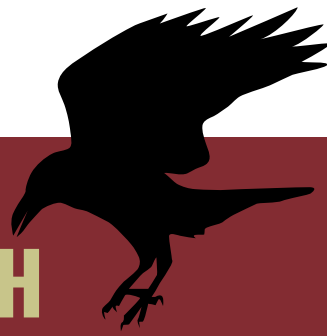


MAY 2023

# THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



## LA Times Festival of Books

SoCalMWA BOOTH



Gay Toltl Kinman and Marco Carocari



L-R: David Unger, PhD, Janet Lynn, Will Zeilinger



L-R: Tori Eldridge, Sherri Leigh James, Mike Befeler

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# PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET



## May Update

BY TRAVIS RICHARDSON



Dear Members,

I hope all of you are healthy and well. May is here and it looks as if the wet weather is behind us. Last month we had the *LA Times* Festival of Books and The Edgars. The festival was packed as usual (an estimated 150,000 attend each year), which was especially apparent if you got in line for lunch at a food truck. I want to thank **Terri Nolan** for organizing all of our members for signing, and Debbie Mitsch for supplying and selling the books. Congratulations to **Rachel Howzell Hall** on being a finalist in the *LA Times* Book Prize in the Mystery/Thriller category.



My daughter pushing SoCalMWA supplies at the festival's end

And now some bad news. Our website went down on April 20. It seems the crash was related to a bad plug-in. With some help from our web host, I was able to bring it back up, but it is the shadow of its former self. We're going to be working on getting the website back up again. Let's hope it comes together sooner than later.

We don't have any program this month as we are preparing for the California Crime Writer's Conference on June 10 and 11. Space is still available.

Hoping to see you in June.

Travis

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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>  
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## Tales of a Chronic Re-Reader



BY HOLLY WEST

I've been a re-reader of books my entire life. I was a depressed kid, and back then, there weren't a lot of resources available for children like me. Thankfully, I had books. I used my favorite books to self-soothe, which included titles by Judy Blume, Lois Duncan, Betty MacDonald, Astrid Lindgren, Paula Danziger, Naomi Klein, Richard Peck, and many more.

I don't often re-read adult books, but to this day, I'll re-read my childhood favorites because they still have the power to calm my tumultuous mind. And my number one choice in times of strife is the same now as it was then. Judy Blume's *Are You There God? It's me, Margaret*. I'm not sure how many times I've read it but I'll throw out thirty as a conservative number.



Yesterday, I saw the film adaptation of *Are You There God? It's me, Margaret*, with my best friend of forty-five years. She, too, has a history with the book, though it's perhaps less obsessive than mine is. Afterward, we discussed what this and other Judy Blume books had taught us about sex, puberty, and growing up. I've known this woman since I was nine years old, and I learned things about her yesterday that I never knew. That was precious to me. *Are You There God, It's Me, Margaret*: the gift that keeps on giving.

I can't tell you whether the movie is good or not. I know it too intimately to judge it objectively. Having been forged over the course of over forty years, my perception of the characters and setting is far too vivid for me to accept anybody else's vision. But it was a faithful adaptation and a joy to watch, simply because I love the book so much.

What about you? Do you re-read books? What are your favorites?

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)

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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>

## Fresh Blood



### G.T. Karber

G. T. Karber grew up in a small town in Arkansas, the son of a judge and a civil rights attorney. He graduated summa cum laude from the University of Arkansas with a degree in literature and mathematics, and he received an MFA from the University of Southern California. As General Secretary of the Hollywood Mystery Society, he has overseen more than thirty immersive whodunits in the LA area, including the ongoing Murder at Tara's. He created [Murdle.com](http://Murdle.com), a daily online murder-mystery puzzle. *Murdle: Volume 1*, a collection of brand-new puzzles, is coming from St. Martin's Griffin this June.

# 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

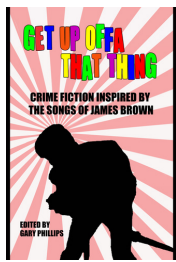


Rachel Howzell Hall



Deborah Crombie





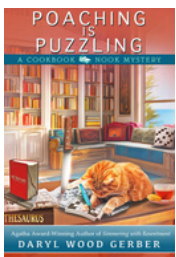
*Get Up Offa That Thing: Crime Fiction Inspired by the Songs of James Brown* drops in May from Down & Out Books, edited by **Gary Phillips**. Entertainer extraordinaire, deadbeat dad, and convicted spousal abuser, James Brown was all those things and more, and these stories reflect that. Contributors include Gar Anthony Haywood, Lise McClendon, Jim Fusilli, and Mysti Berry.



**Marjorie McCown's** *Final Cut*, a murder mystery set behind-the-scenes of a big budget Hollywood movie in production is being published June 6 by Crooked Lane Books. Marjorie, who worked in feature films for twenty-seven years, hopes the book gives readers an insider's perspective about what it's like to work on a big movie.



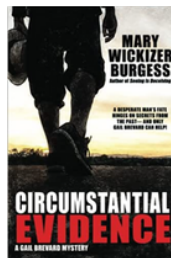
**Andrew Neiderman's** *The Devil's Advocate* has been relicensed for publication in Poland. Coincidentally, he, his co-writer Julian Woolford and composer Richard John are completing the negotiations for the opening of the stage musical of the book in Poland, October 2024.



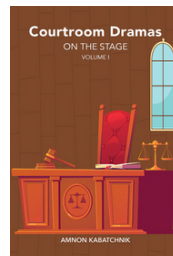
*Poaching is Puzzling*, the 12th book in the Cookbook Nook Mysteries by **Daryl Wood Gerber**, debuted April 25. In the cutthroat world of crossword solvers, Jenna Hart will have to decipher some puzzling clues to catch a killer. From Beyond the Page publishing.



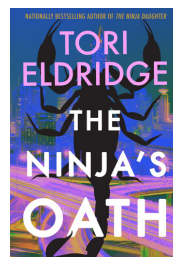
The fourth installment in **D.J. Adamson's** Lillian Dove mystery series released on March 30 and finds Lillian Dove pulled into a web of deception and lies by those seeking justice and those suspected of murder.



**Mary Wickizer Burgess's** latest book, *Circumstantial Evidence: A Gail Brevard Mystery* (Wildside Press). After Murray McDonald collapses in the Phillips cottage and Aunt Phillips and niece Becky nurse him to health, he stays on as a hired hand. Things take a dark turn when he's arrested and held as a person of interest.



Following *Sherlock Holmes on the Stage* and his seven-volume series *Blood on the Stage*, **Amnon Kabatchnik** presents *Courtroom Dramas on the Stage Volume 1*, analyzing over fifty trial plays produced in Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, the Middle Ages, the Elizabethan era, early America, etc.



Cover reveal: **Tori Eldridge's** 4th Lily Wong thriller, *The Ninja's Oath*, coming September 12, 2023 from Agora Books in a hardback release. Read the opening chapter and book jacket summary on [BOLOBooks](https://BOLOBooks.com) or visit [ToriEldridge.com](https://ToriEldridge.com).



The private eye mystery "Magic Coffin" by **Peter DiChellis** appears in *Guilty: Crime Story Magazine*, Issue 8 (Detective Annual, Spring 2023).

**Patrick Ross** is now repped by Adam Chromy of Movable Type Management. Patrick's *WHAT THE DRONE SAW*, a mystery set in San Diego's Pacific Beach in which Lucas Olson's uploading of a drone video to social media puts him in the crosshairs of wealthy titans and the CIA pursuing reality-changing technology, is out on submission.

**Rob Osler**, author of *The Devil's Chew Toy*, has sold *The Case of the Missing Maid*, the first in a new historical mystery series set in Chicago during America's Progressive Era, featuring a queer female detective, to John Scognamiglio at Kensington, by Stephany Evans at Ayesha Pande Literary (world).

# APPEARANCES & EVENTS



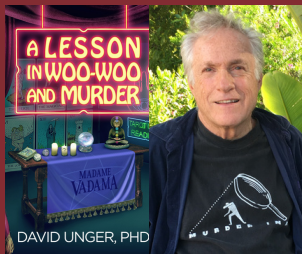
**Andrew Kaplan's** new online video masterclass screenwriting course, "The Visual Approach to Screenwriting and Dramatic Storytelling," is now available on [Udemy.com](https://www.udemy.com). The comprehensive course, which may be of particular interest to writers seeking to adapt their work for the screen or TV is available for SoCalMWA members with free preview lessons via this [link](#).

**Jeri Westerson** will appear at [LitFest in the Dena](#) May 6–7. Attend panel discussions from authors and attend workshops. For authors and readers. Jeri's panel, "Not Quite Silenced Voices," is on Saturday, May 6 at 2 p.m. Mountain View Mausoleum, 2300 N. Marengo Ave., Altadena.

The release of **Sheila Lowe's** new memoir, *Growing From the Ashes*, netted her an invitation to speak via zoom on May 14 to the Australia-based "Global Gathering," a group that discusses all things Afterlife. The book, in which a forensic handwriting expert learns about the Afterlife from the murder of her daughter, details the part Sheila's mystery writing career played in her path from a strict religious cult to freedom.



David Unger, PhD, will be waxing about *A Lesson in Woo-Woo and Murder* on May 25, 12–2 p.m., at the Huntington Beach Library. Talk/Book Signing/Lunch. According to the Midwest Book Review, "Mystery readers are in for a treat."



In May, **Donis Casey's** "Tell Me Your Story" column features [Margaret C. Morse](#), author of mystery, suspense, and urban fantasy novels and stories living in Phoenix, Arizona. Before retiring, Margaret worked as an attorney for the Maricopa County (Arizona) Public Defender's Office, handling adult and juvenile court cases. Margaret used her experience to create her protagonist, lawyer Petra Rakowitz, who turns into a witch during her first murder case. Read Margaret's story beginning on May 20 at [DonisCasey.com](https://www.doniscasey.com).

**Laurie Stevens** is interviewed by [The Reading Nook](#) and [The Blackbird Writers](#) to discuss switching genres (suspense to humor!) Both interviews go live the first week of May.

Mike Befeler will give a presentation titled "Lessons Learned as an Author" to the Southwestern Manuscripters on Saturday, June 3 from 2–4 p.m. at the Palos Verdes Library Community Room, 701 Silver Spur Road, Palos Verdes.





## SoCalMWA Out & About



On April 16, Mara Purl, **Lida Sideris**, Anne Allen, and **Tony Piazza** appeared at Coalesce Bookstore in Morro Bay at an event that dramatized each other's works. In true radio show-type fashion, they acted out scenes from their stories to the audience's amusement.



**Daryl Wood Gerber** and **Ellen Byron** appeared at a book signing at Mysterious Galaxy in San Diego. Autographed books may be purchased from the bookstore.



**Lee Goldberg** and LA crime author **Lucinda Berry** at Readers Take Denver 2023.



**Lee Goldberg** and **Rachel Howzell Hall** were among the many authors at Readers Take Denver 2023 in early April. (L-R: Rachel Howzell Hall, Lee Goldberg, Melinda Leigh, Isabella Maldonado, Jess Lourey, Yasmin Angoe)

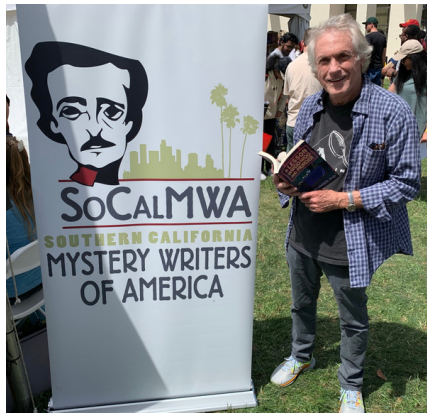




## LA Times Festival of Books



L-R: Tod Goldberg, Matt Coyle, Adam Sikes



David Unger, PhD



Matt Witten, G.T. Garber



L-R: Terri Nolan, Iris Yamashita, Laurie Stevens, Travis Richardson



Naomi Hirahara, Gary Phillips



# CRIME CALENDER



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



"Had I known how the events of the day would unfold, I wouldn't have bothered to change out of my sweats."

BLOOD RED  
by Sherri Leigh James