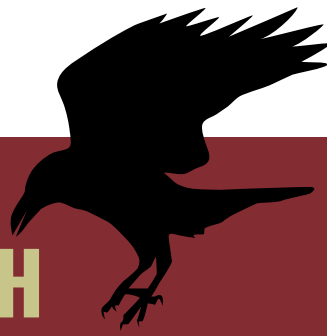


APRIL 2024

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



Writing for Television

April Luncheon/Crowdcast Event



LEE GOLDBERG



GARY PHILLIPS



DUANE SWIERCZYNSKI



WENDALL THOMAS



SoCalMWA Presents:
Tam O' Shanter Luncheon

WRITING FOR TELEVISION

With Gary Phillips, Lee Goldberg,
Duane Swierczynski & Wendall Thomas

April 7, 2023
11:30 a.m. PT

Tam O' Shanter Restaurant

Writing for Television

with Gary Phillips, Lee Goldberg, Duane Swierczynski, and
Wendall Thomas

Is writing for television anything like writing for publication? How do I get started writing for TV? Do I need a different agent? How do I sell a story to TV? Do I need to join the Writers Guild? Four experienced television writers who actually write books will tell all!

Join Gary Phillips, Lee Goldberg, Duane Swierczynski, and Wendall Thomas for a lively conversation on Sunday, April 7, at 11:30 a.m. at the Tam O' Shanter (in person) or 12:45 p.m. on Crowdcast (virtual). Our program begins at 1 p.m.

Click [here](#) for more information.

[Reserve Your Spot](#)

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PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET



Sign Up for the LATFOB

BY LESLIE S. KLINGER



April is one of my favorite times of year for our Chapter because it's the season for the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books. This year, it's the weekend of April 20–21, on the USC downtown campus. You've missed an incredible gathering if you've never been to the Festival. The *Times* claims that more than 150,000 people attend over the weekend, and it often feels like they're all there at once! We've had beautiful sunny days and horrendous rainstorms, but rain or shine, it's a chance to mingle with hundreds of authors and thousands of readers. There are dozens of panels, with at least a half-dozen featuring crime writers from all over the world. I count more than thirty-five mystery writers presenting at the Festival this year, some from our own Chapter, some from distant parts. This year, we're sponsoring a party for the participating writers and our members at Rock 'n Reilly in USC Village on Saturday night at 6 pm. Information about that is being sent separately.

SoCalMWA sponsors a booth there every year, where authors sit with their books, in twos and threes, talking to old friends and new who come by the booth to visit, learn more about MWA, and perhaps buy a book and have it signed. I love to work at the booth and usually end up calling out to passersby: "Come on over! Do you like mysteries? We're the Mystery Writers of America!" Some protest that they're not writers: "You don't have to be a writer! We have reader members as well! Join! This is your chance to hang out with famous writers!"

Of course, we hope to sign up new members, whether they're writers who've never gotten around to joining, writers who haven't yet gotten published, or readers who love crime fiction. We talk about our events, craft programming, mentoring, and networking. In years past, we gave away SoCalMWA t-shirts to notables who came by the booth, including **Robert Crais**, **Joe Wambaugh**, Mary Higgins Clark, and her daughter Caroline.

As of the date of this newsletter, we still have a few slots left to sign books at the table on Saturday or Sunday. Please email Ona Russell to grab a spot. Even if you don't sign up, come on by! You'll see our big banner at booth #363. I hope to see you there!

Best,
Les Klinger

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I Can't Quit You, LA

BY HOLLY WEST

I've been missing Los Angeles a lot lately. This year marks the tenth anniversary of my husband and me moving back up north, but I'll never stop counting myself as an Angeleno. Sometimes, it feels as though the city has embedded itself in my DNA.

Part of the reason I'm missing it is silly—the last season of *Curb Your Enthusiasm* is currently airing on Max, and it strongly reminds me of the days when I lived in Santa Monica and West LA. Obviously, my existence was nowhere near as posh as Larry David's, but I've been to many of the places featured, and I recognize a lot of the streets and other locations. If the show ever had a heyday, it was during the first few seasons, which coincides in lots of ways with my own heyday. (I like to think my heyday is ongoing).

Another reason is the upcoming *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books. Reading Les's Prez Rap this month really hammered in all the reasons I love this event. I came home from the gym this morning and announced to my husband that I wanted to go this year and it turns out he's missing LA, too! I'll see if we can manage it.

There's nothing that inspires me more than being around fellow writers, and spring is when the conference season gets going, starting with Left Coast Crime in early April. I'll be heading up to Seattle (er, Bellevue) and appearing on a couple of panels, one of which I'm moderating, so I'm deep in prep mode for that. Am I the only one who loves moderating? It's a lot of work, but I like being in control. I also like talking up others' work far more than my own, so it's a natural fit. This year, I'm moderating a panel called "Qu'est-ce que c'est: psycho-thrillers," which will require me to learn some French, too.

One last thing: I was appointed to SoCalMWA's board last month! I'm looking forward to serving you all as Secretary this year.

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

Join the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group

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

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New York, NY 10001
t. 212.888.8171
mwa@mysterywriters.org
<http://mysterywriters.org>



2024 Edgar Symposium Panels

ALL VIA ZOOM

The following is the schedule for the 2024 Symposium Panels featuring the 2024 Edgar Nominees – all via ZOOM. All panels are live-streamed via our YouTube channel and will be archived there: <https://bit.ly/MWAYouTube>

All links: <https://bit.ly/m/Mystery-Writers-of-America> (all times are Eastern Daylight Time)

Tuesday, **April 2**, 7 p.m. – Special Awards: <https://bit.ly/MWASpecialAwards24>

Wednesday, **April 3**, 7 p.m. – Best Paperback Original: <https://bit.ly/MWA24PBO>

Friday, **April 5**, 7 p.m. – Robert L. Fish Memorial Award: <https://bit.ly/49YuaLU>

Saturday, **April 6**, 1 p.m. Best Short Story: <https://bit.ly/49WU8Q1>

Monday, **April 8**, 8 p.m. – Lilian Jackson Braun Memorial Award: <https://bit.ly/49Yjkpg>

Tuesday, **April 9**, 7 p.m. – Simon & Schuster Mary Higgins Clark Award: <https://bit.ly/3wWXHH5>

Wednesday, **April 10**, 8 p.m. – Best Novel: <https://bit.ly/3TtXIK6>

Thursday, **April 11**, 8 p.m. – Best Fact Crime: <https://bit.ly/4ak1897>

Tuesday, **April 16**, 8 p.m. – Best First Novel: <https://bit.ly/3TpdeXJ>

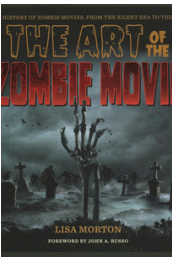
Saturday, **April 20**, 1 p.m. – G.P. Putnam’s Sons Sue Grafton Memorial Award: <https://bit.ly/3x4qIAQ>

Wednesday, **April 24**, 8 p.m. – Best Critical/Biographical :<https://bit.ly/4ciKIjn>

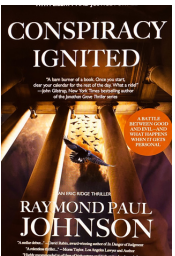
Information for Best Juvenile and Best Young Adult to come.



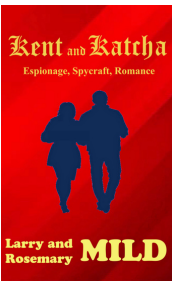
Lee Goldberg's genre-bending crime novel *Calico* was chosen as a 2024 Western Writers of America Spur Award Finalist for Best Contemporary Western.



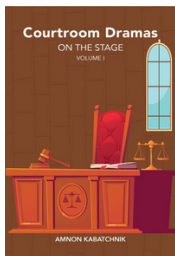
Lisa Morton's coffee table book *The Art of the Zombie Movie* (published by Applause Books in October 2023) has been nominated for both the Bram Stoker Award and the Rondo Hatton Classic Horror Award.



Raymond Paul Johnson's *Conspiracy Ignited* (Blank Slate Press/Amphora Publishing Group) has been named a Finalist for the Clue Award (best thriller/suspense mystery) by Chanticleer International Book Awards (CIBAs). See [Raymond's](#) website for more info.



Larry and Rosemary Mild's new novel is *Kent and Katcha: Espionage, Spycraft, Romance*—drawn from Larry's former association with secret operatives. 1992: the Soviet Union has collapsed and a novice American spy goes to Moscow to infiltrate a Russian Federation Army facility but he's unprepared for the consequences.



Legendary drama professor and esteemed historian **Amnon Kabatchnik** has penned a new volume in his award-winning reference series. His latest, *Courtroom Dramas on the Stage, Volume II*, is published by BearManor Media in hardcover, trade paper, and ebook.



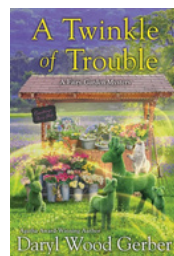
A Mystery Yarn, the third book in **Mike Befeler's** Omnipodge Trilogy, will be published in April. Pru Pendergast becomes entangled in more than yarn when her obnoxious landlord shows up dead in her driftwood creations shop.



Aaron Philip Clark, in collaboration with hip-hop artist and entertainment mogul Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, has written *The Accomplice* (September 3), a crime thriller featuring Nia Turner, a Texas Ranger on the trail of Desmond Bell, an enigmatic thief who steals secrets from the rich and powerful and blackmails them for millions.



John Shepphird's *Deception Specialist* will be released on April 16 (Down & Out Books). Reformed-swindler-turned-private-eye Jack O'Shea investigates a strange death at a Northern California college—a visa mill with ties to Silicon Valley.



Daryl Wood Gerber's *A Twinkle of Trouble*, the fifth in the Fairy Garden Mystery series, comes out April 23. The murder of Courtney's friend, Genevieve, casts a pall over the Summer Blooms festival.

Tori Eldridge has joined the Thomas & Mercer family with *Kuleana*, the first book in a new mystery series. Rich in her own Native Hawaiian language and traditions, it explores contemporary issues facing kanaka maoli. Her protagonist, Makalani Pahukula, has a big, complicated 'ohana her readers will love.

APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Gay Tolt Kinman has been elected president of the Private Eye Writers of America.

Lee Goldberg will appear at the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books on April 21 at 3:30 p.m. on the “Series Sleuths” panel with Eriq LaSalle, Gregg Hurwitz, and Tracy Clark.

Mike Befeler will sign at Mystery Ink Bookstore Fernhill Clubhouse, 5472 Diamond Dr, Huntington Beach, on Saturday, May 4, at 1 p.m. and Book Carnival, 348 S. Tustin, Orange, on Saturday, April 27, at 2 p.m.

For the second time, **Sheila Lowe** has been invited to speak at the Buenaventura Women’s Club Luncheon on April 26 at the Four-Points Sheraton in Ventura. Her topic is, as yet, undecided, but it will undoubtedly have something to do with her two series.

Laurie Stevens will speak about her new book, *The Return*, at the book and author luncheon for the Assistance League of the San Fernando Valley on April 13. For more information and tickets for this fundraiser, email [Dorothea S. Taylor](mailto:Dorothea.S.Taylor).

Donis Casey’s “Tell Me Your Story” guest for April is **Eva Moon**, an author, humorist, songwriter, and internationally produced playwright, screenwriter, and performer. Her first novel, *Pinocchio’s Guide to the End of the World*, follows the adventures of a grown-up human Pinocchio in fascist Europe between the world wars. Read Eva’s remarkable story beginning April 20 at Donis’s [website](#).



Adam Sikes’ book launch event for *The Underhanded* will occur on Wednesday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Arvida Book Co. in Old Town Tustin. **Travis Richardson** will interview Adam, and there will be light hors d’oeuvres as well as wine showcased from Sutro Wine and the Warnecke Ranch & Vineyards.

On Saturday, April 27, **Jeri Westerson** will be on the SinCLA panel at the Donald Bruce Kaufman Library at 2 p.m., 11820 San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles.

Lawrence Allan was interviewed for Al Warren’s *House of Mystery* radio show, discussing his Jimmy Cooper Mystery series.



On Sunday, April 28, at 3 p.m., **John Shepphird** will appear at The Book Jewel (6259 W 87th St., Westchester, CA - near LAX) Derringer Award-winning author **Travis Richardson** will interview John about the process of writing a novel based on the series of short stories. Jack O’Shea was first introduced in a series published in *Alfred Hitchcock’s Mystery Magazine*.

MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Celebrating Crime Fiction at the LATFOB

Have a drink with SoCalMWA to celebrate the intersection of crime fiction and the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books!

When: Saturday, April 20, 6 p.m.
Where: Rock 'n' Reilly's, 3201 South Hoover Street, in the USC Village.

Invited guests include more than thirty crime writers appearing at the Festival.

No RSVPs—Just stop by!

ROCK & REILLY'S

3201 S. Hoover Street
USC Village

CRIME CALENDER



- April 7: Writing for Television, SoCalMWA Luncheon, Los Angeles
- April 11–14: Left Coast Crime 2024, Bellevue, WA
- April 2–24: Edgar Symposium, All Zoom
- April 20–21: Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles
- April 20: SoCalMWA Party for LATFOB, Los Angeles
- April 26–28: Malice Domestic, Bethesda, MD
- May 1: 78th Annual Edgar® Awards, New York, NY
- August 22–25: Killer Nashville, Franklin, TN
- August 28–September 1: Bouchercon, Nashville, TN

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

THE LAST WORD



"It's been forty-three years since my brush with the man even the most reputable papers called the All-American Sex Killer, and my name has long since fallen to a footnote in the story."

Bright Young Women: A Novel
by Jessica Knoll