



The
MARCH

of CRIME

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Anne Hillerman in Conversation with Susan Cummins Miller

On a rainy Saturday in November, four Tucson SoCalMWA members (Elizabeth Gunn, J.M. "Mike" Hayes, Susan Cummins Miller, and Pamela Asbury-Smith) put on the inaugural Arizona event, "Anne Hillerman in Conversation with Susan Cummins Miller," at Clues Unlimited mystery bookstore. Anne, the daughter of Tony Hillerman, MWA Grandmaster and Edgar Award-winning author of the Joe Leaphorn/Jim Chee mysteries, recently released her first mystery, SPIDER WOMAN'S DAUGHTER. The novel continues her father's series, but moves Navajo Tribal Police Officer Bernadette Manuelito into the role of protagonist. Anne discussed her father's legacy, her reasons for resurrecting the series, her writing process, and her next book. The conversation will be reprised at the Tucson Festival of Books in March.



Next Meeting:

February 27, 2014
Short Story Workshop

More information:
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Left to right: Anne Hillerman, Mike Hayes, Elizabeth Gunn, and Susan Cummins Miller.
Photo by Jonathan C. Matti.



The PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET

Jeri Westerson

A great Big Welcome to our newly elected board of directors Deborah Coonts, Susan Goldstein, Susan Miller, and Charles Rosenberg. And an equally warm welcome back to our returning board, Craig Faustus Buck, Eric Beetner, Terri Nolan, Jessica Kaye, Matt Coyle, and Dennis Palumbo. I want to extend a grateful "Thank You" to outgoing board members Daryl Wood Gerber, Rochelle Staab, Marilyn Meredith and Tammy Kaehler. Thanks for all your hard work for this chapter.

I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members of our chapter from Southern California, Nevada, Arizona, and Hawaii. Keep killing 'em with your prose, fellow authors! And fellow readers and booksellers, thanks also for being there for all our members.

We're looking forward to getting you the best in events this year, something for everyone I hope. It is the mission of MWA "to educate writers and those who aspire to write regarding their rights and interests, and to make writers and readers aware of matters which may affect crime writing through legislation, publishing industry practices, judicial decisions, or in other ways." So we're kicking off right away with a FREE short story workshop on February 27 at the Buena Vista Branch of the Burbank Library, from 6 to 9 pm. Come with your pens, your notebooks, your lap tops and be ready to work!

Last year our Arizona members put together a smashing event with Anne Hillerman to promote the chapter, and we want to continue to reach out to our far flung members. If you would like to participate in chapter events outside the California area, please contact the following:

In Arizona, Susan Miller at scmiller46@me.com
 In Hawaii, Debby Atkinson at deborah.atkinson@gmail.com
 And in Nevada, Deborah Coonts at debcoonts@aol.com

And speaking of outside California, the Tucson Festival of Books is coming up March 15-16. SoCalMWA has a booth as usual, and we are looking for volunteers to help man it. You can also sign your books at the booth, so let us know what days and times you'd like to be there: contact@socalmwa.com.

Let's make this a great writing year!

Your prez,
 Jeri Westerson

Chapter Officers

President: Jeri Westerson
VP: Craig Faustus Buck
Treasurer: Eric Beetner
Secretary: Terri Nolan

Board of Directors

Matt Coyle
 Jessica Kaye
 Dennis Palumbo
 Deborah Coonts
 Susan Goldstein
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Ex-Officio: Gary Phillips

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The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

I love new beginnings. Whether it's the start of a new year, school commencing in the fall, or heck, even the beginning of the work week (yes, I'm that crazy girl who likes Mondays), I always welcome the chance to start fresh. There's something about that clean slate waiting for me to scribble upon it that gives me energy, focus, and motivation.

So now's the time, folks. What would you like to accomplish in 2014? Let's not call them resolutions--I prefer the term goals, although the end result might be the same. For me, 2014 will bring the publishing of my debut novel, something I worked at for nearly five years. But what's next? Somehow, crossing one big thing off of my bucket list only serves to create more items to work toward. But to me, that's a good thing. Accomplishing one goal convinces me that I can accomplish the next one, then the next, and so forth.

I've a confession to make: I'm not really the enthusiastic go-getter that the statements above might indicate and I'm certainly no cheerleader. Anyone who's met me knows that. But in my life I've run a marathon and now, published a novel. Two major accomplishments that lots of people say they want to do but never quite manage. Now I invite you to think about your own significant life achievements and use that spirit to fuel and inspire your goals for 2014 and beyond. There is, as they say, no time like the present.

Holly

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

Editor: Holly West

Columnists:

Gregory Von Dare

John Morgan Wilson

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

FRESH BLOOD

SoCal MWA welcomes its new and returning members:

Gary Nine, Affiliate
 Stephen H. Sellers, Affiliate
 Peter Lance, Active, Reinstatement
 Ivy Pochada, Active
 Alexandra Jamison, Affiliate
 Diana Gould, Affiliate
 Neal Griffin, Active
 Linda Arterberry, Affiliate
 Lynne Kennedy, Affiliate



Crime & Science Radio with DP Lyle, MD & Jan Burke

Schedule:

1/4 - The Devil's Dozen: What Makes Bad Guys Tick?

DP Lyle interviews Dr. Katherine Ramsland

1/18 - The Body Tells the Tale:

DP Lyle & Jan Burke interview Dr. Bill Bass & Jon Jefferson

More details:

www.dplylemd.com

C & S Radio Blog

OVER the TRANSOM

Member News



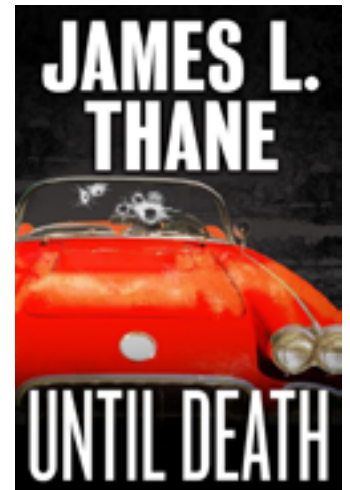
In **Marilyn Meredith's** latest Deputy Tempe Crabtree mystery, *SPIRIT SHAPES*, ghost hunters stumble upon a murdered teen in a haunted house. Deputy Tempe Crabtree's investigation pulls her into a whirlwind of restless spirits, good and evil, intertwined with the past and the present, and demons and angels at war.

Alan Cook's short story *CHECKPOINT CHARLIE* will be included in the *MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA PRESENTS ICE COLD: TALES OF INTRIGUE FROM THE COLD WAR*, edited by Jeffery Deaver and Raymond Benson, to be released April 2014 by Grand Central Publishing. Nuclear brinkmanship. Psychological warfare. Spies, double agents, femme fatales, and dead drops.

James L. Thane's latest novel, *UNTIL DEATH*, was published on December 17, 2013 by Thomas & Mercer. It's the second book in his series featuring Phoenix, Arizona homicide detective, Sean Richardson.

Barbara DeMarco-Barrett's story, *CRAZY FOR YOU*, which was included in *ORANGE COUNTY NOIR* (Akashic, 2010) has been reissued in the new anthology, *USA NOIR: BEST OF THE AKASHIC NOIR SERIES* (Nov. 5, 2013).

Barry Lancet's international thriller *JAPANTOWN* (published by Simon & Schuster in September) was selected by *Suspense Magazine* as a *BEST BOOK OF 2013*, in the category of Debut Novels.



Linda O. Johnston's fifth Pet Rescue Mystery, *TEACUP TURBULENCE*, will be a January 2014 release. It features pilots who help to rescue homeless animals by transporting them from an area where there are too many of them to someplace else where people are eager to adopt. And of course, there's a murder. Visit Linda at www.LindaOJohnston.com.

Do you have writing news to share with our chapter? Email it to TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com by February 20 for inclusion in the March/April issue.

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OVER the TRANSOM

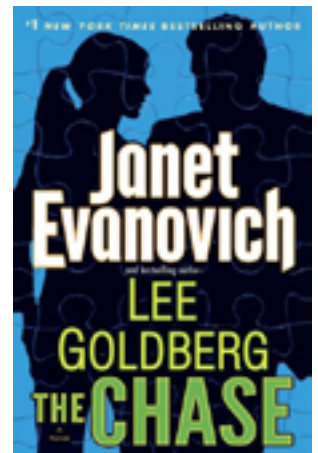


Holly West's debut novel, *MISTRESS OF FORTUNE*, the first in a series featuring Isabel Wilde, a mistress to England's King Charles II who secretly makes her living as a fortuneteller, will be published by Harlequin's Carina Press on February 3, 2014. Available wherever eBooks are sold. Learn more at hollywest.com. Holly will also appear at Noir at the Bar (8pm, Mandrake Bar, Culver City) on February 9.

KILLING CUPID, the twelfth book in **Laura Levine's** Jane Austen mystery series, is now out from Kensington books. A reissue of *SHOES TO DIE FOR* will be out on January 7. Also available in a new edition is *DEATH BY PANTYHOSE*, which came out this past December.

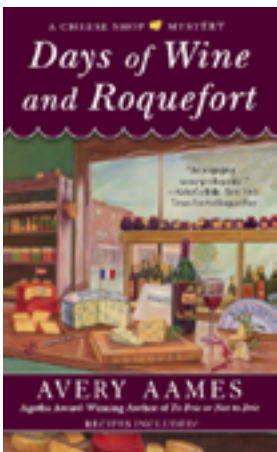
Matt Witten's movie *DRONES*, about the Air Force drone pilots who sit in a trailer in Nevada, push a button, and kill people in Afghanistan, premiered in October and November at the London Film Festival, the Austin Film Festival, and AFI Fest. The movie is scheduled for release this spring.

THE CHASE, the second Fox & O'Hare collaboration by Janet Evanovich & **Lee Goldberg**, comes out on February 25th. The paperback edition of their international bestseller *THE HEIST* comes out in paperback the same day.



Rosemary & Larry Mild are the authors of two short stories, *THE JOSS AT TABLE TWELVE* and *ADRIFT ON KANEOHE BAY*, both of which appear in *MYSTERY IN PARADISE, 13 TALES OF SUSPENSE BY 13 MASTERS OF THE GENRE*, edited by Lourdes Vengard. The anthology of wickedly entertaining Hawaii stories is available on Amazon in paperback or Kindle.

They are also the coauthors of a stand-alone novel, *CRY OHANA*, Adventure and Suspense in Hawaii, and two mystery series. Learn more at www.magicile.com.

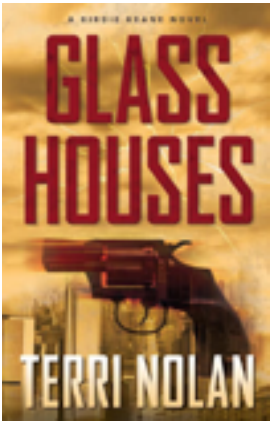


Daryl Wood Gerber's, writing as **Avery Aames**, fifth in A Cheese Shop Mystery series, *DAYS OF WINE AND ROQUEFORT*, will be published by Berkley Prime Crime on February 4, 2014. Her second in A Cookbook Nook series, *INHERIT THE WORD*, will be published on March 4, also by Berkley Prime Crime (as Daryl Wood Gerber).

Ted Elrick's screenplay, *NORTH OF HELL*, co-written with former classmates Carlo Allen and Tom Lavagnino and written/revised over the course of 20 years, was purchased in 2011 and recently filmed. Starring Katherine Heigl, Patrick Wilson, Jordana Brewster, and Jim Belushi, it represents the first feature film credits for all three writers. As Mr. Elrick says, "Never give up."

Continued on page 6

OVER the TRANSOM

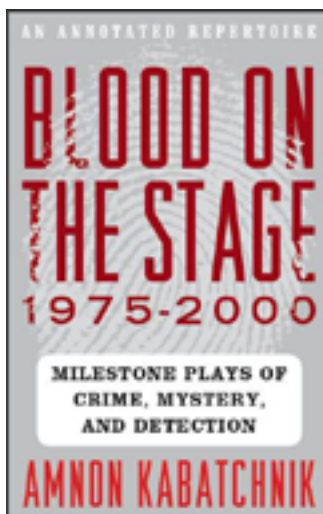


The second in **Terri Nolan's** Birdie Keane series, *GLASS HOUSES*, will be published by Midnight Ink on February 8, 2014. Terri will be appearing at Book Carnival on February 8 (2pm), Noir at the Bar (8pm, Mandrake Bar, Culver City) February 9, Dana Point Library, February 10, and Mysterious Galaxy Redondo Beach, February 22 (2:30pm). Visit www.terrinolan.com to learn more.

Ken Kuhlken's latest, *WRITING AND THE SPIRIT: ADVICE FOR ANYBODY WHO HOPES TO CHANGE THE WORLD* (OakTara Press, November 25, 2013), is a collection of suggestions for anybody who hopes to be inspired. Bite-sized topics include: *Get Perfect? Love Like Whitman, Consider Your Motive, Stalk the Truth, Get Courageous, Be Indomitable, Become Who You Are, Lower Your Standards, When in Danger, Write*, and lots more.

Travis Richarson's short story, *PRIVATE PRACTICE*, was included in the 1st issue of *ALL DUE RESPECT* this past November. His novella, *KEEPING THE RECORD*, will be published in January (exact date TBD) through Stark Raving Group.

Robert S. Levinson launches his eleventh crime novel, *FINDERS, KEEPERS, LOSERS, WEEPERS* Tuesday, February 11, at Skylight Books, 1818 North Vermont Ave., Los Angeles 90027, 7:30 p.m. He follows up with speaking/signing appearances (scheduled to date): February 15, Book Carnival, Orange, 2 p.m.; February 22, Mysterious Galaxy, San Diego, 1 p.m.; March 1, Mysterious Galaxy, Redondo Beach, 2:30 p.m.; Book'Em Mysteries, South Pasadena, 2 p.m.; Mystery Ink, Huntington Beach, 2 p.m. Publishers Weekly praised the hard-boiled story, set in the music industry, Bob's old stomping ground, advising, "... the fast-paced narrative builds to an explosive, yet emotionally satisfying conclusion." Meanwhile, on his schedule for January, a panel appearance at the Bellflower (CA) Library on Saturday, January 25, 2 p.m., discussing mystery-thriller fiction.



On November 23-24, 2013, the Santa Monica Daily Press published a front page story about **Amnon Kabatchnik**, his massive book collection, and his series of books "Blood on the Stage: Milestone Plays of Crime, Mystery, and Detection." Spanning the 20th century, the reference books provide a plot synopsis, production data, reviews by critics and scholars, and biographical sketches of playwrights, directors, and actors.

Deborah J Ledford's latest release is the audiobook version of her latest, *CRESCENDO*, from the Steven Hawk/Inola Walela thriller series. Narrated by TV and film actress Christina Cox and produced by IOF Productions Ltd, the recording is now available worldwide from Blackstone Audio at Downpour.com.



The PRO SHOP

John Morgan Wilson

In each installment of The Pro Shop, John Morgan Wilson interviews a chapter member about crime writing and writing in general. In this issue: Gary Phillips.

Gary Phillips (www.gdphillips.com) describes his fiction writing as “tales of chicanery and malfeasance.” He is currently VP of content and editorial for new ebook publisher Stark Raving Group, which specializes in action-adventure, hardboiled, and pulp novellas, and has its own app, www.bookxy.com, operating across various platforms. Gary also teaches in Antioch’s MFA creative writing program.



Gary Phillips. Photo by Robin Doyno.

JMW: Your writing tends toward the dark and gritty. Where does that come from?

GP: The Dickensian answer is of a lad who came of age in South Central L.A. as the fires of the Watts Riots cooled; hearing tales in the barbershop of brothers getting jacked over by the cops out of 77th Division; and running home from grade school to not get caught between the Slausons and Del Vikings throwing down. Too it was sneaking and hearing your old man’s Redd Foxx X-rated “party records” playing for his beer and domino buddies...and reading, under the covers with a flashlight, those lurid crime, horror, and war stories in EC’s Tales from the Crypt and Two-Fisted Tales comics.



Cover by Adam Shaw

JMW: What prompted you to expand from writing prose fiction to working in the comics format?

GP: When I was a kid my aunt gave me From the Twilight Zone. These were short stories based on Rod Serling’s TZ teleplays such as “The Midnight Sun” and “The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street.” I’d been riveted by those black and white re-runs, and now there was this book that told me those stories in a different way. I was transported into the heads of the characters. The notion that you could communicate a feeling or an action in a picture or conversely “paint” a scene using text, I’ve been pursuing crafting words and images ever since.

JMW: Graphic novels have gained increasing attention and respect in recent years. What are some common misconceptions about this medium?

GP: To me a big misconception is that graphic novels, a fancy word for longer form comic books, are a way to pitch a TV or film idea. Old timers like me lament how mammoth Comic-Con, the annual comics celebration in San Diego, has become. Video games, premieres, Victoria Secret-looking babes parading around in skimpy costumes (wait, that part is okay) and so on. The comics have become a secondary matter – the source material. But comics should be enjoyed for what they are; this American bastard form of sub-literature chronicling musclebound do-gooders to work like Special Exits, about a woman caring for her ailing parents.

Continued on page 11



Hollow Points

Gregory Von Dare

Magnums: Part Two

“You’ve got to ask yourself a question: ‘Do I feel lucky?’ Well, do ya, punk?”

The fictional Dirty Harry Callahan enhanced a very real fascination with macho magnum handguns. Magnum calibers are mostly just longer versions of familiar handgun cartridges, carrying much more gunpowder and delivering way more oomph. Put a .38 Special round next to a .357 magnum and the diameters are identical but the .357 stands tall, its brass case about half-again as long as the .38. In fact, the ammo is downwards compatible. You can fire a .38 Special cartridge in your .357 magnum revolver all day, but not the other way around! By design, the .357 rounds won’t even fit in most .38 revolver cylinders: too long. The Beretta Desert Eagle is a good example of a modern automatic chambered for the muscular .357 cartridge, the original magnum load. A recent upgrade of this hand-cannon includes chambering for .50 caliber cartridges.

All that extra gunpowder makes for a very fast bullet. Since the force of a bullet’s impact is a result of weight times speed, dramatically increasing speed puts a lot more destructive force on target. The .357 Magnum was developed in the 1930s to help lawmen deal with the armored vests and cars that were becoming popular with bootleggers and gangsters.



Both .357 magnum and .44 magnum revolvers are favorite backpack weapons for fighting off grizzly bears and mountain lions in the outback. Even with a .357 magnum, you had better hit that grizzly in a vulnerable spot or you’ll just make him mad. The same is true for timber wolves, buffalo, moose and other dangerous creatures a wilderness buff may encounter.

The .44 magnum cartridge is so powerful that for years there was no automatic pistol robust enough to fire it. If you wanted a .44 magnum, a revolver was the only way to go. Then, in the 1970s, a specialty company in Pasadena, CA, produced a custom built semi-automatic pistol, the .44 Automag, especially to shoot this ammunition. Unfortunately, the business and engineering sides of the company never got along, and the guns produced (about 3000) had issues of reliability and parts supply.

Devastating in its effect on human targets, the .44 magnum can easily kill a person hiding behind an automobile or a heavy truck. However, like many magnums, this caliber makes

the shooter pay a price in painful recoil, booming report, bright muzzle flash and low rate of fire, but it certainly delivers a *coup de grace* if it hits something.

Up at the top of the handgun scale is a relatively new cartridge, the .460 S&W magnum. This round and the massive handgun that fires it are no joke. Everything about that gun is huge and heavy-duty. It better be. The gun is more artillery piece than six-shooter.

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Guest
SPOTLIGHT

James Scott Bell

Getting in and Out of Flashbacks

How do you get in and out of a flashback, so it flows naturally? Here's one way that works every time.

In the scene you're writing, when you're about to go to flashback, put in a strong, sensory detail that triggers the memory in the point-of-view character:

Wendy looked at the wall and saw an ugly, black spider making its way up toward a web where a fly was caught. Legs creeping, moving slowly toward its prey. The way Lester had moved on Wendy all those years ago.

She was sixteen and Lester was the big man on campus. "Hey," he called to her one day by the lockers. "You want to go see a movie?"

We are in the flashback. Write it out as a dramatic scene.

How do we get out of it?

By returning to the sensory detail (sight in this case) of the spider. The reader will remember the strong detail, and know that he's out of flashback.

Lester made his move in the back of the car. Wendy was helpless. It was all over in five minutes.

The spider was at the web now. Wendy felt waves of nausea as she watched it. But she could not look away.

Watch out for the word had in your flashback scenes. Use one or two to get in, but once in, avoid them. Instead of:

Marvin had been good at basketball. He had tried out for the team, and the coach had said how good he was.

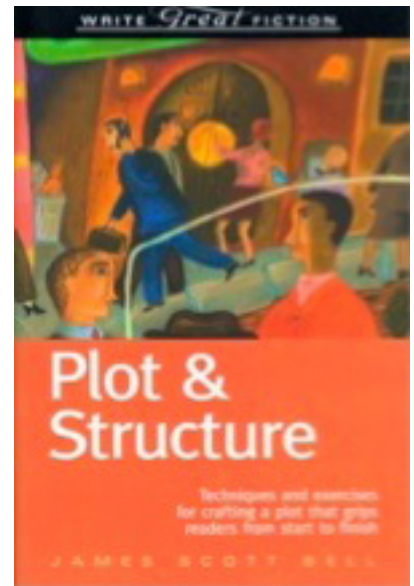
"I think I'll make you my starting point guard," Coach had told him right after try outs.

Marrvin had been thrilled by that.

Do this:

Marvin had been good at basketball. [This gets us in. Now switch to scene] He tried out for the team, and the coach said how good he was.

Continued on page 13



You Ought to be in Pictures

SoCalMWA members out on the town



Cydney (Mrs. Joel) Fox shared a photo op with two past SoCal-MWA presidents, Les Klinger, left, and Robert S. Levinson at Joan Hansen's 14th annual "Men of Mystery" event earlier this year in Irvine. Photo by Sandra Levinson



Board of Directors member Rochelle Staab and Robert S. Levinson at the "Men of Mystery" all-day event earlier this year, which brought together 50 authors and more than 500 crime genre fans. Rochelle and Bob are old pals, dating back to their former lives in the music industry. Photo by Sandra Levinson.



The March of Crime editor, Holly West, at the 1st SoCal MWA Write-In (November 2013). Photo by Jeri Westerson.



(Below) 1st SoCal MWA Write-In (November 2013). Photo by Jeri Westerson.



Members celebrate a year of good writing at the SoCal MWA holiday party (December 2013). Photos by Jeri Westerson.

The Pro Shop *continued from page 7*

JMW: What are the keys – and key differences – to writing stories in this format?

GP: A wise editor once reminded me that comics are frozen action. In a book or a screenplay, we describe a series of actions. In a comic book script, each panel on a page is essentially one action, one thing happening. Yet the idea is to advance the story even given this static limitation. But like in a screenplay, your words can't get in the way of the visuals – images you've described panel by panel for the artist to draw. Brevity of text in the service of the sequentials.

JMW: How does a writer break in or find an illustrator?

GP: Unfortunately comics, for the writer at least, are like television, a very clubby business. You have to know somebody on the inside to get the attention of a busy editor – or have written a bestseller. But because of crowdsourcing avenues like Kickstarter, you can pair up with an artist. There's comics artists sites like digital webbing and zwol, where artists are always looking for a showcase project.

JMW: How has digital conversion, which now allows graphic novels to be presented on tablets and smartphones, affected their creation, if at all?

GP: I'm not sure what long-term effects digital and motion comics will have -- you can still only read one panel at a time. But at my comics shop, Comics Ink in Culver City, I know from talking to the staff and the data tracking of digital comics packager Comixology, **more females are reading comics these days** – from the safety of their e-readers and not, like in the Big Bang Theory, having to go into a comics store and encounter a bunch of mouth-breathing geeks.

JMW: Any other resources you can recommend?

GP: I'm not big on how-to books per se, but on my shelf are three pertinent tomes examining the comics form – Scott McCloud's *Understanding Comics* and Will Eisner's (creator of the Spirit) *Comics & Sequential Art* and *Graphic Storytelling and Visual Narrative*.

JMW: Any upcoming books to plug?

GP: I'm revamping a '40s comics character, Lady Satan, and have two novellas from SRG. *The Anti-Gravity Steal*, is out now and features a modern take on Doc Savage, Ned "Noc" Brenner, adept at b-ballin', mountain climbing to blitz chess; a drifter challenged to use his abilities for a greater purpose In March will be *McBleak*, about a one percenter who steals cash and items from his other one percenters. I would also be remiss if I didn't mention that several SoCal MWA members have written or are writing novellas for SRG: fellow MWAers Nathan Walpow, Eric Beetner, Darrell James, Richard Brewer, Harley Jane Kozak, Stephen Jay Schwartz, Craig Faustus Buck, Laurie Stevens, John Shepphird, Travis Richardson, and Stephen Buehler, Paul Bishop and Larry Maddox.

John Morgan Wilson *is the author of ten mystery novels, including eight in the Benjamin Justice series. Simple Justice, which launched the series, was awarded an Edgar for Best First. John's short stories have appeared in EQMM, AHMM, and several anthologies. He is a former board member of MWA So Cal and a recipient of the chapter's Distinguished Service Award.*



Hollow Points *continued from page 8*

My good friend Kurt and I were at an indoor shooting range in the San Fernando Valley one night, testing his new .357 magnum and plinking with some .22s that his uncle, a retired Federal Agent, had given him. I was shooting my combat Colt .45 automatic, as usual.

Just a few feet away from us, a young Korean man loaded his pistol and aimed downrange at a tennis ball on a string, rather than the usual paper target. We didn't pay any attention to him until he uncorked the first shot. After hearing .357 and .44 magnums go off all night, we were stunned to hear the KA-BOOM of this handgun. The gun produced a huge shock wave that lifted Kurt right off his feet. And he's no small guy.

The Korean man held a big, brushed stainless steel revolver with a massive cylinder and slots cut near the front of the barrel (compensator) to release some of the gasses powering the bullet, so that recoil could be reduced to a merely brutal level.

Smith & Wesson claim this is the most powerful handgun ever and the numbers back it up. We're talking about a huge, jacketed 360 grain bullet with a muzzle velocity of 1900 ft/sec, delivering close to 4,000 Joules of energy at the target. That's over *four times* more force than the already powerful 10mm! To put it mildly, the gun is a wrist-breaker and must be aimed and fired with great care. This ultimate handgun cartridge is based on the obscure .454 Casull, which is a magnum version of the familiar .45 ACP.

While spectacular in effect and appearance, this handgun would be almost useless in a tight, self-defense situation, unless your goal was to quickly deafen your opponent. A two handed grip is recommended for any firing of the .460 magnum but keep that second hand away from the front of the cylinder or you could lose a finger. Like thermonuclear warfare, it's better not to play at all.

Next time, we'll begin a survey of long guns: rifles and shotguns. Duck!

Gregory Von Dare *comes from Chicago and was raised on crime, corruption and clout in the big city. He has written non-fiction books, magazine articles and radio scripts, as well as stories, plays and screenplays. He once worked as a pyro detonator and talent manager for Universal Studios Hollywood.*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THE DATE

“Ladies of Intrigue”

Huntington Beach, CA on Saturday, March 29, 2014

Featuring international bestselling authors Carolyn Hart and Rhys Bowen

Enjoy a full day of panels with Cara Black, Kim Fay, Lisa Brackman, Jeri Westerson, and several others.

Details and Registration

<http://www.ocsistersincrime.org>

The March of Crime would like to thank this issue's contributors:
Susan Cummins Miller, John Morgan Wilson, Gregory Von Dare and James Scott Bell.

Guest Spotlight *continued from page 9*

“I think I’ll make you my starting point guard,” Coach told him right after try outs.

Marvin was thrilled.

Flashback Scene Alternatives

An alternative to the flashback scene (which you may be tempted to turn into an information dump) is the back flash. These are short bursts in which you drop information about the past within a present moment scene. The two primary methods are dialogue and thoughts.

Dialogue

“Hey, don’t I know you?”

“No.”

“Yeah, yeah. You were in the newspapers, what, ten years ago? The kid who killed his parents in that cabin.”

“You’re wrong.”

“Chester A. Arthur! You were named after the president. I remember that in the story.”

Chester’s troubled background has come out in a flash of dialogue. This is also a good way for shocking information from the past, or a dark secret, to be revealed at a tense moment in the story.

Thoughts

“Hey, don’t I know you?”

“No.” Did he? Did the guy recognize him? Would everybody in town find out he was Chet Arthur, killer of parents?

“Yeah, yeah. You were in the newspapers, what, ten years ago?”

It was twelve years ago, and this guy had him pegged. Lousy press, saying he killed his parents because he was high on drugs. They didn’t care about the abuse, did they? And this guy wouldn’t, either.

We are in Chester’s head for this one, as he reflects on his past. If you want to do a full flashback scene, thoughts can also operate as a transition point.

The skillful handling of flashback material is one mark of a good writer. Using back flashes as an alternative is usually the mark of a wise writer.

ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR CLOSE UP?

The GUEST SPOTLIGHT is a semi-regular feature in *The March of Crime*, to be included whenever we have room in an issue. Articles should be no longer than 800 words and of interest to our chapter members. You must also be a member of the SoCal MWA chapter. Got an idea? Pitch it to us at themarkhofcrime@gmail.com.

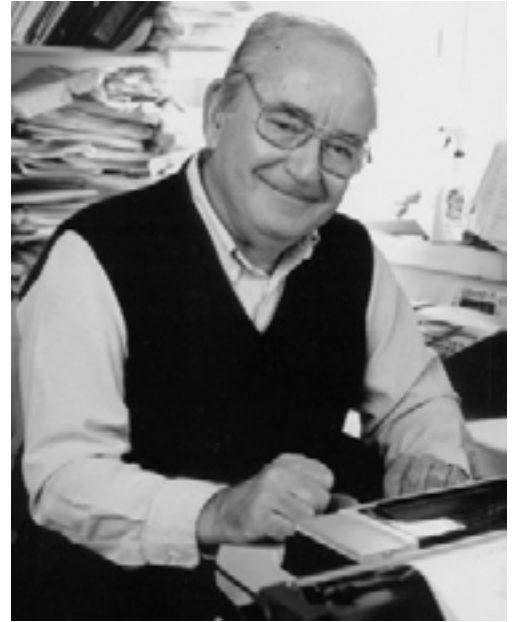
James Scott Bell is the author of the #1 bestselling book for writers, *Plot & Structure*, as well as numerous thrillers, including the *International Thriller Writers Award* finalist *ONE MORE LIE*.

In MEMORIAM

Mann Rubin - by Andrew Kaplan

Mann Rubin, veteran film, television and Edgar-winning writer (and 3-time Edgar nominee) who wrote screenplays for the THE BEST OF EVERYTHING, the crime thriller THE FIRST DEADLY SIN (1980), starring Frank Sinatra in his last major film role, AN AMERICAN DREAM, and numerous other movies and television shows, died Oct. 12, 2013 in West Hills, Calif., after a long illness. He was 86.

In 1967, Mr. Rubin won the Edgar for an episode (“A Step in Time”) of the TV series, MANNIX. One of the most prolific and successful television writers in Hollywood history, Mr. Rubin’s credits include PERRY MASON, THE FUGITIVE, THE F.B.I., MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE, THE MOD SQUAD, MANNIX, THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN, IRONSIDE, HARRY O., STARSKY AND HUTCH, FUTURE COP, QUINCY, M.E., BARNABY JONES, THE ROCKFORD FILES, DYNASTY, KNOTS LANDING and THE PAPER CHASE.



Mann Rubin. Photo by Peggy Rubin.



Michael Roy Burgess

Michael Roy Burgess by Michael R. Burgess

Michael Roy Burgess, founder of THE BORGO PRESS, died on November 20, 2013. Mr. Burgess obtained his A.B. from Gonzaga University in 1969, and his M.S. from the University of Southern California in 1970. He joined the faculty at Cal State San Bernardino soon after. During this period he continued writing and editing books, often under the pseudonym of “Robert Reginald.” In 1975 he began his own publishing company, The Borgo Press, with his wife, Mary. Borgo published 300 titles between 1976 and 1998, and as a writer and editor, he wrote more than 120 fiction and nonfiction books, 13,000 short pieces, and more than 1,500 volumes for other publishers. Burgess retired after serving for 40 years as Head of Collection of Development at the Pfau Library in June 2010.

Submissions for “In Memoriam” should be emailed to TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com by February 20 for inclusion in the March/April issue.

Crime CALENDAR

FEBRUARY MEETING

SHORT STORY WORKSHOP

February 27, 2013, 6-9pm
Burbank Library - Buena Vista Branch
300 N. Buena Vista Street
Burbank, CA



MORE CRIMINAL HAPPENINGS

February 9 - Noir at the Bar, 8pm at the Mandrake Bar, Culver City
February 27-March 2 - Sleuthfest
March 15-16 - Tuscon Festival of Books
March 20-23 - Left Coast Crime
March 29 - Ladies of Intrigue (details on p. 12)
April 12-13 - LA Times Festival of Books
November 13-16 - Bouchercon

The LAST WORD

“Golden hour is the time when the light hits just right in the early morning or late afternoon. The time when movie cinematographers most like to shoot. The light is tawny and warm. Gentle. It makes the stars shine brighter. Golden hour is the time when Teddie Matson was killed.”

--Paul D. Marks' 2013 Shamus Award-Winning novel WHITE HEAT