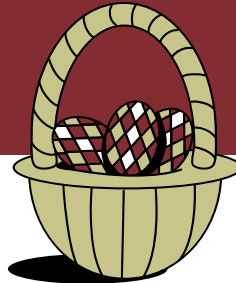
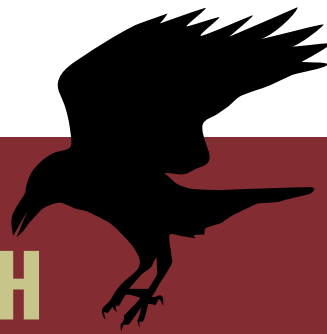


APRIL 2022

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



LA Times Festival of Books

Signing blocks are still available for the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books. All members are welcome. Network with authors, sign books for fans, and talk up Mystery Writers of America to people attending the festival. What better way to get to know your fellow chapter members than by enjoying a warm spring day in Southern California?



The festival is Saturday and Sunday, April 23 and 24 at the USC campus. Booth 363. We have one-hour signing blocks each day starting at 10 a.m. with the last block at 4 p.m. If you would like to volunteer to be one of our reps in the booth and sign your books, please email Terri Nolan at terrinolanauthor@gmail.com.

We will be sharing our booth with Mystery Ink. To make things easier for the bookseller, Terri will be compiling your book information. When submitting a request for booth time, please provide the following information for your latest title and up to 4 backlist titles:

- Author
- Title
- ISBN
- Retail Price
- Publisher

If self-published:

- Author
- Title
- Retail Price (no discounts)
- Consignment program is 60/40. Please arrive early to deliver books to the bookseller.

We look forward to seeing you in April!

What's inside

[LATFOB Booth Sign-ups p. 1](#)

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

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

[New Business p. 4](#)

[Over the Transom p. 5](#)

[Appearances & Events p. 6](#)

[Tucson Festival of Books p. 7](#)

[Crime Calendar p. 8](#)

[The Last Word p. 8](#)



PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET



A Busy April

BY TRAVIS RICHARDSON

March was a busy month for SoCalMWA. We had weekly writing sprints on Wednesdays, hosted by **Holly West** and **Sarah M. Chen**. Mike Spencer talked and answered questions about being a PI. Five cozy writers read from their works and **Ona Russell** interviewed them.

This month there is the Left Coast Crime in Albuquerque April 6–10, *LA Times* Festival of Books on April 23–24, the Edgar Awards on April 28, and on April 26 at 7 p.m., Dr. Andrea Letamendi, a psychologist at UCLA will discuss the key factors of a character, looking at issues like the kind of burdens a writer can give a character to get specific outcomes, and what is the threshold of trauma you can give characters.

She has consulted for comic book authors and studios and co-hosts a podcast that does deep dives into the psychology of Batman and other heroes and villains in the DC and Marvel universes. If you have any questions you would like to ask ahead of time you can send me an email at president@socalmwa.com. You can find out more at DrDreaPsychology.com. A link to the talk will be posted shortly.

We are hoping that in May in we can return to in-person events assuming COVID doesn't throw us another curveball. Our hard-working Vice President, **Jennifer Younger**, is looking at having a fun event at the Tam O'Shanter. Let's hope Omicron BA.2 and every cursed variant can stay away.

Also, would any members want to try a late-night sprint? Let me know at president@socalmwa.com as I am usually busy entertaining a 6-year-old daughter and a 5-month-old puppy after work until 9 pm. There is something invigorating about dedicating 25–45 minutes to writing and knowing that your colleagues are working at the same time. The work Holly and Sarah have done so far on Wednesdays has been great and I'd love to expand it to a night owl edition if anybody is interested.

That's it for now. Take care, stay safe, and keep writing!

Travis

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Travis Richardson

VICE PRESIDENT
Jennifer Younger

TREASURER
Sarah M. Chen

SECRETARY
TBA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fred Andersen
Edward Arno
Gay Tolt Kinman
Leslie S. Klinger
Terri Nolan
Gary Phillips
Ona Russell
Nancy Cole Silverman

PRESIDENT EMERITUS
Jessica Kaye

Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter

c/o Jessica Kaye
8840 Wilshire Blvd.
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

Contact: info@socalmwa.com
Website: http://socalmwa.com
Twitter: @socalmwa
Facebook: Like us



Next Stop, Albuquerque

BY HOLLY WEST



As I write this, March isn't quite over, but I can report that the Writing Sprint Wednesdays **Sarah M. Chen** and I hosted this month went really well. If you missed them this time around, no worries, we'll definitely be doing it again, probably in June and/or July. On a related note, you'll see Travis put out a call for those interested in doing sprints later in the evening. If the timing works for you, I encourage you to take part.

This month, I'll be traveling to Albuquerque for Left Coast Crime. I hope to see many of you there! I can't be the only one who feels a little bit of anxiety about attending a large event. It's been two years since I've been to a conference and I'm feeling a little bit rusty. I'm not always good at pacing myself, but I think I'll have to this time around.



With that said, I'm looking forward to the conference immensely. I'll be making a few appearances, including a volunteer stint at the registration table, an author connect on Friday, and a panel on Saturday. It'll be good to get back in the game!

Thanks as always to everyone who sent content for this month's newsletter. I always love hearing your news and seeing your photos.

Holly

The March of Crime

The March of Crime is the newsletter of the Southern 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:
themarchofcrime@gmail.com

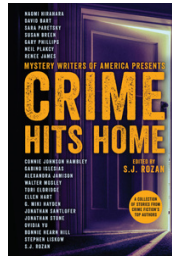
Join the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group

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

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



MWA ANTHOLOGY



CRIME HITS HOME

Edited by SJ Rozan, the newest anthology from Mystery Writers of America explores the theme of home and the crimes that endanger it, with stories by **Tori Eldridge, Naomi Hirahara, A.P. Jamison, Gary Phillips, Bonnie Hearn Hill**, and many more.

In this volume, MWA brings together some of today's biggest crime writers—and some of our most exciting new talents—to consider this question. Each writer has defined home as they see fit: a place, a group, a feeling. The crime can come from without or within. What happens when crime hits home?

Out from Hanover Square Press on April 19.

LEFT COAST CRIME WELCOME RECEPTION

APRIL 7, 6:30 PM MT

SoCalMWA will co-sponsor the Left Coast Crime Welcome Reception with MWA Northern California on Thursday, April 7 from 6:30–7:30 pm MT in Albuquerque, NM. We hope to see you there!

2022 EDGAR AWARDS BANQUET

APRIL 28, 6:30 P.M. ET

The banquet will be on Thursday, April 28. The evening will begin at 6:30 pm with the main reception/dinner/program (5th Floor Ballroom). Anyone may attend the banquet, as long as they have purchased a ticket.

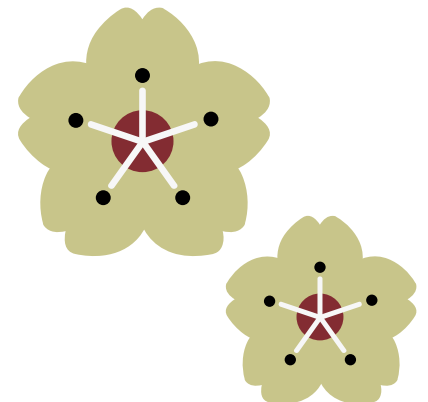
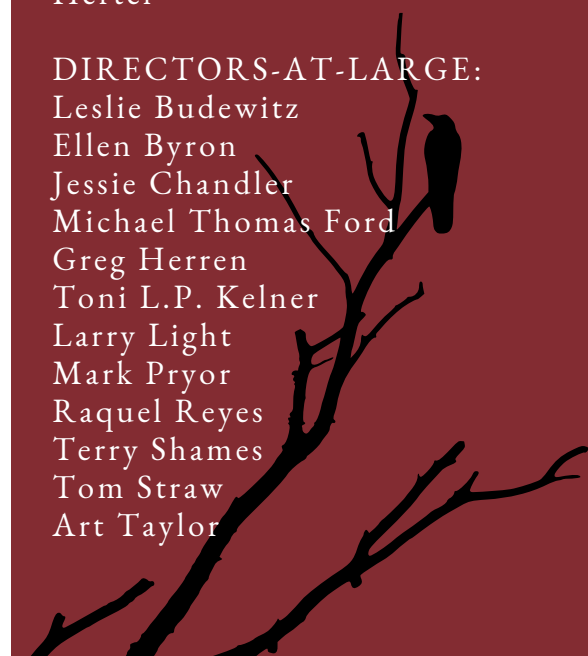
More info and buy tickets: <https://mysterywriters.org/store-2/products/saedgarsbanquet/>

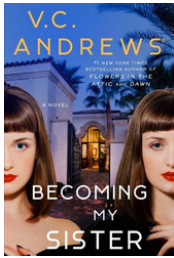
MWA National Board of Directors

PRESIDENT: Alafair Burke
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT: Greg Herren
SECRETARY: Terry Shames
TREASURER: Larry Light
PARLIAMENTARIAN: Ted Hertel

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE:

Leslie Budewitz
Ellen Byron
Jessie Chandler
Michael Thomas Ford
Greg Herren
Toni L.P. Kelner
Larry Light
Mark Pryor
Raquel Reyes
Terry Shames
Tom Straw
Art Taylor





BECOMING MY SISTER, by **Andrew Neiderman** (writing as V.C. Andrews) was released on March 15. The disappearance of a teenage girl in Palm Springs leads to an unexpected, ghostlike ending.



The audiobook of **Martin Roy Hill's** latest thriller, **CHIMERA ISLAND**, was released in March. The sci-fi/horror mystery about a specialized U.S. Coast Guard team sent to investigate mysterious disappearances from a legendary Pacific island was narrated by Tim Danko.



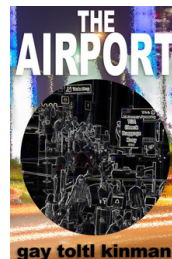
Connie di Marco's fourth book in the Zodiac Mysteries, **SERPENT'S DOOM**, will release on April 26 from Suspense Publishing. Astrologer Julia Bonatti's effort to help a child client whose mother is missing make her the target of a smuggling cabal.



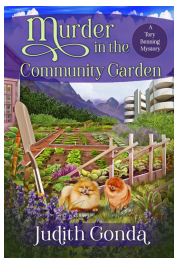
SIMMERING WITH RESENTMENT, the 11th Cookbook Nook Mystery from **Daryl Wood Gerber**. Coming out April 26. A killer's explosive vengeance may lead to Jenna Hart's happily never after. Now available for pre-order.



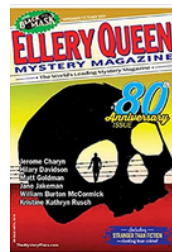
Andrew Kaplan's novel, **BLUE MADAGASCAR** has been selected as a finalist for the 2022 International Thriller Writers Association Thriller Award in the Best E-Book Original Novel category. The winner will be announced at the Thrillerfest XVII Awards Dinner on June 4 at the Sheraton Times Square Hotel in NYC.



Gay Tolti Kinman has three new stories on Kindle. In "Airport," Celeste assumes another person's identity—sometimes for good, and sometimes, not. In "Departures," as bullets fly, Sonja remembers a strange occurrence during a visit to Lido. In "Arrivals," Sybil witnesses a shooting and hopes no one learns she was a witness. All three are part of the Shooter Short Mystery series.



MURDER IN THE COMMUNITY GARDEN by **Judith Gonda**, the third book in the landscape architect Tory Benning Mystery Series, releases on May 10 and is available for pre-order. Tory finds herself tangled in more than a garden plot when a friend is accused of murdering someone in a community garden Tory designed.



William Burton McCormick's story "Demon in the Depths" from the 2021 September/October issue of *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* was nominated for a Thriller Award from International Thriller writers. Winners will be announced on June 4.



Mike Befeler's **OLD DETECTIVE'S HOME** will be published in April by Encircle Publications. In this light-hearted spoof of the mystery genre, the top detectives of all time—Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot, Dash Hammet, Dot Sayers, et al, reunite to solve their most difficult whodunit.



APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Connie di Marco's panel at Left Coast Crime—Amateur Hour, When Bad **** Finds Your Protagonist—is on Thursday, April 7 at 2:30 p.m. with Ana Manwaring, Glenda Carroll, Peggy Rothschild, and Linda Sands.

Andrew Kaplan will present a workshop on "The Six Elements of Great, Blockbuster Fiction" for the Palm Springs Writers Guild on Saturday, April 2, 1–3 pm at the Cathedral City Public Library.

Paula Bernstein, current president of the LA chapter of Sisters in Crime, will appear on the "I Am What I Write: Real Life as Fiction" panel at Left Coast Crime in Albuquerque, NM (Thursday, April 7, 1:15 p.m.). Paula, like the heroine of her Hannah Kline series, spent her professional life as an OB-GYN practicing in Los Angeles, and uses her medical background to enrich her novels.



Karen Odden is delighted to be featured on Sisters in Crime's podcast series, hosted by Julie Hennrikus. Listen for free as she dishes about her writing journey complete with rejections, being orphaned, and what she's most grateful for.

Rob Ossler appeared at Rediscovered Books in Boise, Idaho to discuss his recently released book, *DEVIL'S CHEW TOY*. His conversation partner (left, below) was bookseller and drag king Frederick Royalle, who is a leader in Boise's LGBTQ+ community.



Ellen Byron is thrilled to be attending both the Left Coast Crime and Malice Conventions. At Left Coast, look for her on the Lefty Humorous Nominees and Liars panels. She'll also moderate Sunday's Guest of Honor closing panel. At Malice, you'll find her with fellow Agatha nominees on the Best Contemporary Novel panel.

Tom Sawyer, showrunner and writer for "Murder, She Wrote," was interviewed recently about writing a TV series by Nina Metz for the *Chicago Tribune*. Read the story [here](#).



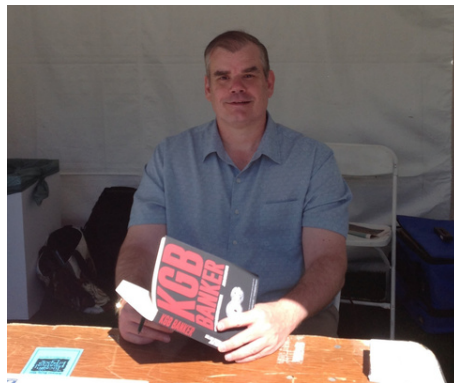


TUCSON FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

SoCalMWA at the Tucson Festival of Books. Many thanks to **Fred Andersen** for organizing our booth at the event. Photos submitted by **Bill McCormick**, **Shannon Baker**, and **Sheila Lowe**.



L-R: Gigi Pandian, Rachel Howzell Hall, Shannon Baker, Jess Lourey



Bill McCormick



L-R: Elizabeth George, Diane Fausett, Shannon Baker, Jess Lourey, Tricia Clapp



Gary Phillips and Sheila Lowe

CRIME CALENDER



More dates will be added as info becomes available.

APRIL 7–10: Left Coast Crime, Albuquerque, NM

APRIL 22–24: Malice Domestic, Bethesda, MD

APRIL 23–24: LA Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles, CA

APRIL 28: Edgar® Awards Ceremony, New York, NY

MAY 31–JUNE 4: Thrillerfest, New York, NY

SEPTEMBER 8–11: Bouchercon, Minneapolis, MN

If you know of an event that belongs on the Crime Calendar, email themarchofcrime@gmail.com with the info.

THE LAST WORD



"I admire women who do not care if they look foolish in front of others, even though I am not one of them."

LOVE & SAFFRON by Kim Fay