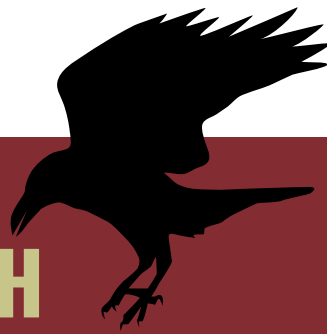


JANUARY 2025

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



Happy New Year!

2025 SoCalMWA Board of Directors

We are delighted to announce the 2025 SoCalMWA Board:

Continuing:

- President: Leslie S. Klinger
- Vice President: Jennifer Younger
- Secretary: Holly West (previous board appointment)
- Gary Phillips
- Gay Toltl Kinman
- Fred Andersen

Newly Elected:

- Lawrence Allan
- Pat H. Broeske
- John Shepphird

We look forward to creating events and programming that will inform, inspire, and entertain.

Many thanks to our outgoing board members: Sarah M. Chen, Edward Arno, Ona Russell, and Terri Nolan. We appreciate your service to the chapter!



What's inside

[2025 Board p. 1](#)

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

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

[Over the Transom p. 4](#)

[Appearances & Events p. 5](#)

[Crime Calendar p. 6](#)

[The Last Word p. 6](#)





Looking Forward

BY LESLIE S. KLINGER



The holidays are always a complicated time for writers. Family- and work-related activities disrupt the normal schedule, and time for writing seems to vanish. Family and friends pester us with “What are you working on?” (or in some cases, “What did you do this year?”), and those questions can require long, tiresome, and repetitive explanations. For some of us, then, it’s a relief when the holiday season has concluded, and we can get back to our solitary writer’s life!

Wow, that sounds depressive. Let’s try a different take: The holidays are a great time for writers, who have spent way too many hours during the balance of the year in solitude, staring at a blank screen and blinking cursor, waiting for inspiration to strike. The holiday season is a chance to take a deep breath, plunge back into the midst of life, embrace our family and friends, and reflect on what we accomplished during the past year. It’s also a great opportunity to set goals for the next year and emerge revitalized, ready to jump back into the fray.

Which of these are you? Or maybe you experienced both sets of emotions, and now you’re feeling guilty?

Well, get over it, bunky! I hope that you felt the love and attention of family and friends and took joy in telling them about your 2024 journey. I also hope that you’re eager to get on with 2025. And I hope that SoCalMWA will be a big part of your calendar. We’ve already set the usual events—the Tucson Festival of Books, the book exchange, the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books, the gumbo party, the holiday party—but we’ll be supplementing that with craft workshops and book talk. We look forward to sharing 2025!

Happy New Year!

Les

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Leslie S. Klinger

VICE PRESIDENT
Jennifer Younger

SECRETARY
Holly West

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Lawrence Allan
Fred Andersen
Pat H. Broeske
Gay Tolt Kinman
Gary Phillips
John Shepphird

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](#)



Break it Down

BY HOLLY WEST

Happy New Year, Friends!

I hope you're all rested and ready to tackle 2025 with renewed energy. But that's a tall order, especially coming off a busy holiday season. So if all you can muster is a cynical (but realistic) "here we go again," I get it.

I'm approaching the new year with cautious optimism and a commitment to re-evaluating my habits and patterns to see what tweaks I can make to help with efficiency and productivity. I've said this before, but over the past decade, I've learned how important it is to work *with* my natural tendencies instead of defining them as flaws that need to be eradicated. Sure, I have flaws that could use fixing, but at this point, I'd rather concentrate on maximizing my strengths.

For me, this means breaking tasks down into small chunks so I don't get overwhelmed. Overwhelm presents as brain fog or mental blocks for me, and it's been a serious problem in my professional life. I'm a great worker bee but deficient in project management and delegating. It does me no good to *wish* I was a different type of person or to think, "If only I were this, I could do this." But what if I use my "worker bee" proficiency to create systems that will help me with the areas that need improvement? Break that process into the smallest possible steps so that I can move steadily forward?

This applies to every area of my life, but especially, to my writing. My brain needs structure, even in art. Abstract doesn't work for me, which has long been a challenge to my creative spirit, but I'm ready to stop defining "art" and its creation as something ethereal and accept that for me, it needs to be more concrete.

My word for 2025 is "organization." It's not spiritual or even particularly inspiring, but keeping it at the forefront will (hopefully) make a difference this year.

Let's do this!

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

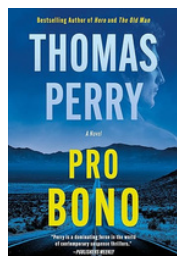
Opinions expressed herein are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter.

Contact us at:
themarchofcrime@gmail.com

Join the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group

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

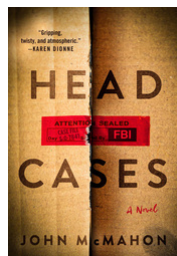
NATIONAL OFFICE
Mystery Writers of America
1140 Broadway #1507
New York, NY 10001
t. 212.888.8171
mwa@mysterywriters.org
<http://mysterywriters.org>



Pro Bono, Thomas Perry's thirty-second novel, will be published on January 14 by Mysterious Press.



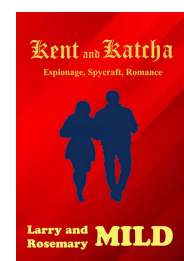
Raymond Paul Johnson's debut novel, *Conspiracy Ignited*, has been chosen "Best Legal Thriller of the Year" by BestThrillers.com: "This gem of a book... shines through in every chapter." See Ray's website for more information.



Head Cases by John McMahon (out January 28, from Minotaur/St. Martin's Press) is the first in a new series following Gardner Camden and the agents in the FBI's Patterns and Recognition (PAR) unit, brought in for cases that no one else can solve. HBO MAX is developing it for a TV series. *Publishers Weekly* and *Kirkus* both praised the book.



Death Plays with Fire, the third book in Sharon Lynn's A Cotswold Crimes Mystery series, was released on December 17. *Death Takes a Fall*, book two in the series, is long-listed for the Chanticleer International Book Award's Murder & Mayhem, and Lynn's unpublished manuscript, *IoT Gaslight*, is a finalist for the Chanticleer International Book Award's Clue Award.



Larry and Rosemary Mild's novel, *Kent and Katcha: Espionage, Spycraft, Romance*, won a Fall 2024 PenCraft Award for Literary Excellence in the Fiction-Intrigue genre.

Paul Ryan O'Connor has received a merit-based completion grant from the Speculative Literature Foundation for *Gumshoe Frankenstein*, his unpublished urban fantasy noir detective novel.

Chad Stahelski, director of the John Wick movies, has optioned the Joe Ledger thriller series by *NY Times* bestseller Jonathan Maberry for development as a TV series via 87Eleven Entertainment. The series pits a former Baltimore detective and current Special Ops shooter as he and his team square off against terrorists using bleeding-edge science weapons. Maberry will be an executive producer.

Benjamin Poore, the English author of *Sherlock Holmes from Screen to Stage*, hails the achievement of Leslie Klinger, who in 2014 protracted a legal dispute against the estate of Arthur Conan Doyle regarding the copyright status of the Sherlock Holmes character and stories. This means that the 50 Sherlock Holmes works published before 1923 are in public domain as copyright protections have expired. Poore's book also contains numerous quotations from Amnon Kabatchnik's *Sherlock Holmes on the Stage*, which Poore calls an "indispensable reference work."

APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Blackbird Writers Presents: Author Interviews has won the gold medal in the eLit Awards for Best YouTube Channel. Regular interviewers include **Sharon Lynn** along with the Blackbird's founder Tracey S. Phillips.



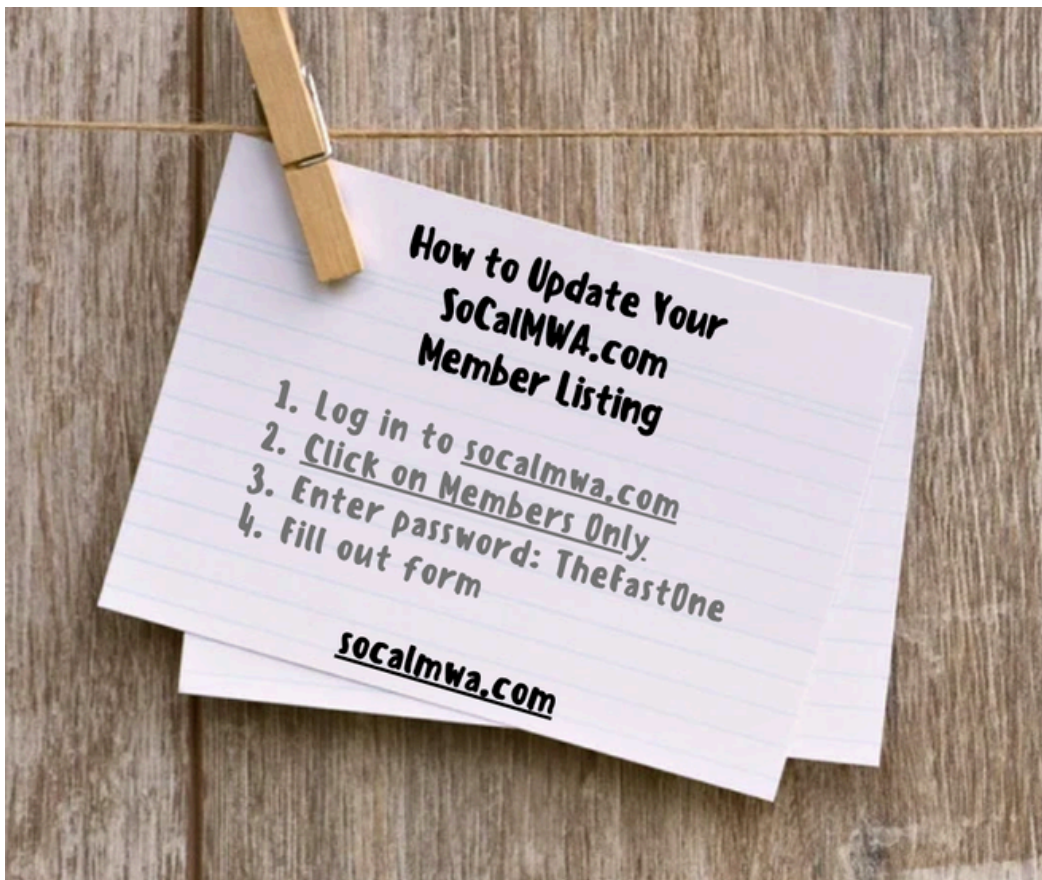
Donis Casey's "Tell Me Your Story" guest for January is John R. Corrigan, author of the Jack Austin PGA Tour mysteries. He also writes as D.A. Keeley (Peyton Cote US Border Patrol series) and K.A. Delaney (*This One Day*). His fascinating story will appear on Donis's blog beginning January 20.



Rachel Howzell Hall, author of *What Fire Brings* and *The Last One*, celebrates her 2024 book releases with **Georgia Jeffries** (*The Younger Girl*). Georgia interviewed guest speaker Rachel during the October 6 SinC/LA meeting at Radford Studios.



Sheila Lowe, award-winning author and Certified Forensic Handwriting Examiner, will do a virtual presentation on Forensic Handwriting Analysis on Thursday, January 16 at 12 p.m. PT. Among other topics, Lowe will discuss the "Clark Rockefeller" (actually Karl Christian Gerhartsreiter) murder. The presentation is sponsored by Soroptimist International of Glendale, and non-members are invited. Join the Zoom meeting [here](#).



CRIME CALENDER



2025

March 13–16: Left Coast Crime, Denver, CO

March 15–16: Tucson Festival of Books, Tucson, AZ

April 25–27: Malice Domestic, Bethesda, MD

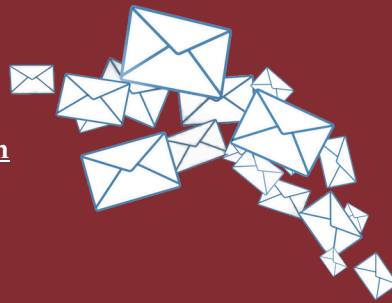
April 26–27: LA Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles

May 14–18: Sleuthfest, St. Petersburg, FL

June 17–21: Thriller Fest XX, New York, NY

September 3–7: Bouchercon, New Orleans, LA

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



THE LAST WORD



“I open my eyes and choose violence.”

The Last One
by Rachel Howzell Hall