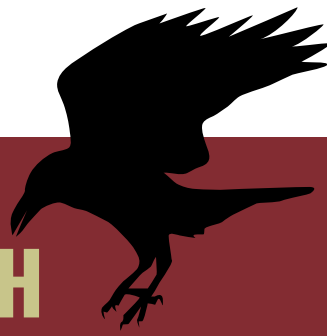


FEBRUARY 2024

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



Congratulations to our Members!

LEFTY & EDGAR AWARDS FINALISTS

LEFTY AWARDS

Winners will be announced at Left Coast Crime in April.

Best Humorous Mystery Novel

Hot Pot Murder by **Jennifer J. Chow** (Berkley Prime Crime)

Cheap Trills by **Wendall Thomas** (Beyond the Page Books)

Best Historical Mystery Novel

The Bitter Past by **Bruce Borgos** (Minotaur Books)

Evergreen by **Naomi Hirahara** (Soho Crime)

Best Mystery

Odyssey's End by **Matt Coyle** (Ocean View)

EDGAR AWARDS

Winners will be announced on May 1 in New York City

Best Novel

Bright Young Women by **Jessica Knoll** (Simon & Schuster)

Best Television Episode Teleplay

"Hózhó Náhásdlii (Beauty is Restored)," *Dark Winds* by **Graham**

Roland & John Wirth

The Lillian Jackson Braun Memorial Award

Hot Pot Murder by **Jennifer J. Chow** (Berkley Prime Crime)



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PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET



Here's to the New Year

BY ONA RUSSELL



Make plans and COVID laughs. At least that's what happened to me. I had plans, really BIG plans, to return from the MWA orientation for new chapter presidents with all kinds of exciting news, writerly tips, and, of course, juicy gossip. But the virus got me for the first time ever and made travel to NYC impossible. I hope you feel sorry for me, because I certainly did for myself.



No, no Big Apple for me. However, my quarantine wasn't totally fruitless. I consumed gallons of orange juice and heard through the grapevine that the meeting was grand—National membership has grown, MWA University is being reinvented, and the Edgar banquet promises to be better than ever. I'm just now reading through the orientation materials (tomes!) and trying to get up to speed. I have a lot to learn, so I hope you'll be patient if I say (or do) something stupid, especially since I've volunteered to serve on the Education and Literacy Committee!

All kidding aside, our local board is the bomb, and we're meeting very soon to plan some terrific events. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with questions, comments, suggestions, or just to express your sympathy for me missing out on what, apparently, was a hell of a party.

More soon!

Ona

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Ona Russell

VICE PRESIDENT
Jennifer Younger

TREASURER
Sarah M. Chen

SECRETARY
Leslie S. Klinger

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Fred Andersen
Edward Arno
Gay Tolt Kinman
Terri Nolan
Gary Phillips
Nancy Cole Silverman

PRESIDENT EMERITUS
Travis Richardson

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](https://twitter.com/socalmwa)
Facebook: [Like us](#)



Fourth Quarter

BY HOLLY WEST

As I was highlighting SoCalMWA's members who are up for awards (so far) this season, I started wondering how it would feel to get a nomination. Full disclosure: I've been nominated for the Lefty Awards and Anthony Awards, and I can tell you that felt amazing. So, I suppose I'm really thinking about the Edgar Award (and the adjacent awards).

I think I would cry if I got nominated. No, not think. I would *definitely* cry if I were nominated. I can't even fathom what I'd do if I won. Winning awards isn't a huge motivator for me, but it's fun to think about sometimes.

So, with all that said, congratulations to all of the SoCalMWA members who are award finalists. I'm sure there will be many more as the season continues.

As for me, I'm chugging along on my WIP. I've got a long way to go, but I try not to think about the distance and focus on the day-to-day work. To light my creative spark, I literally burn candles—I recently ordered a bulk pack of unscented pillars that I surround myself with during work hours. It's something I usually only do in winter because I love writing in a dark, cozy space. Extra points if it's raining outside.

What are some of the rituals you employ while you're writing?

I've also increased the time I spend reading for pleasure lately. I could be wrong, but I'm convinced my quality of life has increased as a result. Reading has always been an escape for me, but it's so easy to let it slide when there are so many other things to do. I put it toward the top of my to-do list this month, and I'm happier because of it.

That's the power of storytelling!

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

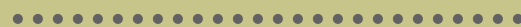
Opinions expressed herein are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter.

Contact us at:
themarchofcrime@gmail.com

Join the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group

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

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



Private Eye Writers of America

2024 SHAMUS AWARD SUBMISSIONS

Following are the categories for the Private Eye Writers of America 2023 Shamus Awards for private eye novels and short stories first published in the United States in 2023.

DEADLINE: Submissions must be postmarked by March 31, 2024. No extensions can be given. Shamus Committees will forward their final lists to the Shamus Awards Chair by May 31, 2024.

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.

There is no application fee and no submission form, as a simple cover letter will suffice. If you have any questions, please e-mail [John Shepphird](mailto:John.Shepphird@pewriters.com) BEFORE submitting.

BEST HARDCOVER P.I. NOVEL: A book-length work of fiction published in hardcover in 2023 that is NOT the author's first published P.I. novel.

BEST FIRST P.I. NOVEL: A book-length work of fiction, in hardcover or paperback, first published in 2023 and that is the author's first published novel featuring a private investigator as a main character.

BEST ORIGINAL PAPERBACK P.I. NOVEL: A book-length work of fiction first published as a paperback original in 2023 that is NOT the author's first P.I. novel. Paperback reprints of previously published novels are NOT eligible.

BEST P.I. SHORT STORY: A work of fiction of 20,000 words or fewer. Stories first published in an earlier year and reprinted in a magazine, anthology, or collection in 2023 are NOT eligible.



Private Eye Writers of America

2024 SHAMUS AWARD SUBMISSIONS

BEST HARDCOVER P.I. NOVEL

Patrick H. Moore
15523 Cristalino Street
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

Paul McGoran
364 Bellevue Av Unit D201
Newport RI 02840

Jim Nesbitt
400 N. Madison St.
Athens, AL. 35611

BEST FIRST P.I. NOVEL

Gay Toltl Kinman
900 South Second Street, Suite E
Alhambra, CA 91801

David Bart
192 Paa Ko Drive
Sandia Park, New Mexico 87047

O'Neil DeNoux
428 West 25th Avenue,
Covington, LA 70433

BEST ORIGINAL PAPERBACK P.I. NOVEL

Andrew McAleer
121 Follen Rd
Lexington, MA 02421

Richie Narvaez
227 West 27th Street, Room B602
New York, NY 10001-5992

Stephen D. Rogers
PO Box 286
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532

BEST P.I. SHORT STORY

Kevin Burton Smith
3053 Rancho Vista, #116
Palmdale, CA 93551

Lori Duffy Foster
2399 Austinburg Road
Westfield, PA 16950

Rosalie Spielman
140 W Earleigh Heights Road
Severna Park, MD 21146

Tucson Festival of Books

BOOTH SIGN-UPS

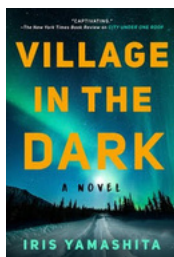
SoCalMWA is sponsoring a booth at the Tucson Festival of Books on March 9–10. This major festival attracts 100,000-plus book lovers to the mall at the University of Arizona. SoCalMWA members are welcome to sign up for selling/signing opportunities (free). Contact [Fred Andersen](#) for more info and to reserve a spot.



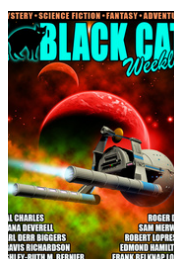
Gay Tolt Kinman has published three new short stories: “Death by Orca,” a P.I. story set in the Pacific Northwest, “Poodles are Out—Pants are In,” originally published in *More Groovy Gumsboes*, and “Assassination,” featuring a P.I. investigating the death of a senator in San Diego.



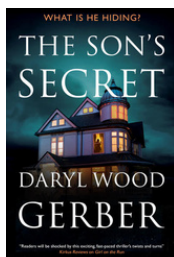
The first book in **Jennifer J. Chow’s** new Magical Fortune Cookie series, *Ill-Fated Fortune*, comes out on February 20.



Iris Yamashita’s second book in the Cara Kennedy series, *Village in the Dark*, releases on February 13. The first book, *City Under One Roof*, received the Editor’s Choice for Best Debut Crime Novel by Crime Fiction Lover. It was also listed in the 12 Best Thrillers of 2023 by *The Washington Post* and in the Best Crime Fiction of 2023 by *Library Journal*.



Travis Richardson’s story “Next Stop, Cozyville!” is in *Black Cat Weekly*, issue 124. You can find the 11,000-word story about a cocky psychopath entering the domain of cozy sleuths and finding out just how dangerous life is in this idyllic town [here](#).



Daryl Wood Gerber’s latest suspense, *The Son’s Secret*, from Severn House, debuted January 2 and is now available: What if you’re the only one who believes your son is missing? A chilling, twisty psychological suspense novel, perfect for fans of Laura Dave and Gillian Flynn.



Mike Befeler’s historical mystery, *Murder in the Museo Kircheriano*, will be published in March. In the mid-17th century, Jesuit priest Athanasius Kircher created the world’s most amazing museum. Reputed to be the last man to know everything, he bordered on being a con man. When Queen Christina abdicates the Swedish throne, converts to Catholicism, and visits Kircher’s museum, they discover a dead body and team up to solve the mystery.



APPEARANCES & EVENTS

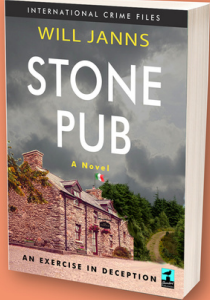

Donis Casey's "Tell Me Your Story" guest author for February is [Tim Maleeny](#), author of the award-winning Cape Weathers series and the comedic thriller *Jump*. His short fiction appears in several major anthologies and has won the prestigious Macavity Award for Best Story of the Year. Tim's story will appear February 20–29 on Donis' [website](#).

Sharon Lynn's book launch for *Death Takes a Fall: A Cotswold Crimes Mystery* will take place on Tuesday, February 6, from 6–7:30 p.m. at Bright Side Bookshop, 18 N. San Francisco St., Flagstaff, AZ. Hear Sharon on Shawn Reilly Simmon's "5 Compelling Questions with Shawn" podcast [here](#) and on WebTalkRadio's "Talking Books with JT Crowley" [here](#). The *Kirkus Review* for the book is [here](#).

Jeri Westerson is finishing her *Twilight Queen* tour—her second Tudor mystery in the King's Fool Mysteries—Friday, February 9 from 2–4 p.m. at A.K. Smiley Library in Redlands. A talk about the "REAL Anne Boleyn: From Coquette to Queen." Books for sale, free raffle. 125 W. Vine Street, Redlands.

JOIN SOCIAL MYSTERY/THRILLER AUTHORS

Janet Elizabeth Lynn
and
Will Zeilinger



writing as **WILL JANNS**
for a book signing and Launch Party

Sat. February 24, 2024 Noon - 2 pm
The Book Jewel, 6259 W. 87th St., Westchester

Sheila Lowe spoke to the Ventura Women's Club about her Forensic Handwriting mysteries and her paranormal Beyond the Veil suspense series. These enthusiastic readers also showed interest in her recent memoir, *Growing from the Ashes*, which details her spiritual journey following the murder of her daughter in 2000.

Jennifer J. Chow will be appearing with Naomi Hirahara at Village Well Books in Culver City on Sunday, February 25 at 4 p.m.

Saturday, March 9, *Murderous March*, a virtual conference hosted by the Upper Hudson Chapter (New York) of Sisters in Crime: 9 a.m. PT, Lida Sideris will appear on the panel "Cherchez La Femme: Female P.I.s," and at 2 p.m. PT, Jennifer J. Chow will appear on the panel "The Lighter Side of Crime—Books to Cozy Up With." Naomi Hirahara is the Guest of Honor.

Lee Goldberg's new novel *Dream Town* launched on January 16 with an event at the Calabasas Library, where ITW co-president Gregg Hurwitz interviewed him.



Join author
IRIS YAMASHITA
on tour

FEBRUARY 7
SCOTTSDALE, AZ • 7:00pm MT
The Poisoned Pen

FEBRUARY 13
PASADENA, CA • 7:00pm PT
Vroman's Bookstore
in conversation with Naomi Hirahara

FEBRUARY 20
SANTA BARBARA, CA • 6:00pm PT
Chaucer's Books
in conversation with Kemper Donovan

MARCH 16
PASADENA, CA • 6:00pm PT
Octavia's Bookshelf
in conversation with Jennifer Chow

Author Photo credit © Anthony Mongiello 2022



CRIME CALENDER



February 10: RMMWA Mini-Con, Virtual
April 11–14: Left Coast Crime 2024, Bellevue, WA
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



"The crime scene is monstrous."

The Bitter Past
by Bruce Borgos