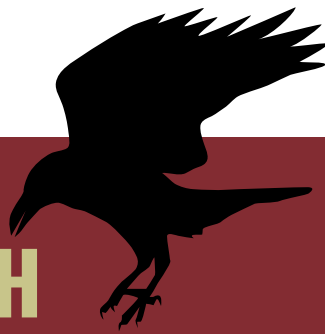


APRIL 2023

# THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



## SoCalMWA Accolades

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

There are several SoCalMWA members nominated for, or winners of, prestigious awards in our genre:

**LEFT COAST CRIME LEFTY AWARDS** (winners announced on March 18):

**Toastmaster:** Ellen Byron

—**Best Humorous Mystery Novel**

*Bayou Book Thief*, **Ellen Byron** (Berkley Prime Crime) **WINNER**  
*Death by Bubble Tea*, **Jennifer J. Chow** (Berkeley Prime Crime)

—**Best Historical Mystery Novel**

*Under a Veiled Moon*, **Karen Odden**, (Crooked Lane Books)

—**Best Debut Mystery**

*Devil's Chew Toy*, **Rob Osler** (Crooked Lane Books)

**EDGAR AWARD NOMINEES** (winners will be announced on April 27):

**Grandmasters:** Joanne Fluke and Michael Connelly

—**Best Critical/Biographical**

*The Woman Beyond the Attic: The V.C. Andrews Story*, **Andrew Neiderman**  
(Simon & Schuster – Gallery Books)

—**Best Short Story**

“Locked-In,” *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, **William Burton McCormick** (Dell Magazines)

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## Fabulous Fifty?

BY TRAVIS RICHARDSON



Dear Members,

There's a saying that you're only as old as you feel. I celebrated a milestone birthday at the end of March. My family went up to an Air BnB in Big Bear for a few days to enjoy the historic snow that the atmospheric rivers dumped up there. I went to bed with a lousy pillow and woke up nine hours later at age fifty with a near-debilitating pain in the neck. The pain was so bad that I couldn't lift my head to get out of bed. I needed to roll out and bend at the knees to get up. Back in LA, I've had a massage and I'm wearing Salonpas patches. Now I'm feeling 85% normal with slight pain when I turn my head. While people say age is just a number, my body made this particular odometer flip memorable...and not in a good way.



On a happier note, congratulations to all of our members who are celebrating industry honors this season. We are a talented chapter!

Last month **Ona Russell** had a wonderful interview with Kellye Garrett, Nita Prose, and **Michael Connelly**. If missed it, don't worry, we recorded it and you can watch it [here](#). Also, this month SoCalMWA will have a booth (#363) at the [Los Angeles Times Festival of Books](#) on April 22-23. We sent out a message regarding signing spots at the booth, but if you didn't get it, check out [page four](#) for sign-up details.

That's it for now. I'm wishing all of you a good bounce in spring, and I hope you all have good pillows to sleep on.

Travis

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Travis Richardson

VICE PRESIDENT  
Ona Russell

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## Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter

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

Contact: [info@socalmwa.com](mailto:info@socalmwa.com)  
Website: <http://socalmwa.com>  
Twitter: [@socalmwa](#)  
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## Spring Cleaning

BY HOLLY WEST



Spring is finally here! Although the weather in my neck of the woods does not seem to have gotten that message. As I write this, it's cold and rainy and will be for the foreseeable future.

Nevertheless, spring is a traditional time for tidying, so I thought I'd mention a few newsletter reminders/tips in this month's column.

First up, the best way to contact me for newsletter submissions is [themarchofcrime@gmail.com](mailto:themarchofcrime@gmail.com). Many of you have my personal email address, and while I love corresponding with you there about things other than this newsletter, if you send me an announcement to my personal email, there is a chance it won't make it into the newsletter.



Second, please don't add "The March of Crime" email address to your own newsletter mailing list without permission. All announcements need to be sent according to the instructions in the "Call for Content" emails I send each month.

Finally, go ahead and send your content even if you've missed the deadline. I can't guarantee it will make it into that month's newsletter, but usually, I can work it in. Just try not to make a habit of it. :-)

As you can see, our little house didn't need a whole lot of cleanup! I appreciate each one of you and hope you have a wonderful spring season.

Holly

## The March of Crime

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

Join the SoCalMWA  
Discussion Group

[groups.io/g/MWA-SOCAL](https://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](mailto:mwa@mysterywriters.org)  
<http://mysterywriters.org>

## LA TIMES FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

### BOOTH SIGN-UPS OPEN NOW

Signing blocks are now available for the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books. All members are welcome. Network with authors. 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 spring day in Southern California?

The festival is Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23, 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](mailto: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)
- The consignment program is 60/40. Please arrive early to deliver books to the bookseller.

We look forward to seeing you in April!

# California Crime Writers Conference

## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

The California Crime Writers Conference is a joint production of the Sisters in Crime/Los Angeles and SoCalMWA and has been presented every other year since 2009.

The 2023 conference will take place Saturday, June 10–Sunday, June 11.

## GUESTS OF HONOR

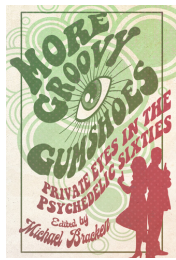


Rachel Howzell Hall



Deborah Crombie

# OVER THE TRANSOM



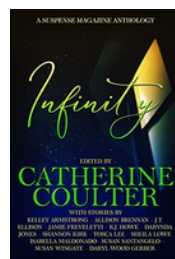
Gay Toltl Kinman's short story "From Poodles to Pants" appears in *More Groovy Gunshoes*, edited by Michael Bracken (Down & Out Books, April 2023).



DP Lyle's *Cultured*, his sixth book featuring Jake Longly, is coming on May 2 from Oceanview Publishing.



*The Devil and Daniela Webster* is a new novella from Laurie Stevens and a fantasy featuring motherly advice from the devil. "A fiendishly delightful romp!"



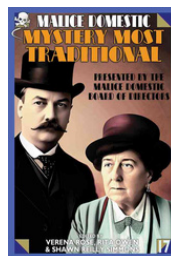
Sheila Lowe's short story, "Poniatowa" appears in *Infinity: A Suspense Magazine Anthology*, edited by Catherine Coulter. Also, Sheila's memoir, *Growing from the Ashes: Learning From My Daughter's Murder About Life After Earth*, is set for release on April 4.



Betty Webb's new series debuts April 4 with *Lost in Paris*, a jazz-age mystery starring Zoe Barlow, an ex-debutante exiled from her Alabama plantation for loving the wrong man. Set in the Paris of 1922, Zoe, now a respected artist, helps her friend Hadley Hemingway search for Ernest's stolen manuscript. When the bodies begin to pile up, Zoe suspects that Ernest's unpublished novel contains a truth so dangerous someone is willing to commit multiple murders to keep it forever "lost."



Iris Yamashita's debut novel, *City Under One Roof*, won an Earphones Award from AudioFile® for the audiobook version narrated by Aspen Vincent, Shannon Tyo and Anna Caputo.



Jennifer J. Chow's short story "The Fall of the Tech Titan" will be published in the upcoming Malice Domestic anthology, *Mystery Most Traditional*.

Craig Faustus Buck's cold war noir story "Scorching the Back Seat," which takes place in 1960 Berlin just before the wall went up, was selected to be produced as a live audio presentation with original music in a series called *Mysteries to Die For*, which will also be anthologized. Listen to it [here](#).

Terry Shames is pleased to announce two new contracts with Severn House, one for the eleventh in the Samuel Craddock series, tentatively entitled *The Curious Death of Maddy Benson*. The other is for *Perilous Waters*, the first in a new series featuring Jessie Madison, a member of the FBI Dive Team.

"No Roof but Sky: Roberts Mountains, Nevada," a poem from Susan Cummins Miller's chapbook, *Making Silent Stones Sing*, has been named a finalist for the 2023 Spur Award in Poetry.



# APPEARANCES & EVENTS



**Jeri Westerson** will appear at the following locations in April: Sunday, April 2, 2–4 p.m.—Reading from *Courting Dragons* at the SinC/LA meeting, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Los Angeles. Thursday, April 6 (re-scheduled from last month), 2 p.m.—Ridge Writers of Ridgecrest "Meet the Author." Discussion of *Oswald the Thief*, plus tea and scones. Same day, 7–8 p.m.—presentation: "Historical Mystery to Modern Marketing" with books for sale at the Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church, 633 W. Las Flores, Ave, Ridgecrest. Saturday, April 15, 8:15 a.m. PT—Mavens of Mayhem, the Upper Hudson Valley Sisters in Crime Chapter Zoom presentation "From Historical Mystery to Modern Marketing" and other publishing topics. [Register here](#) to receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

**Connie Di Marco** will be at Malice Domestic, taking part in a panel entitled "Scene of the Crime: Setting as Character" on April 29.

In April, **Donis Casey's** "Tell Me Your Story" column features **Will Thomas**, author of a Victorian mystery series featuring Cyrus Barker, a Scottish detective or "private enquiry agent," and his Welsh assistant, Thomas Llewelyn. His first novel, *Some Danger Involved*, was nominated for a Barry Award and a Shamus Award and won the 2005 Oklahoma Book Award. Read Will's story beginning on April 20 at [DonisCasey.com](http://DonisCasey.com).

**Laurie Stevens** joins authors Steve Lopez and Sandra Tsing Loh at the annual authors' luncheon on April 1 benefiting the Assistance League of the San Fernando Valley.

On April 28, **Terry Shames** will be inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters, a distinguished honor society established in 1936 to celebrate Texas literature and recognize distinctive literary achievement. Among the members are Cormac McCarthy, Larry McMurtry, and Joe Lansdale.

## Mystery Ink March 2023 Events: (7552 Warner Avenue #101, Huntington Beach)

Saturday & Sunday, April 22–23, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.: *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books. USC Campus. Admission is free.

Sunday, April 30, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.: [Anaheim Library Foundation 26th Annual Mystery Authors Luncheon & Silent Auction](#). Featured Authors: **David Putnam**, George Fong, **Rachel Howzell Hall**, and **Sheila Lowe**. Sheraton Park Hotel, 1855 S. Harbor Blvd., Anaheim.

On Saturday, May 6, 2 p.m., Paula Bernstein will moderate "Not Quite Silenced Voices" at LitFest in Altadena. The panelists are Julia Bricklin, **Jeri Westerson**, **Naomi Hirahara**, and **Tori Eldridge**. The festival's theme is "Books that Changed the World." Located at Mountain View Mausoleum, 2300 N. Marengo Ave., Altadena. Admission and parking are free. More info [here](#).

**Sheila Lowe** has been invited to moderate a panel at the Anaheim Library Foundation Mystery Authors Luncheon on April 30. Other panelists will be **Rachel Howzell Hall**, George Fong, and **David Putnam**. The last time Sheila participated at this luncheon, the winning bid in the live auction for a character name in her book, *Written Off*, was \$500.

**Jennifer J. Chow** will appear on the panel "Simply The Best: Our Agatha Best Contemporary Novel Nominees" on Friday, April 28, at 4 p.m. ET at Malice Domestic.



# APPEARANCES & EVENTS



## Left Coast Crime, Tucson



L-R: Lee Matthew Goldberg, **Matt Witten**, Lee Goldberg



LCC Toastmaster **Ellen Byron** and **Lee Goldberg**



Guest of Honor panel, moderated by **Lee Goldberg**. Top, L-R: **Dru Ann Love**, **J.A. Jance**, **Lee Goldberg**. Bottom, L-R: **Glen Erik Hamilton**, **Sujata Massey**, **Ellen Byron**



**Rob Osler** and **Matt Witten** at Author Speed Dating.



**Karen Odden** (Best Historical) and **Rob Osler** (Best Debut) show off their Lefty nomination certificates.



Chicks on the Case bloggers (L-R) **Ellen Byron**, **Lisa Q. Mathews**, **Jennifer J. Chow**



L-R: **Stephen Beuhler**, **Curtis Ippolito**, **Sarah M. Chen**, **Holly West**



## Left Coast Crime, Tucson



"The Accidental Detective" panel. L-R: **Corey Lynn Fayman**, Susanna Calkins, **Susan Cummins Miller**, Iona Whishaw



"Joys & Challenges of Producing an Anthology" panel. L-R: **Kim Keeline**, **Holly West**, Elizabeth Crowens, **Sarah M. Chen**, **Mysti Berry**

## Tucson Festival of Books



**Fred Andersen** at the SoCalMWA booth at the Tucson Festival of Books.





## SoCalMWA Award Winners & Nominees

CONTINUED FROM [PAGE 1](#)

**EDGAR AWARD NOMINEES (winners will be announced on April 27):**

**—Best Juvenile**

*The Area 51 Files* by **Julie Buxbaum** (Random House Children’s Books – Delacorte Press)

**—The Lilian Jackson Braun Memorial Award**

*Desert Getaway* by **Michael Craft** (Brash Books)

**AGATHA AWARD NOMINEES (winners will be announced on April 29)**

**—Best Contemporary Novel**

*Bayou Book Thief* by **Ellen Byron** (Berkeley Prime Crime)

*Death by Bubble Tea* by **Jennifer J. Chow** (Berkeley)

**—Best Historical Novel**

*Under a Veiled Moon* by **Karen Odden** (Crooked Lane Books)

**—Best First Novel**

*Devil’s Chew Toy* by **Rob Osler** (Crooked Lane Books)



# CRIME CALENDER



April 22–23: LA Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles, CA

April 27: 77th Annual Edgar® Awards, New York, NY

April 28–30: Malice Domestic, Bethesda, MD

May 30–June 3: Thrillerfest XVIII, New York, NY

June 10–11: California Crime Writers Conference, Los Angeles, CA

August 30–September 3: Bouchercon, San Diego, CA

If you know of an event that belongs on the Crime Calendar, email [themarchofcrime@gmail.com](mailto:themarchofcrime@gmail.com) with the info.

# THE LAST WORD



"Amy Lin stared at Officer Neworth and his receded-to-an-island hairline and decided that he was not someone who could be trusted."

CITY UNDER ONE ROOF  
by Iris Yamashita