. However, there was still an almost theological impact seeing funny talking animals--rabbits, ducks, roosters and "puddy cats"--with competing imps sitting on their shoulders, caught in some Warner Bros. version of moral *angst*.

This image occurred to me again recently, when I came upon something written by Lillian Smith. "Faith and doubt, both are needed, not as antagonists but working side by side, to take us around the unknown curve."

Often, working with my writer patients, it almost seems as though little twin entities--one named Faith, the other Doubt--sit on their shoulders, whispering their respective messages, like those winged imps in the cartoons.

The animated image of these imps is of two competing forces, of which one must inevitably win out. And, of course, one is represented as unequivocally better than the other.

With writers, it's frequently the same. We all want Faith to win out over Doubt. We want Faith whispering constantly in our ear--inspiring us, encouraging us, instilling hope. And make no mistake, these are blandishments every writer needs; it's too daunting a task otherwise.

The mistake, I think, is to strive to banish Doubt, to see it as the enemy. Because, just as courage has no meaning without fear, faith has no meaning without doubt. They're the *yin* and *yang* of all aspiration.

As writers, we naturally long to sequester our doubts

and fears, to disavow pain and worry. Unfortunately, to vanquish doubt is to leave the domain of the human being. Conversely, to embrace *both* one's doubt and faith, one's fear and courage, is to relate to the totality of the human experience.

The paradox of struggling with doubt--as with all so-called "negative" feelings--is that only by inviting it in, exploring and illuminating its meanings, can we be enriched as writers. The plain fact is, the more willing you are to mine the landscape of your own doubts, the truer and more recognizably human your characters will be. (And the more impact your characters' faith, if such is their destination, will have.)

Keeping the tension between Faith and Doubt alive within you, without either falling prey to blind optimism or succumbing to despair, is not easy. We veer so often in one direction or the other that, in their exaggerated forms, Faith and Doubt can look like two sides of the same coin.

"But how can that be?" you might be asking. Faith and Doubt are so *different*, such opposites. Not necessarily, not when taken to extremes.

Let me give you an example. Picture two recent therapy patients of mine, both struggling writers. One is full of confidence, with the faith of a saint in the ultimate success of his career goals. He "feels great" about everything he writes. All he has to do is wait for the publishing world to discover him.

The second patient is full of doubt. He took an evening writing class at his local college, but left after two meetings. He won't show his work to others because "they'll probably hate it." He's just wasting his time even trying to write, because the odds against success are so huge.

Faith and Doubt, two sides of the same coin. Whether a writer subscribes to one or the other, he's engaged in a kind of "magical thinking" that leaves *him* out of the equation. In writing, as in all aspects

*"Faith" continued Page 12*

"Chapter News" Continued from Page 7

Las Vegas member **Deborah Coonts'** novel, *WANNA GET LUCKY?* will launch on May 11 from Forge.

**Amnon Kabatchnik**, author of the Agatha-nominated *Blood on the Stage 1925-1950, Milestone Plays of Crime, Mystery and Detection* directed the Off-Broadway production "Ladies in Retirement" produced by Pulse Ensemble Theatre. The classic Gothic thriller is cited in his current book, which made it all the more an honor to be asked to direct. "Ladies" ran during March through April 3, the production received rave reviews.

**Darrell James** and fellow authors **Gary Phillips** and **Vicki Hendricks** will conduct the "Short Story Writing and Marketing Workshop" on Saturday, June 26, 2 pm at the Well Read Coyote Bookstore, 3190 W. State Route 89A, #400, Sedona AZ 86336 <http://www.wellredcoyote.com/>

**Robert S. Levinson's** short story from *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, "Regarding Certain Occurrences in a Cottage at the Garden of Allah," garnered a Derringer award nomination (his third) from the Short Mystery Fiction Society. (He was a winner last year for "The Quick Brown Fox," from *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*.) ... "Between Sins," from the June 2009 issue of *EQMM* has been selected for inclusion in the forthcoming *BY HOOK OR BY CROOK: BEST MYSTERIES OF 2009* (Tyrus Books), marking Bob's sixth consecutive appearance in a "year's best" anthology. He has a non-fiction piece in the April issue of *Autograph Magazine*, relating how, as a kid "autograph hound" roaming the streets of Hollywood, he got Oscar winner Olivia De Havilland's autograph, while an essay about *THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE* is included in *THRILLERS: 100 MUST READS* anthology (Oceanview Publishing).

**Robert L. Hecker's** one-act comedy has been selected by Drama West Theatre for a staged reading in Los Angeles on May 8. This is his second play to be premiered by Drama West.

Burbank Central Library panel, "Sherlock Holmes: From Books to Big Screen" Thursday, May 27, 7-8:30 pm at 110 N. Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank, Featuring authors **Michael Mallory**, **Leslie S. Klinger** and Agatha nominee **Amnon Kabatchnik**.

## Transom Notes

**Sue Ann Jaffarian** will attend the Malice Domestic Conference in Arlington, VA on April 28-May 2, and will appear at the Mystery Lovers Festival in Oakmont, PA on May 3. She will then appear in Massachusetts to sign at the Millbury and Worcester, MA Barnes and Nobles on May 8. On Sunday May 16 at 2 pm Sue Ann will appear at the Grant R. Brimhall Library with fellow panelists Kate Carlisle, Hannah Dennison, Dorothy Howell and moderator Sue Carpenter to discuss "Cozies and Comedies: the Lighter Side of Murder", the address is 1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. From May 25-27 she will attend BEA in NY. Once back in L.A. she will take a much-deserved break.

LOVE KILLS, the fourth in **Dianne Emley's** bestselling Detective Nan Vining series on sale May 25. THE DEEPEST CUT, the series third, is out in paperback. Tuesday, May 25, 7 pm Launch Party Food and Drinks! Come celebrate! Everyone's invited. Vroman's Bookstore 695 E. Colorado Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91101; Saturday, June 5, 11 am Mysteries to Die For 2940 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362; 5:30 pm Mystery Bookstore 1036-C Broxton Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90024; Thursday, June 3, 7 pm Mysterious Galaxy 7051 Clairemont Mesa Bl., San Diego, CA 92111; Saturday, June 12, 2:00 pm Book'em Mysteries 1118 Mission St., South Pasadena, CA 91030.

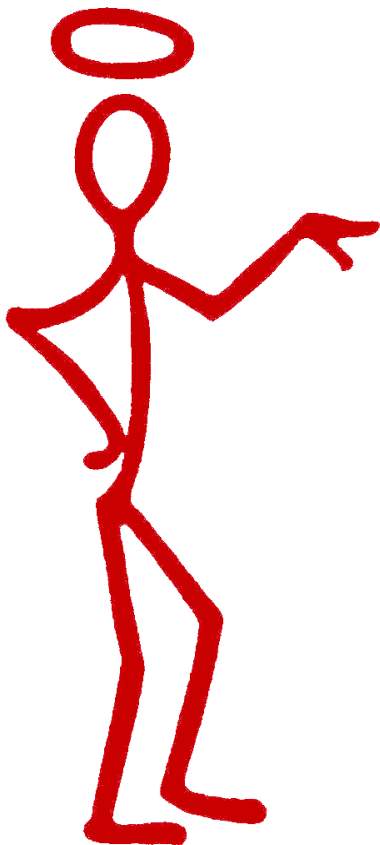
**Douglas Corleone** ONE MAN'S PARADISE, winner of the 2009 Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Award, will be released on April 27 by St. Martin's Press. The book launch will be held at the Hawaii Book & Music Festival at Honolulu Hale on Saturday, May 15 around midday. He will also be signing copies at the Barnes & Noble Booksellers tent. On Saturday, May 8 he will be appearing at Borders at the Waialeale Center in Waipahu, Hawaii from 1 pm to 2 pm

**Avery Ames** (pseudonym for member Daryl Wood Gerber) THE LONG QUICHE GOODBYE is the first in A Cheese Shop Mystery series by Berkley Prime Crime, set for release July 6, mass paperback. Launch Party at Mystery Bookstore in Westwood, July 6 at 7 pm. All are welcome. Beverages and cheese served! A second book signing at Book 'Em in South Pasadena, July 24 at 2 pm.

## More Transom Notes

**Ken Kuhlken's** THE BIGGEST LIAR IN LOS ANGELES will come out from Poisoned Pen Press on May 1. It's the sixth offering but number 1 (chronologically) in the Tom Hickey California Century series. Sunday, May 2, 2 pm, Mysterious Galaxy, San Diego; Friday, May 7, 5:30 pm, Clues Unlimited, Tucson, AZ; Saturday, May 8, 2 pm, Poisoned Pen Bookstore, Scottsdale, AZ; Saturday, May 15, 2 pm, The Mystery Bookstore, Westwood, CA; Saturday, May 22, noon, Mysteries to Die For, Thousand Oaks, CA; Saturday, May 22, 3 pm, Book'Em, South Pasadena, CA; Sunday, May 23, 2 pm, M is for Mystery, San Mateo, CA; Wednesday, May 26, evening, Wine 'n Writers, Tango Cafe, San Diego, CA; Sunday, June 6, 3 pm, Murder by the Book, Portland, OR; Monday, June 7, noon, Seattle Mystery Bookstore, Seattle, WA

**Jeri Westerson** will be speaking and signing her medieval noir mysteries at the following locations: Wednesday, May 5, 7 pm–Fullerton Book Club visit, private home; Wednesday, May 12 Crown City TV interview 9-10 pm. See website for details [www.JeriWesterson.com](http://www.JeriWesterson.com); Saturday, May 15, 10 am to 1 pm–American Association of University Women of Escondido. The Escondido Country Club 1800 Country Club Lane, Escondido, California 92026; Sunday, May 23, 1 pm to 3 pm–Borders Bookstore 3615 Riverside Plaza Dr., Riverside, CA 92560 (951) 222-0313; Wednesday, June 2, 7 pm–Orange Public Library 407 East Chapman Avenue, Orange, CA 92866-1509 (714) 288-2400; Saturday, June 19, 11 am to 2 pm–"Brunch with a Bunch of Authors" Lompoc Library Grossman Gallery 501 E. North Ave. Lompoc, CA 93436. 805-875-8775.



## The Saint Lives!

The new Saint novel, RETURN OF THE SAINT, by Estate authorized author Burl Barer, is an original story set in the UK. "Both the title and locale were at the request of The Saint's UK publisher. The story is not a period piece. As with CAPTURE THE SAINT, the character is what literary analyst Wm. Vivian Butler described as the Mark V or "Celebrity Saint" -- the one featured in Charteris' short stories in the 50's and 60's, merged with some of the more flamboyant characteristics of the 1930's Templar. Just as Templar acknowledged the existence of Saint books in Charteris' novels, the modern Templar equally delights in having his own action figure, and his famous haloed stick figure being a registered trademark. Inspector Teal, whom Charteris himself pulled out of retirement, is also up to his baby blue eyes and rosy pink cheeks in this adventure featuring all manner of deception, danger and general mayhem for the good of all concerned...well, at least the good of Simon Templar, and he is always up to no good for the greater good. "

THE SAINT -- the new made for TV adaptation of Leslie Charteris' Simon Templar may be filming the two hour pilot in New Orleans this summer rather than in Vancouver, BC.

"Faith" from Page 9

of life, *an unquestioning faith is the same as unwavering doubt*--both are belief systems employed to try to protect a person from the complicated, sometimes contradictory, always unpredictable ebb and flow of actual experience.

"Faith and doubt, both are needed..."

Which brings us back to those Saturday morning cartoons. Because the truth is, if we each had winged imps named Faith and Doubt parked on our shoulders, competing for air-time, the ideal situation would be for their voices to stay at more or less equal volume. For our attention to shift from one to the other, and back again.

And, ultimately, for us to integrate what each has to say, and to struggle to create and thrive from that place within us where *all* feelings--including faith and doubt--reside.

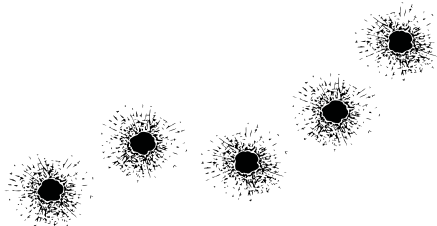
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Formerly a Hollywood screenwriter (*My Favorite Year*; *Welcome Back, Kotter*, etc.), DENNIS PALUMBO is now a licensed psychotherapist specializing in creative issues. His mystery fiction has appeared in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, *The Strand Magazine*, and elsewhere, and was recently collected in *From Crime to Crime* (Tallfellow Press.) His first crime novel, *Mirror Image*, will be out in August from Poisoned Pen Press. For more info, visit [www.dennispalumbo.com](http://www.dennispalumbo.com)

## Poe Prattling



The Redondo Beach Public Library kicked off a month-long celebration of Edgar Allan Poe with a "Pondering Poe" panel of authors comprising, from left: Michael Mallory (moderator), Leslie Klinger, Jeri Westerson, and Robert S. Levinson.



## MARCH OF CRIME



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA  
Southern California Chapter  
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### Next Meeting:

*Saturday, May 22—11 am*

**Law and Order:  
LAPD Homicide  
Detective Anthony  
Manzella  
and L.A. County Deputy  
D.A. Michael DePasquale  
dispel the myths of law enforcement**

Moderated by Patricia Smiley

*Tom Bergin's Tavern  
840 S. Fairfax Ave, LA  
(323) 936-7151  
RSVP [www.socalmwa.com](http://www.socalmwa.com)*

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## LAST WORD



At the LA Times Festival of Books, a large pupa devours children and leaves empty shells behind (see foreground) ...Or perhaps it's just a guy in a caterpillar costume.