

January 2020



The
MARCH

of CRIME

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Happy New Year!

Here's to a happy and
productive year in 2020!

SoCalMWA
TAM LUNCHEON

Save the
Date

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

Featuring:
Forensic Arson Scientist
JOHN LENTINI

MORE INFO COMING SOON



The President's Rap Sheet

Jessica Kaye

Happy New Year!

The New Year brings a new President of SoCalMWA, and that's me, **Jessica Kaye**. **Glen Erik Hamilton** is stepping down but his able stewardship over the past two years has provided clear road maps to keep things going apace. Glen, thank you for your leadership and meticulous notes.

Thank you to the board, those leaving, those staying, and those newly elected. It is their mostly behind the scenes work that brings you our events as well as fresh ideas for the Chapter.

Ideas for the Chapter are welcome, as are volunteers when needed, so if you would like to be more active in SoCalMWA, feel free to let me or any board member know of your interest.

The New Year also brings a new smorgasbord of activities. We are starting off with a rare opportunity, with the nation's leading forensic arson scientist John Lentini speaking at our first luncheon of the year, on February 16. We are fortunate to again hold the event at the Tam O'Shanter. Mark your calendar because this is not to be missed. You'll receive information about the event in the near future.

Other plans for the year include two more luncheons at the Tam, speakers TBA; our continuing presence at the Tucson Book Festival and, of course, at the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books. There will another Book Swap, a fun time to give away books you can clear off of your bookshelf or TBR stack, and pick up new-to-you books, while casually schmoozing. Traditionally, we have a food truck at the event, to make it even more fun. Of course, the year is incomplete without the Gumbo Party at the home of and thanks to the incredible hospitality and cooking of Bill and Kendall Fitzhugh.

A key goal of the Chapter is to increase the diversity of its members. As you know, SoCalMWA currently skews white and middle-aged. It is to our benefit to actively work to make our community inclusive to POC and to young writers. We learn from each other about perspective, and broadening our perspectives is a worthy goal. That, in no small part, is what community is about. If you know writers you think would enjoy MWA, please reach out to them. In a very real sense, membership in MWA makes each of us an ambassador of the Association.

That's a sample of the year to come. I look forward to seeing you at our events.

Jessica

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

Happy New Year!

I have many goals as I head into 2020, but I'll only mention one of them here: This year, I intend to make reading a much more regular part of my life.

Like most of you, I've always been an avid reader, but over the last few years I've noticed I've slowed down quite a bit. Some of it is simply fatigue: I write and read so much during my normal work activities that many times, I'd rather veg out in front of the television or surf the internet. But my quality of life has suffered for it, and I know that choosing *pleasure* reading instead will go a long way in restoring some balance and peace in my life.

But I'd like to do more than increase the time I spend reading. I also intend to read a more diverse selection of writers and genres. Good books are good books, no matter who writes them or what genre they are, but making an effort to read authors who, for whatever reason, don't share my cultural perspective and background is an opportunity to expand my experiences in much the same way as travel does.

In 2020, we're not only ushering in a new year, we're beginning a new decade. Over the last couple of weeks on social media, I noticed a lot of people reflecting on their accomplishments and life events during the 2010s. I tried to do it, but found it made me a bit melancholy. Perhaps reflection will come later, but for now, I'm focusing on the days, months, and years ahead.

Holly

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

Editor: [Holly West](#)

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

Contact us at:
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**Join the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group**

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

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<http://mysterywriters.org>

FRESHBLOOD

SoCalMWA welcomes its new members

Christa Lewis

OVER the TRANSOM

THE SECOND GOODBYE, the third novel in **Patricia Smiley's** LAPD detective series, is now an audiobook, narrated by actor and award-winning novelist **Harley Jane Kozak**. It's available online, including audible.com and amazon.com.

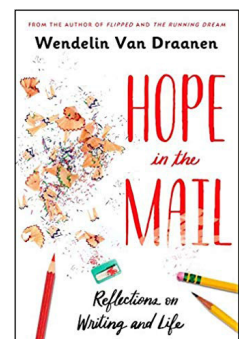
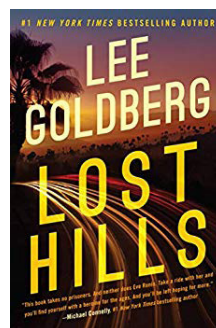
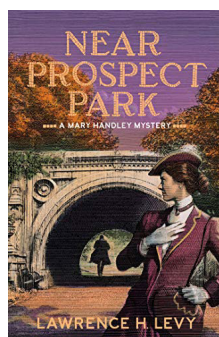
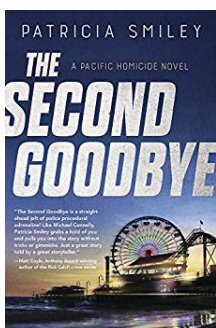
NY Times bestseller **Jonathan Maberry's** new show, *V-Wars* has debuted at #1 on Netflix (in the States and in 197 global markets). It's based on his series of books and comics and stars Ian Somerhalder (*Vampire Diaries*, *Lost*). The series deals with the outbreak of a genetic disorder that turns a percentage of the population into vampires.

Andrew Neiderman, who has ghostwritten V.C. Andrews for over thirty-two years, has contracted via the estate of V.C. Andrews with Gallery Books for four additional novels to follow the four to be published 2020 and 2021. Lifetime is developing more V.C. Andrews films for 2020. Neiderman is a consulting producer. Two of the three novels in 2020 complete the Attic series: OUT OF THE ATTIC and SHADOWS OF FOXWORTH. The third novel is WHISPERING HEARTS in the fall.

NEAR PROSPECT PARK, **Lawrence H. Levy's** latest in his Mary Handley mystery series, will be published by Random House/Ballantine Books on January 14. Mary's husband is murdered. She enlists Teddy Roosevelt's help as she dives into the kinky world of high society's most elite group. Some members have a propensity toward rape and murder but which ones? *Kirkus*: "A shocking #MeToo story... a fine mystery that takes on a problem still making headlines." *Publishers Weekly*: "Levy does a better job of making a female gumshoe in this era plausible than many of her contemporaries prowling the same turf."

Lee Goldberg's new novel LOST HILLS comes out on January 1 from Thomas & Mercer. [See related appearances.](#)

Wendelin Van Draanen, author of over thirty novels including the eighteen-book Edgar-winning Sammy Keyes mystery series, is excited to announce the publication of her first non-fiction book. HOPE IN THE MAIL, REFLECTIONS ON WRITING AND LIFE (Knopf/Random House) is part memoir, part craft guide, part publishing insight, and is suitable for teen and adult writers.



Member APPEARANCES

Sheila Lowe has been invited to speak at the Hyde Park Library (2205 W. Florence Ave., Los Angeles) on January 11 at 2 p.m. She will talk about handwritings of people in the news, and introduce her new *Beyond the Veil* mystery series. All are welcome.

Matt Coyle will be back out on the road discussing *LOST TOMORROWS*, the sixth novel of the award winning Rick Cahill series at the following venues: January 7, Vroman's in Pasadena. January 8, Chaucer's in Santa Barbara. January 10, Murder by the Book in Houston. January 11, Book People in Austin. January 12 interviewing **Lee Goldberg** at *Mysterious Galaxy* in San Diego. January 15, Book Catapult in San Diego. January 16, Huntington Beach Library. January 24, San Carlos Library in San Diego.

Save the date...on Sunday, February 9, actors will perform **Barbara DeMarco-Barrett's** short stories at the New Short Fiction Series, hosted by Sally Shore, at The Federal in North Hollywood, 5303 Lankershim Blvd. More info at newshortfictionseries.net.

From **Fred Andersen**: *Noir City 18*, a two-week film festival sponsored by the Film Noir Foundation, takes place at San Francisco's Castro Theatre January 25 to February 3. This is the largest film noir festival in the world. Proceeds from the festival support the restoration and recovery of classic crime/cop/PI films, and scholarships for film restoration and preservation students.

Tori Eldridge discusses her debut novel, *THE NINJA DAUGHTER*, an action-packed thriller about a Chinese-Norwegian modern-day ninja with Joy Luck Club family issues who fights the Los Angeles Ukrainian mob, sex traffickers, and her own family to save two desperate women and an innocent child: January 16, 7 p.m., Cerritos Library, 18025 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos and January 18, 2 p.m., Bank of Books, 748 East Main Street, Ventura.

Jeri Westerson will be at the following locations: Tuesday, January 21, 10:30 a.m. —Murrieta Library. Presentation and books for sale, 8 Town Square, Murrieta, CA. Saturday, January 25, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.—Tempe Library FanCon. Jeri will have her own booth with books for sale at the Boonie's Books booth! 3500 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ.

Lee Goldberg will be at the following locations to celebrate the release of *LOST HILLS*: January 11, 12:30 p.m., at Book Carnival in Tustin, 3 p.m. at Mystery Ink in Huntington Beach. See above for interview with **Matt Coyle** on January 12. January 16, 6:30 p.m., Bank of Books in Ventura, in conversation with **Paul Levine**. January 21, 6:30 p.m., the Calabasias Library, in conversation with Emmy Award-winning writer Ken Levine. February 1, at Super Book Weekend at the Queen Mary with **Attica Locke** and 20+ other authors. More info at leegoldberg.com/events.

Wendelin Van Draanen will be appearing at these Central Coast locations in support of *HOPE IN THE MAIL, REFLECTIONS ON WRITING AND LIFE*. Saturday, January 18, 1–3 p.m. Santa Maria Public Library. Sunday, January 19, 1–3 p.m., Barnes & Noble, San Luis Obispo. Wednesday, January 22, 5–7 p.m., Grover Beach Library. Sunday, January 26, 2–3 p.m., The Book Loft, Solvang. Tuesday, January 28, 7–8:30 p.m., Chaucer's, Santa Barbara. Thursday, January 30, 4–7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, Ventura.

Ten Tips for Writing with a Partner

by **Janet Elizabeth Lynn** and **Will Zeilinger**

When my husband I decided to write a 1950s hard-boiled mystery series together, we took a business approach to our projects and set rules of professionalism, respect, and patience. Partnering, well done, is like a ping pong game. Bouncing ideas off of each other helps push through difficult situations in the project/book. The results? A series of five novels and yes...we are still married.

Here are 10 things that work for us:

1. **Character voice styles**—Combining different styles when writing makes for more interesting character dialogue and personality. Value the style each partner brings to the table.
2. **Deadlines**—Set deadlines and stick to them. Deadlines should include: chapters, plot, character development, public relations. Anything pertaining to the health and welfare of the manuscript should have a deadline.
3. **Editing**—The most important goal is to write a good novel. It doesn't matter who wrote what scene. If it doesn't work, don't use it. Both of us have had to give up scenes we bled over to write. If it slows the story down it has to go.
4. **Meetings**—Set regular meetings to discuss deadlines and where the book should be at each point. Be sure to have a beginning and an end time for all meetings. We found editing meetings should last no more than two hours at a time, all other meetings 30–45 minutes.
5. **Organization**—Each meeting needs to have a goal. Agendas are a must to keep the discussions on track. Be sure to keep copies of all meeting agendas and decisions made for future reference.
6. **Support**—Nothing beats having someone for “feel good” needs. But someone will also be needed to pick up the slack when things come to a screeching halt, i.e. when illness or writer's block hits.
7. **Sense of humor**—Laughter decreases anxiety. Remember, we write because we like to write.
8. **Research buddy**—Splitting the research work up and deciding what fits in the story works better with two brains and four eyes.
9. **Goals**—Goals function like a road map. You can't get anywhere in a timely fashion without directions. Set several objectives per goal that lead to your main goal.
10. **Work habits**—It helps to have someone to prod you along when needed. Different work habits and approaches can be complementary. Set specific time in your day to write and follow through each day. We find writing from 6 – 8 a.m. works well for us. It is before our day begins and life hasn't started.

Will Zeilinger and **Janet Elizabeth Lynn** write individually and together. Janet has published seven mystery novels and Will has three, plus a couple of short stories. *GAMETOWN*, published in March 2019, is the final book in their Skylar Drake series. Their world travels have sparked several ideas for murder and crime stories. This creative couple is married and live in Southern California.



**PRIVATE EYE WRITERS OF AMERICA ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS
FOR 2020 SHAMUS AWARDS**

For Works First Published in the U.S. in 2019

Following are the categories for the Private Eye Writers of America 2020 Shamus Awards for private eye novels and short stories first published in the United States in 2019. The awards will be presented in the fall of 2020.

DEADLINE: Submissions must be postmarked by March 31, 2020. No extensions can be given.

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible works must feature as a main character a person PAID for investigative work but NOT employed for that work by a unit of government. These include traditionally licensed private investigators; lawyers and reporters who do their own investigations; and others who function as hired private agents. These do NOT include law enforcement officers, other government employees, or amateur, uncompensated sleuths. Independently published books (Indies) may be submitted to the Best Original Paperback P.I. Novel category.

SUBMISSIONS; Please send one copy of each eligible work to ALL members of the appropriate committee. Do NOT submit a book to more than one committee. If you have any questions, please e-mail [Gay Toldt Kinman](mailto:Gay.Toldt.Kinman).

2020 SHAMUS Awards Committees

BEST HARDCOVER P.I. NOVEL COMMITTEE

Chair: John Wessel, 9506 Park Manor Lane, Unit 302, Blue Ash OH 45242
John Hegenberger, 6487 Ethan Dr., Reynoldsburg OH 43068
Mary Keliikoa, 21000 NW 67th Avenue, Ridgefield WA 98642

BEST FIRST P.I. NOVEL COMMITTEE

Chair: Stephen Rogers, POB 286, Buzzards Bay MA 02532
Michael Pool, 950 Carr St., Lakewood CO 90214
Virginia Welker, 40617 Stetson Ave., Hemet CA 92544

BEST ORIGINAL PAPERBACK P.I. NOVEL

Chair: **Matt Coyle**, 3939 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego CA 92117
Michael Bracken, 1213 South Haven, Hewitt TX 76643
Kristen Lepionka, 73 East Granville Road, Worthington OH 43085

BEST P.I. SHORT STORY COMMITTEE

Chair: Colleen Collins, 2255 Sheridan Blvd., Unit C #293, Edgewater CO 80214
Matt Goldman, 6333 Warren Ave S, Edina MN 55349
Alan Orloff, 11906 Paradise Lane, Herndon VA 2017

Crime CALENDAR

February 16 – [Tam Luncheon, Los Angeles, CA](#)
 March 12–15 – [Left Coast Crime, San Diego, CA](#)
 April 30 – [Edgar Awards, New York, NY](#)
 May 1–3 – [Malice Domestic 32, Bethesda, MD](#)
 July 7–11 – [ThrillerFest, New York, NY](#)
 October 15–18 – [Bouchercon, Sacramento, CA](#)

Stay tuned for more great events in 2020!



*Left Coast Crime
 San Diego
 March 12–15, 2020*

Left Coast Crime is currently accepting registrations (and panel ideas from authors) for its 30th anniversary conference to be held in the Marriott Mission Valley (easy to reach by train, with a trolley stop at the back of hotel).

700 mystery fans and authors will meet and discuss books. Remember the debut author breakfast, author speed dating, and other opportunities to network.

More info at <http://www.leftcoastcrime.org/2020/>.
 Contact Kim.lcc2020@gmail.com with any questions.

The LAST WORD

“Midnight. The word felt like a warning.”

—Attica Locke, HEAVEN, MY HOME