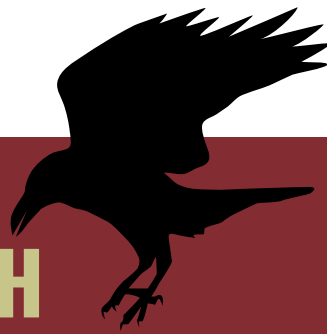


JUNE 2024

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



..... SoCalMWA Meeting

BOOK SWAP BBQ & BEER

**20
24**

June 22

Gary Phillips's House

Join SoCalMWA for our annual Book Swap & BBQ!

12-3 p.m.
Arlington Heights
Off the 10 Frwy

- Bring books to swap & your appetite for a fun afternoon of BBQ & Beer!
- RSVP to gdogg855@aol.com for the exact address.
- Non-member plus-ones invited, too!



RSVP Now

What's inside

.....

[Book Swap, BBQ & Beer p. 1](#)

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

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

[Over the Transom p. 4](#)

[Appearances & Events p. 5](#)

[Anthony Nominees p. 5](#)

[Edgar Awards Pics p. 6](#)

[Malice Domestic Pics p. 7](#)

[Crime Calendar p. 8](#)

[The Last Word p. 8](#)



PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET



A Grand Affair

BY LESLIE S. KLINGER



May gray, June gloom—when do we get summer? Instead, we have to put up with snide remarks from out-of-town friends who believe that L.A. is a paradise! In truth, as writers, we mostly sit in a darkened room in front of a computer screen, so the actual outdoor weather is really irrelevant!

I was reminded of all this on my recent trip to New York City for the Edgars. The weather was gorgeous, and walking around town was a treat, but the real pleasure was seeing friends. The night before the awards banquet, I attended our semi-irregular dinner with a bunch of Sherlockians. Now, you may think that gatherings of Holmes fans require deerstalkers, magnifying glasses, and the like, but in truth, a bottle suffices for (as Christopher Morley put it) “whiskey-and-sodality.” These are friends that I normally see only once or twice a year, and it’s always great to catch up with news about families, mutual friends, work, etc.

The following day, I had lunch with my Liveright editor at the venerable Keen’s Chophouse. For nonfiction writers, you may not know that our process of book publication is reversed from fiction writers: We try to sell the book first, then we produce it! So, a good meeting with my editor meant that she enthusiastically responded to several ideas for new books. Now I just have to write them!

Then it was time for the Grand Affair—the Edgars banquet! Squeezing into my tuxedo, I went downstairs to the nominees’ reception (Chapter Presidents are invited too). It was a thrill to meet many of those up for Edgars, including a few veterans. “It’s a great honor to be nominated” is the mantra—and it really is. We cheered, we whistled, we clapped! It is a great honor to be nominated—but it’s even better to win! For me, it’s an annual chance to remind myself that the mystery world is a large but very congenial one. Nowhere do you feel more keenly the credo that “I don’t lose because you win.”

Whether you’re a nominee or not, I highly recommend attending the Edgars events. Writing doesn’t have to be a solitary affair—after all, isn’t that the whole point of the MWA?

Best,
Les

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Leslie S. Klinger

VICE PRESIDENT
TBD

TREASURER
Sarah M. Chen

SECRETARY
Holly West

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Fred Andersen
Edward Arno
Ona Russell
Gay Tolt Kinman
Terri Nolan
Gary Phillips
Jennifer Younger

PRESIDENT EMERITUS
Travis Richardson

Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter

c/o Leslie S. Klinger
10866 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 1500
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Contact: info@socalmwa.com
Website: <http://socalmwa.com>
Twitter: [@socalmwa](https://twitter.com/socalmwa)
Facebook: [Like us](#)



A Little Help from a Friend

BY HOLLY WEST

I wanted to give a shout-out to someone who has been tremendously helpful to me over the years, both for this newsletter and some other volunteer positions I've held. **Sarah M. Chen**, step up and take your bow!

Along with being SoCalMWA's treasurer, Sarah works behind the scenes to proof this newsletter every month. Note: our president does, too, but Sarah's been doing it for years—almost as long as I've been editing it. As careful as I try to be about typos and other errors, I can always count on Sarah to find a mistake or two. And I'm deeply grateful for that.

Sarah and I have also worked together as the Registration Chair and Treasurer for the California Crime Writers Conference. At this point, we're a packaged deal—neither of us will take the position unless the other agrees to do it, too. We are a good team.



Beyond that, Sarah has been volunteering in various positions to support the Southern California and national crime writers' community for many years. Perhaps we all need to give her a round of applause.

Thanks for all you do, Sarah.

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

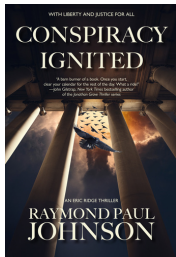
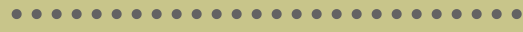
Opinions expressed herein are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter.

Contact us at:
themarchofcrime@gmail.com

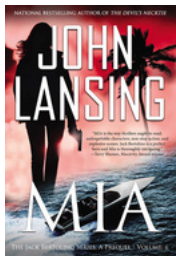
Join the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group

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

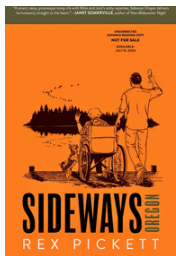
NATIONAL OFFICE
Mystery Writers of America
1140 Broadway #1507
New York, NY 10001
t. 212.888.8171
mwa@mysterywriters.org
<http://mysterywriters.org>



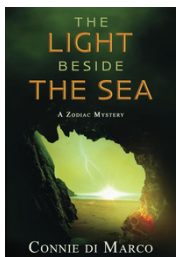
Raymond Paul Johnson's *Conspiracy Ignited* (Blank Slate Press/Amphora Publishing Group) has been selected as First-Place Category Winner in the Clue Awards (for best thriller/suspense fiction) by Chanticleer International Book Awards (CIBAs). It will be released on June 25.



Mia, the prequel to **John Lansing's** Jack Bertolini series, will be released on June 4. It's the origin story of retired inspector Jack Bertolini as a young undercover NYPD detective, working with Mia, his confidential informant, to take down a heavy hitter in the Colombian drug trade.



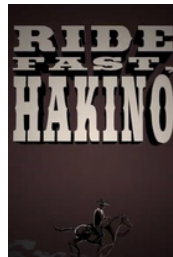
Mystery writer **Rex Pickett** (*The Archivist*, Blackstone Publishing) is also the author of the popular franchise *Sideways* series. *Sideways Oregon*—the first sequel to *Sideways*—will be re-issued in a special author's edition July 15 by Blackstone. Winner of the Gold Medal for popular fiction from the Ind. Publishers Book Awards in 2012. [Available for pre-order now.](#)



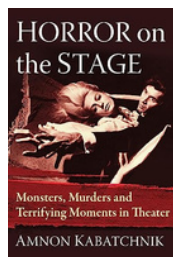
Connie di Marco's fifth book in the Zodiac Mysteries, *The Light Beside the Sea*, was released on May 4. "So many deaths . . . a mysterious shaman and a Maya god of the underworld. Will they unleash evil or bring justice to right a wrong?"



Do high school reunions make you want to murder someone? *Maximum Pressure*, book #9 in Sheila Lowe's Forensic Handwriting suspense series, is set for release on July 2.



Ride Fast, Hakino! Harkening back to films such as *Adiós, Sabata*, *Django*, *Django Unchained*, and *Weird Western Tales* comics, **Gary Phillips's** "Ride Fast, Hakino" is an occult western short story on *Storiaverse* that combines animated and text sequences. To read/watch, download the app for the phone, iPad or laptop. PCs still coming.



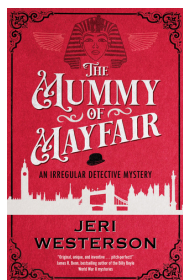
AMNON KABATCHNIK's *Horror on the Stage*, published by McFarland, keeps garnering prizes. The latest is the 2024 Indie Reader Award in the Education Category. The book highlights the most terrifying moments in theater history.

Craig Faustus Buck's short story "Home Game" is featured in the current *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*.

Martin Roy Hill's short story, "King Albert of Earth," a tongue-in-cheek sci-fi story about a planet-hopping grifter, was published by *Sorbet Magazine*, an international lifestyle magazine.



APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Attention Librarians! **Jeri Westerson** will be signing the second in her An Irregular Detective mystery series, *The Mummy of Mayfair*, June 28, from 5:30–6 p.m. PT at the Ingram Booth at the ALA Convention (San Diego Convention Center, 111 Harbor Dr., San Diego). Then, on Sunday, July 21, at noon, she's hosting a special ticketed event lunch at the Tam O'Shanter in Los Angeles. Fun free gifts, a FREE raffle for more goodies, and a chance at a SECRET giveaway. LIMITED SEATING. ORDER NOW! Contact [Jeri](#) for details.

Donis Casey's "Tell Me Your Story" guest for June is [Laura Joh Rowland](#), bestselling author of historical mysteries set in Victorian London and Medieval Japan. She's been published in 21 countries and nominated for the Anthony Award and the Hammett Prize. Read Laura's story June 20–31 on Donis's [website](#).



Laurie Stevens will appear on a panel at the Nebula conference to discuss combining fantasy world-building with science fiction. Thursday, June 6 at 4:30 p.m. PT. The conference will be held at the [Westin Pasadena](#).

Sheila Lowe will be signing at The Open Book in Canyon Country on July 13; at Fernhill Clubhouse, 5472 Diamond, Huntington Beach on July 20; and at Book Carnival in Orange on July 21 at 2 p.m.



Jennifer J. Chow will be in conversation with Lorie Lewis Ham at two in-person events in the Central Valley. The pair will be in Visalia at the Tulare County Library on Saturday, June 22 at 1 p.m. Jennifer and Lorie will also be doing a joint event at the [Sunnyside branch of the Fresno County Public Library](#) on Sunday, June 23 at 1 p.m.

Congratulations!

SoCal MWA Anthony Nominees

BEST FIRST NOVEL

Iris Yamashita, *City Under One Roof* (Berkeley)

BEST ANTHOLOGY

Holly West, *Killin' Time in San Diego* (Down & Out Books)

BEST SHORT STORY

Holly West, "Tell Me No Lies" (*Thicker Than Blood*, Shotgun Honey)



The Edgar Awards

ALL PHOTOS BY ASLAN CHALOM



Nathan Masters (L), Edgar winner for Best Fact Crime (*Crooked: The Roaring '20s Tale of a Corrupt Attorney General, A Crusading Senator, and the Birth of the American Political Scandal*) and James L'Etoile.



Center: Jessica Knoll, Best Novel nominee



Lilian Jackson Braun nominees (L-R): Mark Waddell, Danielle Arceneaux (winner), **Jennifer J. Chow**, Vivien Chen. Not pictured: Patricia Johns.



Jennifer J. Chow, and her editor, Angie Kim.



The Winners



Malice Domestic



L-R: Gigi Pandian, **Ellen Byron**, Lori Rader-Day



Susanna Calkins and **Lawrence Allan**



L-R: **Karen Odden**, Mariah Fredericks, Kelly Oliver



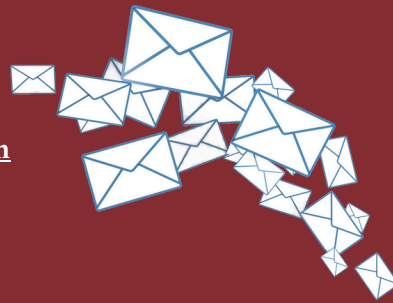
Ellen Byron and Desiree DiFabio

CRIME CALENDER



June 22: Book Swap & BBQ, Los Angeles, CA
August 22–25: Killer Nashville, Franklin, TN
August 28–September 1: Bouchercon, Nashville, TN
September 15: Joint Meeting with SoCalMWA & PWA, Virtual Event
October 5: Gumbo Party, Los Angeles, CA

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



THE LAST WORD



“Let me tell you—inside, we all rage the same. It’s how we let it out that differs.”

Sing Her Down
by Ivy Pochoda