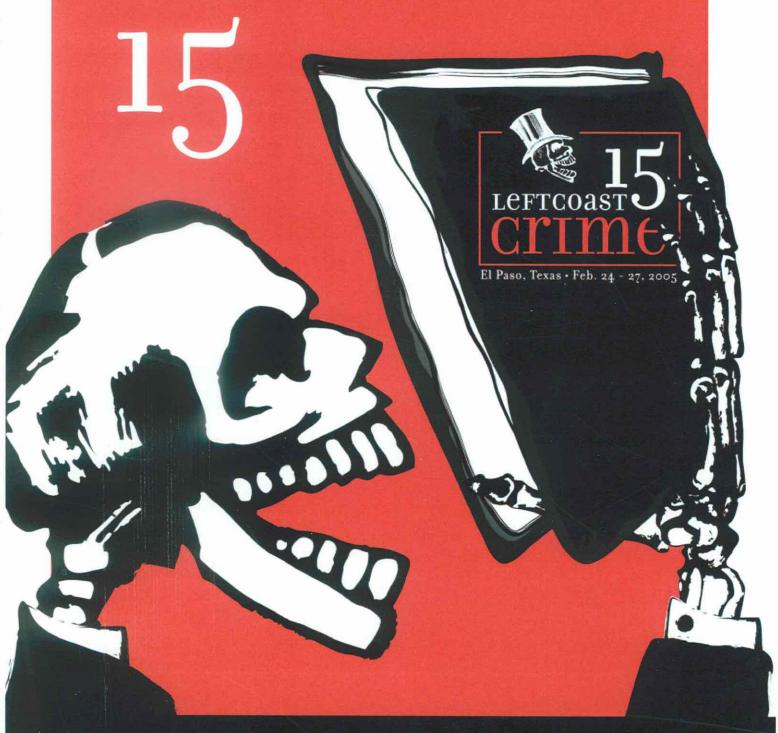
El Paso, Texas · Feb. 24 - 27, 2005

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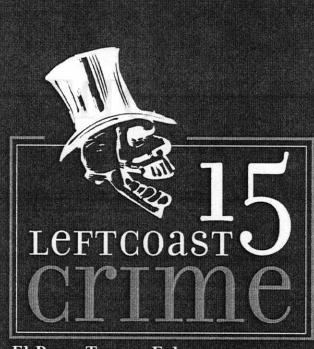
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Left coast crime 15

Table of contents

Members of Left coast crime 2005	3	LEFT COAST CTIME 15 Program schedule	19-23
From the editor	4	AUTHORS & PANELISTS	26-58
S. J. ROZAN	5-6	BOOK AWards	60
By Dr. Lois Marchino		DILYS AWard	61
A TTIBUTE TO PACO IGNACIO TAIBO, II by Jeremiah Healy	7-8	LEFT COAST CTIME 15 silent auction	62
		BOOK Dealers	63
ETNIE BULOW,	9-10	Barebones	64-65
вгетт нацирач	11-13	Maps	
(Davis Dresser) and the Border		EL Paso	66
by Marvin Lachman		сатіпо геац нотец	67-68
OH, THEM BONES! POSADA'S SKELETONS AND THE MEXICAN DAY OF THE DEAD	14-16	LEFT COAST CTIME 15 organizing committee	69
by Anne Perry, University of Texas at I	El Paso		
explore downtown	. 17-18		
EL PASO			

The organizing committee would like to thank Jake Bryant, of the UT El Paso Library, for help in creating the graphics for our web page, to Francisco Ortega Grimaldo for his hard work on the program book; to Gracie Rodriguez and KwikKopy Printing, 4310 Montana Ave. for their help in printing the program book. Thanks, too, to all the other volunteers, including Marsha Labodda, Susan Novick, Sebastian Diaz, and others too numerous to name.

Members of left coast crime 2005,

Is something mysterious afoot on the border? Definitely! Welcome to El Paso and this, our 15th coming together for Left Coast Crime. We have selected a wonderful series of panels and events for you to enjoy. We think you will find the unique culture and environment of El Paso very entertaining and enjoyable also. Wrapped around the beautiful Franklin Mountains that tower in the middle of the city, El Paso is a 400-year-old community with roots that reach back to Native Americans, Spanish conquistadores, Mexican immigrants and American pioneers.

This unique blend of cultures and customs makes a city of 700,000 feel like a small town. Friendly people, sunny weather and a range of outdoor recreation add to the quality of life. Ranked as the second safest city in the United States, El Paso offers a world-class symphony orchestra, nationally recognized museum of art and a vibrant cultural scene. It's also a center for health care, higher education and cultural arts. With our sister city of Ciudad Juárez in Chihuahua, Mexico, El Paso is part of an international metroplex that honors its diverse past and looks to a promising future.

The Organizing Committee for Left Coast Crime 2005 is indebted to the Border Regional Library Association for its support of the conference. The Committee also thanks the members of the El Paso and Las Cruces Chapters of Sisters in Crime who are serving as volunteers. Our volunteers and the Organizing Committee will do everything possible to make your visit a success. If we can help with any specific needs or questions, please feel free to let us know.

We have the Hospitality Suite available for your relaxation and refreshments. We also have an information desk where you may direct your questions. Many of us are librarians so we expect to be providing



information! The program book includes information about the El Paso Downtown area. We hope you have time to tour a few of the delightful attractions.

We are sure you will enjoy the Gala Opening Reception at the El Paso Art Museum where you will see the mojigangas and a skit by several of our own members. You will not want to miss El Conjunto de las Calaveras where authors and fans will gather to sign books and chat with each other. It will feature refreshments, a cash bar, music, and local color. The Friday evening event is being held in the ballroom and mezzanine of the Cortez Building, a former hotel lavishly decorated in Spanish Revival style. The Left Coast Crime 15 Awards Dinner is Saturday evening in the Camino Real Hotel Ballroom. Guests of honor will be feted and the Lefty, Bruce Alexander, Calavera, and Dilys book awards will be announced.

We hope you will fully enjoy your time here in beautiful, warm, and sunny El Paso.

PATRICIA A. PHILLIPS AND MARY A. SARBER CO-CHAIRS, LEFT COAST CRIME 15 EL PASO, TEXAS FEBRUARY 24-27TH, 2005

From the editor:



THE GOAL OF THIS PROGRAM BOOK is to provide the members of Left Coast Crime 15 with background readings about our featured authors and the city where the meeting is taking place: El Paso. The theme of Mexican calaveras is carried throughout the book by designer Francisco Ortega.

The program schedule pages will be easy to spot, too, because of the black border at the top of the pages. For an alphabetical index to the authors and panelists, and for last-minute changes, please refer to the pocket schedule. Maps in the back of the program book will give you a general idea about where Left Coast Crime events and sessions will be held.

The short author biographies were the hardest part for me, the editor, since the list of attendees changed and I did not receive information from everyone. I apologize for any mistakes in the short biographies and for any omissions. And don't be shocked if you see skeletons next to the names of some of your favorite authors: they're not dead! We just used the skeletons in lieu of photos if we did not have good images.

Thanks for your patience, and enjoy the meeting!

CLAUDIA RIVERS
PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR,
LEFT COAST CRIME 15
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

S. J. ROZAN guest of honor

By Dr. Lois Marchino

It is no secret that S. J. Rozan is one of the finest contemporary writers of detective fiction. By any measurement, the quality, quantity, and variety of her works makes her a must-read on anyone's list. Her works, indeed, are widely read and widely appreciated. It is a pleasure, an honor, for the Left Coast Crime Conference 15 to welcome Rozan as the Guest of Honor.

Among Rozan's numerous awards are the Shamus for Concourse (1996) and the Anthony for No Colder Place (1997), and, for the most recent in the Chin/Smith series, Winter and Night (2002), the Edgar, Nero, and Macavity Awards for Best Novel.

Rozan's famous series features two private investigators, Caucasian Bill Smith and Chinese American Lydia Chin. They start as solo investigators, but eventually join forces and establish a P.I. business together. Throughout the eight novels to date in the series, starting with China Trade (1994), their per-



sonal relationship develops as well, though Lydia is fond of saying, "In your dreams!" to Bill's advances. (Before we all keep asking Rozan "will they or won't they," here's her answer to one interviewer: "Do I know? I'm only the writer.")

Rozan says the question she is most often asked about the series is how she came up with the idea of alternating Bill and Lydia as first person narrator from book to book. She answers, "It occurred to me I'd worked really hard to create someone who thought differently from [Bill] and I'd be wasting [Lydia] if I didn't take the opportunity to find out what it was she was thinking." Besides, she adds, "When I am finishing a book in one voice, I can't wait to get to the other. His darkness can depress me and her optimism can be annoying." This interview by Jon Jordan and a lot of other lively information appears on Rozan's website, www.sjrozan.com.

Also vivid and compelling are other types of relationships in the series. Lydia has a large family and deep roots in New York's Chinatown. Bill seldom talks about his past, but the past often impinges on the present, including estranged family members he seldom sees except when one of them pops up with problems. Together Bill and Lydia become involved in fighting various dark criminal forces in New York City. Often their cases spill outside the city, even to Hong Kong, where Rozan lived while she was doing research for Reflecting the Sky (2001).

Rozan's exploration of connections between people, and between places and events leads to a rich and powerful commentary on the contemporary world. Lydia Chin knows and loves her native Chinatown, but she also acknowledges its underside. In China Trade, when some rare Chinese porcelain is stolen from the Chinatown Museum, Lydia is called in to investigate, and she brings Bill into the case. Most of Lydia's family considers her vocation unsuitable for a respectable Chinese woman, and to add to this, Lydia soon suspects she might have been hired precisely because she is female and therefore may be expected to fail, especially if violence is involved. The investigation expands into several dangerous areas: the cryptic world of art forgeries, the black market in stolen art, the shadowy underworld of the "tongs" (Chinese gangs), and gangs from surrounding areas who try to muscle their way into the closed world of Chinatown.

Lydia persists. As Susan Dunlap says of Lydia, she is "smart, witty, insightful, and above all a real detective." P. I. Lydia Chin is a true original, and a valuable contribution to detective fiction. And so is pairing this bright young Chinease American with the moody middle-aged Bill Smith: a fascinating duo.

Along with her skill at depicting relationships, Rozan is also never afraid to take on controversial or disturbing topics. In Concourse (1995), for example, Bill Smith is hired to investigate the brutal beating death of a security guard at the Bronx Home for the Aged. Bill goes undercover and takes on the dead man's job. He and Lydia expose a series of crimes and abuses inside the institution. They also encounter gang involvement, corrupt political officials, and more murder. Bitter Feast (1998) finds the P.I. team tracking down four missing Chinese restaurant workers. In the process, they encounter the rivalries and corruption among federal agents, the police, the organizers of the Chinese Restaurant Workers Union, and some very shady restaurant owners. Ultimately they uncover the smuggling of both drugs and human beings.

Rozan is also an expert writer of the short story, a genre that is sometimes slighted compared to series novels. The craft of the short story is often more challenging than the more fulsome "leisure" of the novel. As Edgar Allan Poe pointed out, in a short story every word must count, just as it does in a good poem. Not a word can be wasted in creating the desired effect.

Rozan's short mystery stories set a high standard for the craft. On a personal note, when my colleague Deane Mansfield-Kelley and I were selecting stories for our book The Longman Anthology of Detective Fiction (2004), we of course wanted to use one by

S. J. Rozan. Rozan's fifteen or so stories were all appealing choices. For example, "Double-Crossing Delaney" (2001), in which Lydia Chin takes on a Chinatown con-man, won the Edgar. "Hoops" (1996), which convinces us that Rozan must be a pretty mean pick-up basketball player, was first published in EQMM, then immediately picked for The Best American Mystery Stories of 1997, edited by Robert B. Parker, and for the Year's 25 Finest Crime and Mystery Stories, Sixth Annual Edition (1997), edited by Joan Hess, Ed Gorman, and Martin H. Greenberg. Other anthologies have also reprinted the story, which deals with the dangers of the excessive emphasis on winning in high school basketball, much as the novel Winter and Night deals with high school football. We finally selected "Going Home" from The Mysterious North (2002), ed. Dana Stabenow. This brilliant story presents an unexpected and unique look at the work of the P.I. (Fortunately, the P.I. is neither Lydia Chinnor Bill Smith!)

Rozan is just finishing her tour of book-signings for Absent Friends (2004), an out-of-series novel set in Manhattan in the first ten weeks after September 11, 2001.

Rozan's blog website, www.journalscape.com/ sjrozan, provides various observations as she travels and her responses to e-mails from her many readers. What is most impressive about this site is her integrity in speaking out on current political and social issues.

We all admire S. J. Rozan, and thank you for coming to El Paso. Enjoy!

Dr. Lois Marchino teaches detective fiction at the University of Texas at El Paso, and is the co-author of the recently published Longman Anthology of Detective Fiction.

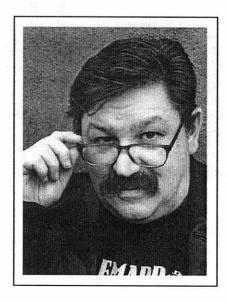
A Tribute to Paco ignacio taibo, ii

by Jeremiah Healy

SINCE LEFT COAST CRIME IS in the American Southwest this year, imagine a road-runner.

But rather than the red-crowned cartoon character who out-wits the predatory coyote, picture instead a stocky man with an unruly shock of black hair and horned rim glasses, holding a Diet Coke in one hand and a cigarette in the other.

Paco Ignacio Taibo, II has to be the only human I know who seems able to survive--and indeed to function at a hundred miles an hour, 24/7--while absorbing representatives of only two food groups: caffeine and nicotine. He's also been a great friend--and an important role model--both to me in particular and to mystery and suspense writers in general.



From his native Spain to his adopted Mexico, Paco has carved out an impressive career as a writer, weaving crime tales of magic realism using his private-investigator character, Hector Belasco Shayne, and others. But you'll hear about his "author" side through panels and interviews at Left Coast Crime itself. I'd like to expose you to a different aspect of Paco: his "ambassador" efforts to make the craft and enjoyment of crime-writing the shared "common denominator" of disparate people from different cultures.

I first met Paco in New York City in 1988, shortly after my own third private-investigator novel appeared. I was attending a publishing party with a lot of faces even newer than mine, and I noticed a young woman standing alone and looking a little lost. Remembering the feeling, I walked over and introduced myself. She wore a press-on tag bearing a Latina surname, and when the woman replied in halting English, I asked if she'd be more comfortable speaking Spanish. As the woman graciously tolerated my ragged version of her primary tongue, this "road-runner" bustled over and said to me, "You speak Spanish? A North-American who has a language other than English? I am Paco Taibo, and you must come to la Semana Negra."

In my head, I accurately translated that phrase as "the Black Week," but I didn't know Paco would become my ticket to an aspect of literature I'd assumed existed but knew nothing about: crime-writing from other countries. When I attended my first Semana Negra festival in and around Gijon, Spain, during the summer of 1989, I began to appreciate just how important Paco had already become toward promoting that aspect of all our work.

Paco founded the "Asociacion Internacional de Escritores Policiacos," or ("AIEP," pronounced

"EYE-yepp") in 1986 with the late Julian Semyonov (of Russia) and several others. They were attending an authors' conference in Cuba, hence the Spanish title for the organization, which translates roughly into the "International Association of Crime Writers" (or "IACW," which is NOT pronounced "YAKwah"). AIEP/IACW (on the Web at www.iacw.org) arose primarily as a protest against the censorship (often extending to imprisonment and torture) of writers living under right-wing dictatorships of Latin America and left-wing ones of Eastern Europe. I met such writers at my first Semana Negra in 1989, and thanks to Paco's conference planning skills (read here "wheeling and dealing") among the various host cities and towns in his home province of Asturias, many authors whose works had never been translated into English came to be friends whom I still see and work with. The same proved true in 1992, when I attended my second such festival and began to become more active in the organization. Always, Paco worked tirelessly--via those Diet Cokes and cigarettes--to be sure we could inter-act with other writers, editors, and important cultural figures the festival would attract. As an example, I remember one night explaining over dinner at a table of ten my efforts as a Boston trial attorney defending journalists who resisted revealing their confidential sources. Thanks to Paco, the "mealmates" closest to me were the editor-in-chief of Barcelona's largest newspaper and one of his investigative reporters who herself had been pursued by the authorities over her fuentes ("fountains") of confidential information. During a pause in this discussion in Spanish, I realized that ours was only one of three different exchanges at the table that night, none of them in English.

AIEP/IACW, the organization that began as a small protest group less than two decades ago, has now grown into an organization of nearly 1,000 members in twenty-six branch countries spread over four continents. As more governments in Latin America and Eastern Europe democratized, the primary goal of AIEP evolved somewhat toward encouraging crime writing as a genre and especially, through our efforts during my recent four-year term as president, to facilitate translations of works from other languages into English toward possible publication in the United States. In addition to Paco's Semana Negra each

summer, AIEP now holds an annual conference in a member country, recently Spain in 2002, Germany in 2003, and the Netherlands in 2004, with Mexico projected for 2005. Past presidents of AIEP have also included K. Arne Blom of Sweden and Susan Moody of the United Kingdom. The current president, Piet Teigeler of Belgium and Spain, was elected from a field of three candidates (Carmen Iarrera of Italy and Emanuel Ikonomov of Bulgaria being the other nominees).

If confronted with the empire he helped to found, nurture, and expand, Paco--ever the Populist--would vehemently deny any tendencies toward imperialism. But be proud of AIEP/IACW, my friend, and enjoy every minute of being honored at Left Coast Crime 15 in El Paso.

BOOKS BY PACO IGNACIO TAIBO II

(Dates given refer to first appearance in the U.S., in English)

HECTOR BELASCOARAN SHAYNE SERIES

- *An Easy Thing, 1990
- * Some Clouds, 1992
- * No Happy Ending, 1993 (o.p.)
- * RETURN TO THE SAME CITY, 1996
- * Frontera Dreams, 2002

OTHER NOVELS

- * CALLING ALL HEROES, 1982 (O.P.)
- * The Shadow of the Shadow, 1991 (o.p.)
- * Four Hands, 1994
- * Life Itself, 1995
- * LEONARDO'S BICYCLE, 1995 (O.P.)
- * Just Passing Through, 2000
- * RETURNING AS SHADOWS, 2003

Nonfiction

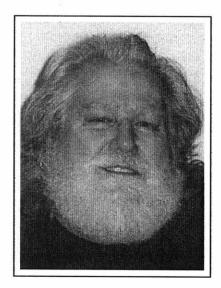
* Guevara Also Known as Che, 1997

JEREMIAH HEALY (WWW.JEREMIAHHEALY.COM), AKA "TERRY DEVANE," IS A MYSTERY WRITER IN BOSTON.

Ernie Bulow, an appreciation

by Judith Van Gieson

I was introduced to the world of book collecting by Ernie Bulow in 1988 when my first mystery NORTH OF THE BORDER was published and sold out its small print run very quickly. Not only was Ernie quick to see the book's potential as a collectible, he was able to quote his favorite passages. I was even more impressed when I learned he'd had the foresight to acquire some from my publisher while I had given my complimentary copies away and was left with a box of ten books in danger of being devoured by the carpenter ants in a friend's attic in Vermont. I followed Ernie's advice, went back East, and rescued the box. It soon became worth more than the advance I had received for the book.



Since then I have seen Ernie regularly at mystery conferences and when he comes to Albuquerque to visit and get books signed. The first time he showed up at my door in cowboy boots and a vintage Cadillac, I nicknamed him the Cadillac cowboy bookseller. The Cadillacs have been replaced by more practical vehicles but Ernie remains a tireless advocate for mysteries and books about the Southwest.

His love of books manifested at an early age. Ernie says he did as little work as possible in school, preferring to sit in the back of the room reading whatever books he could get his hands on. He ended up graduating from college as an English major by default. As a former English major myself I know that is not a promising career choice. Ernie went to graduate school in Utah until his wife Nannette was offered a teaching job at a BIA school in Fort Wingate, New Mexico. Ernie went along and was surprised when he was offered a job, too, because he'd never taken a teaching class and his long hair, big mustache and cowboy boots did not fit the image of white America the BIA was trying to promote.

Fort Wingate was the beginning of Ernie's long association with New Mexico and with the Navajo Nation. He met the Navajo artist Ernie Franklin there and together they have produced numerous unique and beautiful books over the years.

Like many people in the book world Ernie went through a number of incarnations before he found his calling as a bookseller. After a few years at Fort Wingate he returned to graduate school at the University of Utah, taught the first Native American Literature course in the country and edited the literary magazine where he published the work of writer in residence Edward Abbey who became a life long friend.

After graduate school Ernie taught High School in Window Rock, Arizona, then for a few years made a living as a silversmith. When his wife was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and had to give up teaching, they opened a book store together in Gallup, New Mexico. It gave Ernie the opportunity to meet a lot of new writers. After Nannette's health declined he moved the business to his house and became an innovative bookseller and publisher, beginning by expanding a small monograph published by the Navajo tribe called Navajo Taboos into a book.

That book led to his long-term friendship with Tony Hillerman. It seemed only natural to put Navajo artist Ernie Franklin together with Navajo detectives Jim Chee and Joe Leaphorn. The venture began with twenty-six illustrations for The Thief of Time. Ernie Bulow was prepared to redefine the concept of limited edition with this book, but HarperCollins nixed his idea when they decided to do a limited edition of their own.

Ernie Bulow and Tony put their heads together and came up with an alternate plan, a book called Words, Weather and Wolfmen, which included Ernie Franklin's drawings, Ernie Bulow's interview with Tony Hillerman, an essay and a previously unpublished short story. Bulow published it with a small print run of 350 copies. In 1991 it was reprinted by UNM Press as Talking Mysteries. The UNM edition had three hardcover printings and sold more than 30,000 copies, an outstanding success for a university press. The book was nominated for the Edgar and Anthony Awards and won the Macavity. In 2004, UNM Press reprinted it in a paperback edition. Two more books were published in the series, After Hours with Lawrence Block and Sleight of Hand with Walter Satterthwait.

The two Ernies and Tony have remained friends over the years and continue to work together. With each new Leaphorn and Chee mystery Ernie Bulow produces popular one-of-a-kind signed editions with original drawings by Ernie Franklin. For the Left Coast Crime 9 Conference in Albuquerque Anglo Ernie arranged for Navajo Ernie to create a witty logo of a raven holding a pair of smoking guns that

captured the spirit of the conference.

Ernie still has long hair, a full mustache and a beard. He continues to explore creative publishing ventures, to sell established writers and remain on the lookout for new talent. In recent years he has found a personable and knowledgeable partner in Michelle, a Zuni woman who accompanies him wherever he goes to sell books. Their nine year old son Erin has become a familiar sight at mystery cons racing around with his long blond hair streaming behind him. Already showing his father's love of books and entrepreneurial spirit as well as his mother's patience, Erin waits on long lines to get books signed by the most popular mystery writers. Then - when he finally makes it to the table - he discusses the books with the author.

Ernie adopted the name Buffalo Medicine for his book business in the eighties. The concept of "medicine" is pervasive in the Native world and the buffalo is considered a powerful medicine animal. Medicine can refer to a supernatural power in a broad sense. On a personal level it has to do with well being, strength, courage and harmony with an element of karma and good luck thrown in. In the Native world, however, good luck is not random. People can make their own medicine and buffalo medicine is an especially good kind. Ernie Bulow has long been good medicine for the book business in the Southwest.

Brett Halliday (Davis Dresser) and the Border

by Marvin Lachman

Brett Halliday is the Best known of many pseudonyms used by Davis Dresser, the "Ghost of Honor" at this year's Left Coast Crime. Though he was born in Chicago (in 1904), Dresser had a strong connection with Texas, especially El Paso. When Dresser was five, his family moved to Monahans, Texas, near the Pecos River. As a child he learned to ride, but a horse threw him into a barbed-wire fence, causing him to lose most of the sight in his left eye.

At age 14, lying about his age, Dresser joined the U.S. Army and was stationed at Fort Bliss where he served on border patrol. After two years his true age was discovered, and he was discharged. Because of headaches caused by light, he began wearing the eye patch that distinguishes pictures of Dresser.



After finishing high school, Dresser went off again in search of adventure. He worked in various construction camps and oil fields in the U.S. Southwest and in Mexico, gaining experience he would use in his short stories. At age 19 he entered Tri-State College in Indiana, studying civil engineering for two years. He worked as a surveyor in various locations, before settling in Miami in 1927, where he began writing.

His first novel was not published until 1934, when Mardi Gras Madness, the first of six sex novels published as by "Anthony Scott," appeared. In 1935 he published Love Is a Masquerade, the first of eight romantic novels he wrote as "Kathryn Culver."

His first mystery, Mum's the Word for Murder (1938), was published as by "Asa Baker," the name of the book's first-person narrator. Baker is a struggling writer of Westerns and mysteries in El Paso who gets the opportunity to observe the police investigation of a crime first-hand through his friendship with Jerry Burke, whose title is never given but seems to be police chief. (Baker seems at least in part based on Dresser since he is also described as having grown up on his father's ranch on the Pecos.)

El Paso is hardly described; the American setting could have been any mid-sized American city. However, the scenes across the border in Juarez have better regional writing, though stereotypically picturing that city as sinful. Twice, Baker and Burke go across the Santa Fe Bridge to visit El Gato Pobre, a Juarez cabaret. Dresser shows a social conscience rare in mystery writers of the time when he has Burke say of a suspect, "... he's a Spaniard, born and reared in El Paso. Now you and I know that no matter how much we talk about racial equality, our schools and our thoughts are permeated with a feeling of Anglo-

Saxon superiority. . . . Don't you see the smoldering resentment that must have been an integral part of his development? Particularly since he knows himself to be the mental superior of those who look down on him."

What makes Mum's the Word for Murder especially worth reading 67 years after it was published is its crisp story telling and a devilishly clever plot device, one used, apparently independently, by a famous author a dozen years later. In 1939, as Baker, Dresser published a second El Paso mystery about Burke and Baker, The Kissed Corpse, probably his scarcest book since it has not been reprinted in paperback.

Also in 1939, Dresser, writing for the first time as "Brett Halliday," created Miami private eye Michael Shayne, hero of Dividend on Death. It was written in

1935 and rejected by twenty publishers before Holt accepted it. Dresser says he based Shayne on a man who helped him in a bar in Tampico, Mexico. Dresser was to prove himself to be prolific, writing at least 25 Shayne novels, plus many short stories and novelets. Then, ironically for someone who wrote under so many pseudonyms himself, many other writers would use "Brett Halliday" as their pseudonyms for novels and the lead stories in Mike Shayne's Mystery Magazine, which Dresser had helped found in 1956.

Before Shayne was established in popularity, Dresser published many

Westerns, including three hardcovers, Death Rides the Pecos (1940), The Hangmen of Sleepy Valley (1940), and Lynch-Rope Law (1941), under his own name, that use his knowledge of west Texas. All were selected and introduced by Erle Stanley Gardner, who praised Dresser's ability to combine the Western with the detective story. The protagonists of all three books were amateur sleuths, "Twister" Malone and "Chuckaluck" Thompson. They are traveling seemingly endless stretches of Texas, anxious to cross the Rio Grande to visit the Mexican hacienda of a friend, but their journeys always get interrupted, and they become involved in solving crimes.

Part of Shayne's popularity stemmed from a series of

seven "B" movies that starred Lloyd Nolan as Shayne. In a later series of five movies, Hugh Beaumont played Shayne. Shayne was also the hero of a radio series that lasted about six years and featured Wally Maher, Robert Sterling, and Jeff Chandler at various times as Shayne. Richard Denning played Shayne in a 1960-1961 television series that was set in Miami.

Many critics feel that Dresser's best writing was in what was called his four "engineering stories" when they were published in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine in the 1940s. Three were originally published in 1938. All are about construction crews working in Mexico, but there are always characters who have just crossed the border from the U.S.. "Human Interest Stuff, probably Dresser's best, was reprinted in EQMM September 1946. It is the story

of a construction job across the border from Terlingua in the Big Bend area and two engineers, one of whom fled across the Rio Grande after committing murder. The narrator says, "Extradition is just a big word south of the Rio Grande."

"Big Shot" (EQMM August 1947) features illegal gold mining in the Mexican state of Durango. "Pieces of Silver" (EQMM March 1948) is about exploring for gold in Teluocan. A distinction is drawn between "Americans," who treat Mexicans with dignity, and a "gringo" who abuses them.

Dresser returned to the theme of "Extradition" in the original story with that title which won a second prize in EQMM's annual contest, and was published in October 1948. The man who killed a prostitute in El Paso has crossed the border ahead of the police and is working on a bridge-building project in Mexico. The engineering details seem authentic, and they are seamlessly woven into the plot. Dresser also takes the opportunity to express a code of honor of construction workers as he says, "I wasn't surprised to see a killer risking his life to save mine. I knew that's the way construction men are built."

Almost all of the Brett Halliday mysteries are set in Miami, a city that he did not describe in great detail, spending more time on dialogue and action. His

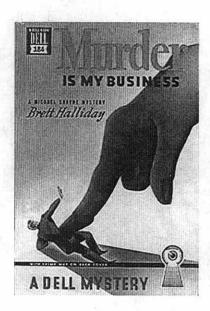


plotting and use of clues were praised by such fans of classic detection as Jacques Barzun and Wendell Hertig Taylor, in A Catalogue of Crime, and Anthony Boucher. Several Shayne mysteries are set in New Orleans, and there is one that takes place in Central City, Colorado, near where Dresser once had a home, and another in Kentucky's coal mining region.

In Murder Is My Business (1945), Dresser returned to El Paso when Shayne is hired to go there to solve the murder of a Fort Bliss soldier. He finds a racket in El Paso involving supplying civilian clothes to soldiers so they can cross the border for "a good time" in Juarez and visit what Halliday calls the calle de Diablo (street of prostitutes). A Juarez policeman tells Americans that sin is no different than in El Paso, it is just more open. Shayne gets to visit El Gato Pobre, where Baker went.

There is more about El Paso in this book, including reference to the College of Mines, now the University of Texas at El Paso. There are well-described scenes in the mine country between El Paso and the Big Bend. Ultimately, the plausible and satisfying solution of this book stems from Shayne's interpretation of what is described to him as "an old border proverb": "Los muertos no hablan" - "The dead don't speak."

Davis Dresser had a predilection for marrying other mystery writers. He was married to three women who wrote mysteries, though the order of his first two marriages varies, depending on which reference book one reads. According to Anita Gorman in the Dictionary of Literary Biography, in 1934 he married Kathleen Rollins, with whom, under the pseudonym "Hal Debrett," he published novels in 1949 and 1950. By then, he was married to Helen McCloy, the highly regarded mystery writer who created psychiatristdetective Dr. Basil Willing. The Dresser-McCloy marriage lasted from 1946 to 1961. During that time they founded Torquil Books, a subsidiary of Dodd Mead, and reviewed mysteries for newspapers in Connecticut, where they lived. They jointly won an Edgar for best mystery criticism of 1953. They also edited 20 Great Tales of Murder (1951), an anthology for MWA. They had a daughter Chloe. In 1961 Dresser married Mary Savage who published a crime novel in 1964. They had a son, Halliday, and lived in Santa Barbara, California, where Davis Dresser died on February 4, 1977.



OH, THEM BONES! POSADA'S SKELETONS AND THE MEXICAN DAY OF THE DEAD

by Anne Perry, University of Texas at El Paso



For those of us living on the Border with Mexico, the spirited and often humorous skeletons adopted for this conference are a common sight, particularly each year around the Mexican Day of the Dead festivities in November. Although their annual appearance coincides with popular U.S. Halloween celebrations, these skeletal figures, called calaveras, reflect purely Mexican traditional cultural views about the relationship between life and death and the ancient practice of communicating with the departed. A varied cast of these ribald characters, including the ever-popular Catrina in her gaudy Parisian style hat

(Figure 1), are created by artesans in a variety of media, including papier maché and papel picado (intricate die-cut tissue paper banners).

They are also commonly painted as decoration for storefronts, especially the windows of bakeries that sell a special type of bread during the Day of the Dead celebrations. Many of these calaveras were created by

the Mexican graphic artist, José Guadalupe Posada, a printmaker of the Porfiriato who participated fully in the Mexican tradition of popular art. Posada adopted the Mexican image of death---La Muerte-imbued it with life and a range of "personalities," and developed a marvelous vehicle for social commentary and satire.

THE DAY OF THE DEAD IN MEXICO

Day of the Dead celebrations in Mexico stem from preconquest times, when indigenous peoples felt a palpable sense of community with their ancestors. Among the ancient Zapotec peoples of Oaxaca, for example, ancestors were revered and consulted in day to day matters, and because the dead were frequently interred in the central patio area of houses, families literally shared their living space with the departed. The Aztecs of Central Mexico dedicated specific monthly rituals to the dead. Modern Mexicans acknowledge All Soul's Day on the first day of November and celebrate El día de los muertos (the Day of the Dead) on the 2nd,

although celebrations may begin up to a week before then. Festivities vary from region to region and depend upon a variety of factors, including population density and the presence or lack of an indigenous culture. In rural areas of central and southern Mexico families construct elaborate altars in their homes, which are dedicated to deceased family members. These altars are replete with ofrendas (offerings) of the seasonal pan de muerto (bread of the dead), tequila and favorite dishes of the deceased, as well as candy skulls, coffins and other treats that can be purchased from merchants who fill the annual demand for such specialized fare.

A life-sized sugar skull--a colorful memento mori inscribed with the name of the deceased---is traditionally included in each array.

In urban environments altars are found in public places, including the open patio areas of Spanish Colonial conventos and public parks. In Mexico City, for example, the colorfully decorated bandstand in



FIGURE 1. LA CATRINA

Alameda Park is transformed into a stage for a rowdy band of life-sized papier maché skeletal musicians who are accompanied by elaborate offerings of food and drink. Confectioners in the posh Zona Rosa area sell the traditional candy skulls and coffins enjoyed by adults and children. And in some smaller towns near the capital, locals and tourists flock to town squares to sample these specialized baked goods and candies and to purchase the traditional yellow "flowers of the dead." Vendors display their goods in festive outdoor market settings that include restaurants and pulquerías (cantinas that specialize in the sale of an intoxicating beverage called pulque).

The festivities culminate with an all-night vigil and picnic held in the cemetery, which continues into the early morning hours of November 2. Such annual contact with the dead has none of the ghoulish, unpleasant or terrifying associations with the macabre that we might imagine, but is conducted with an attitude of festivity, warm respect and fond remembrance.

16 LEFT COAST CTIME 15

THE CALAVERAS OF JOSÉ GUADALUPE POSADA

The exuberant skeletons of the popular printmaker José Guadalupe Posada reveal this uniquely Mexican familiarity with death. Posada's calaveras participate in every aspect of a vibrant society, reflecting not only conditions in a particular time and place, but the human condition in general. They sweep, preen, dance the fandango and mock their so-called "betters." Whether in the guise of famous Mexican revolutionaries or other legendary heroes or artfully portrayed as amorous combatants in the battle of the sexes, they appear to live life, ironically, to the fullest (Figure 2).

Posada created these images around the turn of the twentieth century while working in relative obscurity in his graphic workshop in Mexico City. His prints illustrated a variety of inexpensive publications destined for the popular market, including penny broadsheets circulated by the publishing house of Antonio Vanegas Arroyo. Colorful, exciting and affordable, the broadsheets covered a variety of subjects that appealed to the under-educated and under-employed lower classes of the capital city: bizarre and fantastic

human-interest stories, "true crime," legendary heroes, and the popular song lyrics that told of their exploits, as well as romance and poetry. After civil war broke out in Mexico in 1910, news of the revolution, often accompanied by very negative commentary about the leaders of the warring factions, became increasingly common. Posada has often been touted as a social satirist on a par with Daumier in France or Francisco Goya in Spain, and he was greatly admired by the artists of the modern Mexican school for his humorous and sometimes controversial imaging of Mexican society. Although he is acknowledged as an important master of the Mexican popular graphic tradition by students of Latin American art and culture, his name is frequently unknown by Mexican Americans of the border region who decorate for Day of the Dead festivities with paper images of calaveras derived from his illustrations. José Guadalupe Posada's legacy, nevertheless, is still very much about the people that his images serve: their beliefs, cultural traditions, and their unique ability to celebrate death as a fact of life.



FIGURE 2. EL JARABE EN ULTRATUMBA

FOR FURTHER READING

DAWN ADES, ART IN LATIN AMERICA: THE MODERN ERA, 1820–1980. NEW HAVEN: YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1989. CHAPTER 5, "POSADA AND THE POPULAR GRAPHIC TRADITION."

EXPLORE DOWNTOWN EL Paso

EL Paso's DOWNTOWN IS UNIQUE. Historic sites from the heyday of gunmen and shady ladies are marked with official plaques (there are two in the patio of the Camino Real, off the Azulejos restaurant). Many buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places, including a number designed by famed Southwestern architect Henry C. Trost (1860 -1933). (Walking Tour brochures will be available at the LCC Information Desk.)

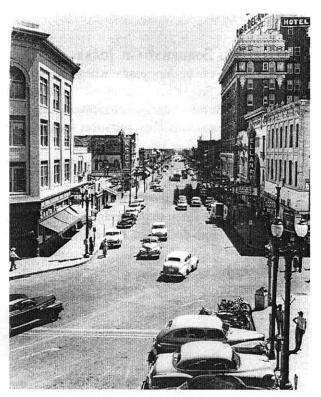
Across El Paso Street to the east is a monumental statue to Fray Garcia de San Francisco, who, in 1662, inaugurated the first mission in the area, Our Lady of Guadalupe, in what is now Cd. Juarez, Mexico.

San Jacinto Plaza, a block east and north of the Camino Real, is the center of downtown life. The Plaza features a statue entitled Los Lagartos by Luis Jimenez, commemorating the live alligators which for many years had their own pond here. The benches on the Plaza provide the opportunity to pause and watch the colorful world of the Border pass by.

Three blocks up Oregon Street is the El Paso Public Library, the oldest public library in Texas, known for its strong Border Heritage Collection. West of the library a 48,000 foot addition is under construction, and beyond that a new building for the El Paso Museum of History is rising.

Directly across the street from the Camino Real is the El Paso Museum of Art. One of the most vital institutions in El Paso, its holdings include the Kress Collection of European art, the Tom Lea Collection, and a collection of contemporary works by Southwestern artists. A larger-than-life-sized statue of a cowboy by Luis Jimenez stands in front of the entrance.

Next to the Art Museum is the Plaza Theater, a 2100-seat theater opened in 1932 which is one



PICTURE OF SANTA FE STREET IN THE 1950S. CLEOFAS CALLEROS PAPERS, UTEP LIBRARY

of only a few remaining "atmospheric" theaters anywhere in the country. The interior is decorated in Moorish style, with stars twinkling in the painted sky, and clouds moving across. Now under restoration, the Plaza's stage is being expanded to accommodate live shows.

One block to the west, across Santa Fe Street, is the El Paso Convention and Performing Arts Center. Our all-conference meetings will be held in this building, in the El Paso Room. 18 Left coast crime 15

If all this history and culture is too much, you may want to try some discount shopping along South El Paso, Mesa, and Stanton streets. This area serves shoppers from both sides of the border, and the further south one walks the more the streets and shops resemble those on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande. Bargains in name brand clothing and other items can be found!

The downtown area is served by a network of gaily-painted rubber-tired trollies, fare a modest 25 cents! Schedules will be available at the LCC Information Desk.

Crossing the Border to Cd. Juárez

Visiting Mexico can be done easily, whether for dining or for shopping. From the Camino Real, it is 8 blocks to the Santa Fe Street Bridge, which crosses to Avenida Juárez, where restaurants, bars, and street shopping are available.

Walking: Good walkers will find that walking across is the simplest way to visit.

Taxis: Cabs are available on both sides of the border, and can be taken to the bridge on either side. Using a cab to cross the bridge, however, can be very expensive.

Private Automobile: Driving across is also an option. Just remember that traffic is very heavy, parking is difficult to find, you should have insurance coverage that is good in Mexico, and - above all - avoid accidents. Under Mexican law, your car can be confiscated after an accident, even if you were not at fault.

Trolley: The Border Jumper operated by the El Paso-Juárez Trolley Company leaves the Convention Center Plaza every hour between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm, traveling east to the Bridge of the Americas where it crosses into Mexico, then loops along Avenida Lincoln and 16 de Septiembre to Avenida Juárez and back to downtown El Paso. There are a number of stops along this route where one can jump off and on. Not to be missed for shopping is the City Market located on 16 de Septiembre, and the Ajuua Restaurant provides a very atmospheric break for refreshment. Fare currently is \$12.50 round trip per person.

NOTE: U.S. citizens must present a picture ID in order to return to the U.S. Citizens of other countries must have the correct visa for entering Mexico or returning to the U.S. If in doubt, check with the Mexican Consulate in El Paso.



PICTURE FROM OTIS AULTMAN COLLECTION, EL PASO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Left coast crime 15

February 24-27, 2005

PROGRAM SCHEDULE (M) AFTER A NAME INDICATES MODERATOR.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

1:00-2:00

Detectives in the Ancient World:
Sleuthing Before Fingerprints and DNA
D. P. Lyle, MD (M), Brad Geagley, Lauren Haney,
Frederick J. Ramsey, John Maddox Roberts,
Ballroom C

Tough, Sexy, Edgy: Today's Female Sleuths
Rebecca Dahlke (M), Barbara Seranella, Zoe Sharp,
Pari Noskin Taichert,
Ballroom D

Convention 101: Introduction to Left Coast Crime and El Paso/Cd. Juarez Janet Rudolph, Mary Sarber, Brahma Room

Legal Eagles and Sleuths: The Law as
Background for Mysteries
Louise Ure (M), David Ellis, Joel Goldman, Gail
Ramsey,
Charolais Room

2:00-2:30 Author Signings, BallroomA 2:30-3:30

What's Funny About Murder? Humor in Mysteries
Bill Fitzhugh (M), Donna Andrews, Joanna Carl,
Harley Jane Kozak, Patricia Sprinkle,
Ballroom C

The Coyote's Song: Is There a Southwestern Voice?

James Hime (M), Twist Phelan, Susan Slater, Judy
Van Gieson,
Ballroom D

Everyone Knows Everyone's Business: Small Town Crime Bill Crider (M), Elaine Flinn, Christine Goff, Kathleen Hills, Mary Saums, Brahma Room

Writing Violence: What's Too Much, What's Too Little?
Barry Eisler (M), Donna Anders, Jennifer Colt,
Christopher Rice,
Charolais Room

3:30-4:00 Author Signings, Ballroom C

4:00-5:00

West Meets East: Rick Riordan and S. J. Rozan in Conversation Rick Riordan and S. J. Rozan, El Paso Room, El Paso Convention Center 5:00-5:30 Author Signings, Ballroom C

6:00-8:00 Opening Reception, El Paso Museum of Art

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

7:00-8:30 Continental Breakfast,

8:00-9:00

Cool Canadian Crime: Canada's Authors,
Books, and Publishers
(Bring your breakfast!)
Barbara Fradkin (M), R. H. Harlick, Mary Jane Maffini,
Linda Wiken,
Ballroom D
(Authors will sign at 10:00.)

9:00-10:00

What Makes a Good Bad Guy?
Gary D. Phillips (M), Joe Badal, Blake Crouch, Jim Fusilli, Simon Wood,
Ballroom C

Reviewing Mysteries: How? Why? Where?
Steve Brewer (M), David Montgomery, Betty Webb,
N. S. Wikarski,
Ballroom D

Historical Research: How Does Your Chosen Period Affect Your Methods? Penny Rudolph (M), Denise Dietz, Michael Siverling, Karen Swee, Jacqueline Winspear, Brahma Room Internal Borders: Sleuths Crossing Cultures
Andi Shechter (M), Rochelle Krich, Michele Martinez,
S. J. Rozan, Gammy Singer,
Charolais Room

10:00-10:30 Author Signings, Ballroom A

10:30-11:30

Thrillers and Crimes Other Than Murder
Ed Mitchell (M), Chester D. Campbell, David Dun,
Barry Eisler, Michael Newton,
Ballroom C

Billy the Kid and Other Murders:
The Old West as Background
Steven F. Havill (M), Janet Dawson, Elizabeth Fackler,
Ann Parker, Penny Rudolph,
Ballroom D

Murder Among the Faithful: Religion in Mysteries Katie Hamilton (M), Tom Griffith, Ann May, Sharan Newman, Cristina Sumners, Brahma Room

Writer and Detective on the Mexican Border:
Brett Halliday and Michael Shayne
Marv Lachman, Moderator, Ted Fitzgerald, Gary
Warren Niebuhr,
Charolais Room

11:30-12:00 Author Signings, Ballroom A

> 12:00-1:00 Lunch!

1:00-2:00

Crossing the Border Between the Sexes: Men Writing Women, Women Writing Men

Pari Noskin Taichert (M), Margaret Dumas, Kit Ehrman, Robert Eversz, P. J. Parrish, Ballroom C Mystery Series vs. Stand-Alones: Writers and Readers Speak Shannon Richardson (M), Meg Chittenden, Kay Finch, Kelly Lange, Andi Shecter, Ballroom D

Do Men Write Cozies?

Donna Andrews (M), Charles Benoit, Carl Brookins, Rick Copp, Parnell Hall,
Brahma Room

Facts in Fiction: Science in Mysteries Susan Cummins Miller (M), James Calder, Philip S. Donlay, Valdimir Lange, Camille Minichino, Charolais Room

> 2:00-2:30 Author Signings,

> > 2:30-3:30

Interview with S. J. Rozan, Guest of Honor S. J. Rozan, Denise Hamilton (Interviewer), El Paso Room, El Paso Convention Center

> 3:30-4:00 Guests of Honor Signings,

> > 4:00-5:00

The Many Facets of Law Enforcement
James O. Born (M), J. C. Black, Ben Rehder, Jon
Talton, David Walks-as-Bear,
Ballroom C

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Bookstore: The Humor of Signings and Promotional Tours
L. C. Hayden (M), Joan Hess, Ken Kuhlken, Lee Goldberg, Lea Wait,
Ballroom D

Native Americans and Canadians in Detective Fiction: Good Guys and Bad Guys (and Gals) David Cole (M), Michelle Black, Denise Dunnigan, R. J. Harlick, J. M. Hayes, Marilyn Meredith, Brahma Room Girls, Guns & Gucci: Chick Lit Is More Than Chewing Gum Susan McBride (M), Ellen Byerrum, Laura Durham, Harley Jane Kozak, Leann Sweeney, Charolais Room

> 5:00-5:30 Author Signings, Ballroom A

6:00-8:00 Conjunto de las Calaveras:

Authors and Readers Get Together, with Signings, Ballroom and Mezzanine, Cortez Building

8:00-9:30

El Paso and Route 66 (the TV Show)

David Morrell introduces an episode from the Classic 1960's TV series "Route 66," filmed in El Paso and written by Oscar-winner Stirling Silliphant, Ballroom B

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7:00-8:30 Continental Breakfast,

8:00-9:00

"Come, Watson, the Game Is Afoot!" Sports and Mysteries (Bring your breakfast!)
Twist Phelan (M), Meg Chittenden, John R. Corrigan, Mark Troy, Brian Wiprud,
Ballroom D
Authors will sign at 10:00.

9:00-10:00

Authors with Social Consciences: Society's Problems in Detective Fiction
Kathleen Staudt (M), Denise Hamilton, Manuel Ramos, Paco Ignacio Taibo II, Betty Webb,
Ballroom C

Deep in the Heart of Texas - When No Other Setting Will Do Bill Crider (M), Harry Hunsicker, Susan McBride, Leean Sweeney, Margaret Tessler, Ballroom D

Moral Ambiguity in Mysteries: When the Law Doesn't Serve Justice Barbara Fradkin (M), Reed Farrel Coleman, David Hewson, Sharan Newman, Brahma Room

Crossing the Threshold from Writing Mysteries to Writing Thrillers J. A. Konrath (M), Elaine Flinn, Lee Goldberg, Linda O. Johnston, P. J. Parrish, Charolais Room

> 10:00-10:30 Author Signings, Ballroom A

10:30-11:00

Forgotten Books and Authors Worth Reading and Collecting Ernie Bulow (M), David Cole, Walter Satterthwait, Tom Shantz, Linda Wiken, Ballroom C

Detective Fiction Goes to School: Luring the Reluctant Young Reader Rick Riordan (M), Daniel Hale, Lynn Hall, Gay Kinman, Lono Waiwaiole, Ballroom D

Sing a Song of Murder: What Does Music Add to Mysteries? Suzanne Epstein (M), Bill Fitzhugh, Betty Parker, Linda Peterson, Nathan Walpow, Brahma Room

The Must-Read Thrillers
Barbara Peters (M), David Montgomery, David
Morrell, Lewis Perdue, Christopher Rice,
Charolais Room

11:30-12:00 Author Signings, Ballroom A 12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:00

Defining Characters Through Language: Is Profanity Necessary? Suzanne Proulx (M), Nancy Fairbanks, James Hime, J. A. Konrath, Randy Rawls, Ballroom C

Creating Tomorrow's Audience: Teaching Detective Fiction To be named.

Ballroom D

First Novel from Start to Finish: New Authors Tell It All L. C. Hayden (M), Evan McNamara, Cathy Pickens, Pamela Samuels-Young, Patricia Smiley, Brahma Room

The Hidden Message of Thrillers - Changing the Way We See the World Adrian Muller (M), David Dun, Robert Eversz, Ken Kuhlken, Robert S. Levinson, Kirk Russell, Charolais Room

> 2:00-2:30 Author Signings, Ballroom C

> > 2:30-3:30

Interview with Paco Ignacio Taibo II, International Guest of Honor Paco Ignacio Taibo II, Bobby Byrd (Interviewer), El Paso Room, El Paso Convention Center

> 3:30-4:00 Guests of Honor Signings, Mezzanine

4:00-5:00
International Thriller Writers
Meeting,
Brahma Room

Sweet Love, Foul Murder: What Does Romance Do For Mysteries? Janet LaPierre (M)), Rhys Bowen, Laura Bradley, Charlaine Harris, Linda O. Johnston, Ballroom C

Present and Future of Independent/Small Press Publishing Daniel Hale (M), Lee Emory, Julie Wray Herman, Lee Killough, Nancy Glass West, Ballroom D

> 5:00-5:30 Author Signings, Mezzanine

6:00-9:00 Annual Awards Dinner 6:00 Social Hour, 7:00 Dinner, Ballroom A

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

7:00-8:30 Continental Breakfast,

8:00-9:00

Does Humor Translate Across International Boundaries?
(Bring your breakfast!)
Barbara Peters (M), Steve Brewer, Mary Jane Maffini, others to be named,
Ballroom C

¿Qué Pasa con Fictional Latino/Latina Detectives? Steven Torres (M), Alicia Gaspar de Alba, Michele Martinez, Manuel Ramos, Brahma Room

> 9:00-9:30 Author Signings, Ballroom A

9:30-10:30

The Noir of the Border: The U.S.-Mexico
Border in Detective Fiction
Steven F. Havill (M), Elizabeth Fackler, Nancy
Fairbanks, J. A. Jance, James C. Mitchell,
Ballroom C

Where Politics and Sleuthing Collide:
Politics in Detective Fiction
Reed Farrel Coleman (M), Barry Eisler, David Hewson,
David Kent, Con Lehane,
Brahma Room

The Problem with Research: What Happens When Fact and Fiction Don't Match?

Michael Allen Dymmoch (M), Clyde Linsley, Radine Trees Nehring, Priscille J. Royal,

Ballroom D

10:30-11:00 Author Signings, Ballroom A

11:00-12:00

Young Guns, Heirs to Spenser and Kinsey: Today's Private Eyes Kelly Lange (M), Rick Riordan, Barbara Seranella, Zoe Sharp, Jeff Shelby, Ballroom C

Mystery Short Stories: Why Read Them? Why Write Them? Lois Marchino, Moderator, Rebecca Dahlke, R. J. Harlick, Marjorie James, Tim Wohlforth, Ballroom D

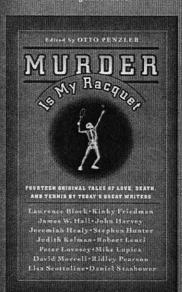
> 1:00-1:30 Author Signings, Ballroom A

> > ADJourn!

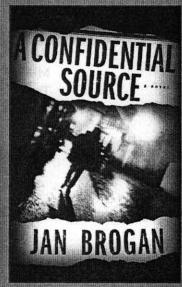
Great mysteries lurking in vear



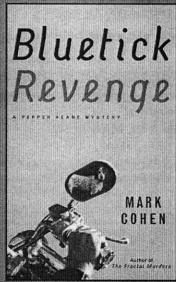
See Isabelle Run Coming March 2005



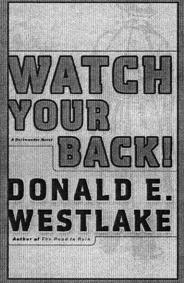
Murder Is My Racquet Coming June 2005



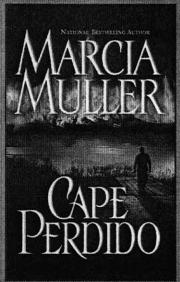
A Confidential Source Coming April 2005



Bluetick Revenge Coming July 2005

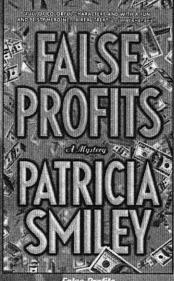


Watch Your Back! Coming April 2005

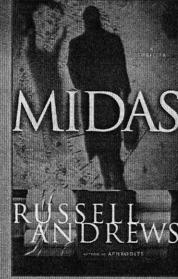


Cape Perdido Coming July 2005

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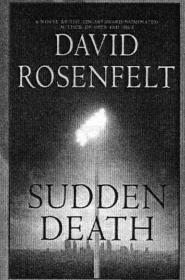
False Profits
Available now!



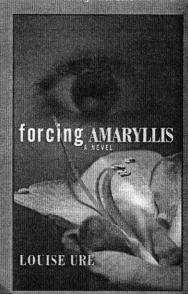
Midas Coming March 2005



Graveyard Shift Coming May 2005



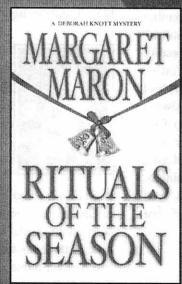
Sudden Death Coming May 2005



Forcing Amaryllis Coming June 2005



Out of Mind Coming August 2005



Rituals of the Season Coming August 2005 Visit our Web site at www.mysteriouspress.com



Mysterious Press

Time Warner Book Group

AUTHORS Panelists &

by alfabetical order



DONNA ANDERS is the author of twelve published novels, including Afraid of the Dark, her most recent lead title of psychological suspense from Pocket Books. Night Stalker, In all the Wrong Places, Dead Silence, Another Life, and The Flower Man, also lead titles, were

her prior suspense novels from Pocket Books. Donna has published almost 400 shorter works, including stories, novelettes, serials, articles, poems and plays to national publications. She is currently writing her next thriller for Pocket Books, the first book of a new two-book contract.

http://DonnaAnders.com



Donna Andrews was born in Yorktown, Virginia, and now lives in Reston, Virginia. Access Denied (Berkley Prime Crime, December 2004), third in her series featuring artificial intelligence personality Turing Hopper, follows You've Got Murder (Agatha winner, best

mystery 2002) and Click Here for Murder. We'll Always Have Parrots (February 2004, St. Martin's Press), fifth in the Meg Langslow series, follows Murder with Peacocks (1999 Agatha and Anthony winner), Murder with Puffins, Revenge of the Wrought Iron Flamingos, and Crouching Buzzard, Leaping Loon. Owls Well That Ends Well will be released in April 2005. For more information, http://donnaandrews.com.



KATHLEEN ANTRIM'S debut novel is Capital Offense, a political thriller about an ambitious first lady caught in a web of murder and deceit. A former columnist for the Tri-Valley Herald, part of the ANG Newspaper Group, and current columnist for Crime, Justice &

America Magazine, Antrim has won writing awards from both the Santa Barbara Writer's Conference and the Maui Writer's Conference. Antrim grew up in Avon Lake, Ohio, attended Bowling Green State University where she majored in public communications, and began her career in sales and marketing with the Gillette Company. She resides in Pleasanton with her husband, two daughters, and three dogs. She is at work on her next novel and is an active member of the Authors Guild, Mystery Writers of America, Sisters-in-Crime, Murder Must Advertise, and Left Coast Crime. http://breakthroughpromotions.com



JOSEPH BADAL has worked for thirty-three years in the banking and financial services industries. He is currently CEO of Thornburg Mortgage Home Loans, Inc. Prior to his banking career, Badal served in the U.S. Army in critical, highly classified positions in the

UnitedStates and overseas, including tours of duty in Greece and Vietnam. He earned numerous military decorations. Badal has completed a three-book thriller series, a three-book mystery series, a stand-alone thriller, and a stand-alone mystery. His most recent release, Terror Cell, was released in hardcover in June 2004.



A former high school history teacher, **CHARLES BENOIT** now works in advertising, pumping out the commercials that drive consumers mad with an insatiable desire to buy. An incurable traveler, Charles just returned from a trip to India where he researched his next

book and built an impressive tax write-off. Currently he makes his home in exotic Rochester, New York where he hosts a weekly program on the local jazz station. His debut novel, Relative Danger, was published last year by Poisoned Pen Press and was named as one of Publisher Weekly's seven Hot Debut Novels of 2004. http://charlesbenoit.com/.



When **J. Carson Black** was 14 years old, a man in an orange-and-white 1955 Chevy Bel Air chased her through a Tucson subdivision and the desert near her house, scaring her half to death. When she got home and stopped shaking, she wrote about it. The man and the car

are resurrected in Black's debut thriller, Darkness on the Edge of Town, but the girl in the story isn't as lucky as she was. J. Carson Black lives in Tucson with her husband and four cats. When walking, she's constantly aware of her surroundings.

http://www.jcarsonblack.com



MICHELLE BLACK divides her time between Kansas City and a log home in the mountains of Colorado. While practicing law, she wrote on a variety of nonfiction topics. In 1993, she moved to Colorado and began to focus on her fiction writing. For three

years, she owned a bookstore in Frisco, Colorado where she resided with her husband and two sons. While researching her first Eden Murdoch novel, An Uncommon Enemy, she began to study the Cheyenne language and became involved in the movement to save Native American languages from extinction. She is a former member of the board of directors of Women

Writing the West and is also a member of Sisters in Crime, Western Writers of America, the Lambda Literary Foundation, and Mystery Writers of America. Her website is www.michelleblack.com



James O. Born is a Special Agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). He has been involved in investigations in such areas as organized crime, violent crimes, economic crimes, drug cartels, and public corruption. On long surveillances, Born

would often read novels. Being in law enforcement, he enjoyed reading about the military and began reading books by Tom Clancy and W.E.B. Griffin. It has now been fourteen years since Born started writing, and he has the same editor as W.E.B. Griffin and Tom Clancy - the very authors he spent his time reading years ago. Born currently lives in Palm Beach County with his wife Donna, and two children, John and Emily. His web address is http://www.jamesoborn.com/.



JOAN BOSWELL'S work has appeared in magazines and anthologies in Canada and the US. In 2000 she won the \$10,000 first prize in the Toronto Sunday Star Short Story contest. As a member of the Ladies Killing Circle she has had stories in each of their six

anthologies of mystery short stories as well as co-editing the fourth, fifth and sixth books - Fit to Die, Bone Dance, and Boomers Go Bad. Her first mystery, Cut Off His Tale, will be published by Rendezvous Press in the spring of 2005.



RHYS BOWEN writes the Agatha and Anthony award-winning Molly Murphy mysteries, set in 1901 New York City, as well as the Constable Evans mysteries set in contemporary Wales. Evan's Gate, eighth book in the series, is currently nominated for the Edgar

award. Rhys has also contributed short stories to vari-

28 Left coast crime 15

ous anthologies, including last year's Anthony awardwinning Doppelganger. She is British by birth but lives outside San Francisco and is outgoing president of the Norcal chapter of MWA. When not writing she loves to travel, hike, sing and play her celtic harp. http://www.rhysbowen.com



LAURA BRADLEY grew up in Kaneohe, Hawaii, riding and training event horses, paddling outrigger canoes in island competitions and working for a summer at Honolulu Magazine. Now she lives in Texas with her family and has created a sleuth-hairdresser

named Reyn Martin Sawyer. Her most recent book, Brush-off, was published in April 2004 by Pocket Books. Learn more about her and her books at http: //www.laurabradleyonline.com/



STEVE BREWER is the author of 11 crime novels, one novella and one humor book. His latest standalone novel is a car-thief caper called Boost. The novella, in a new anthology called The Last Noel, features private eye Bubba Mabry, who has bumbled his way

through six novels so far. The humor book, Trophy Husband: A Survival Guide to Working at Home, is a collection of Steve's weekly newspaper columns. A longtime resident of Albuquerque, NM, Steve now lives in Redding, CA. He recently was elected to the national board of Mystery Writers of America.



Before he became a mystery writer and reviewer, **CARL BROOKINS** was a freelance photographer, a Public Television program director, a Cable TV administrator, and a counselor and faculty member at Metropolitan State University in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He has

reviewed mystery fiction for the Saint Paul Pioneer Press and for Mystery Scene Magazine. His reviews also appear on his own web site, and on Internet sites. He leads a monthly mystery reading group for Barnes and Noble in Roseville. His sailing mysteries include: A Superior Mystery (2002) and Old Silver (2005). Five Star Mysteries will release his first P.I. novel in September: The Case of the Greedy Lawyers (2005). http://www.carlbrookins.com



ERNIE BULOW has been a teacher, a writer, an editor, and a bookseller. He settled in Gallup, New Mexico, as proprietor of Buffalo Medicine Books. A strong interest in Native American culture led to a friendship with Tony Hillerman. This in turn led to publication of

the book Words, Weather and Wolfmen, basically an interview with Hillerman conducted and edited by Bulow. It has since been reprinted by The University of New Mexico Press where it has sold more than thirty thousand copies. UNM Press also published Bulow's interview with Lawrence Block, After Hours, and Walter Satterthwait, Sleight of Hand. Buffalo Medicine Books has become a fixture in the bookrooms of Left Coast Crime Meetings.



ELLEN BYERRUM is the author of the Lacey Smithsonian Crime of Fashion Mysteries, Designer Knockoff and Killer Hair. Look for the third book in the series, Hostile Makeover, to be published by Signet in the summer of 2005. Byerrum is a journalist in Washington D.C.,

as well as a published and produced playwright who writes under the name of Eliot Byerrum. She also holds a Virginia private investigator's registration. Byerrum lives in Virginia with her husband.



BOBBY BYRD is co-publisher, with his wife, Lee, of Cinco Puntos Press, which specializes in publishing the literature (in the full sense of the word) of the U.S.-Mexico Border, Mexico, and the American Southwest. Two titles by Paco Ignacio Taibo II, Frontera Dreams

and Just Passing Through, are among their publications. Bobby is also a poet with nine published volumes of poetry, and recipient of an NEA Fellowship, a D. H. Lawrence Fellowship, and an International Residency Fellowship to live in Mexico.



JAMES CALDER is the author of the Bill Damen crime series. In a Family Way, the third Bill Damen novel, leaps onto a more ambitious canvas, one where life and death are chillingly intertwined in the underworld of embryo engineering. With help from his new assistant, the

dynamic Clementine, Bill finds that his young cousin's tragic death is strikingly connected to her birth. Working in the perilous new world of bioengineering, filmmaker-turned-detective Damen is constantly discovering what it means to be human in a post-human world. James Calder and Bill Damen both live in San Francisco. http://www.billdamen.com

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CHESTER D. CAMPBELL has written three Greg



McKenzie mysteries--Secret of the Scroll, Designed to Kill, and Deadly Illusions--featuring a retired Air Force OSI agent. A University of Tennessee journalism graduate, he is a former newspaper reporter, freelance writer, magazine editor, political speechwriter, advertising

copywriter, public relations professional and association executive. After Army Air Corps service in World War II, he was an Air Force intelligence officer in the Korean War, retiring from the Air Force Reserve as a lieutenant colonel. He and his wife Sarah have six children, eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. http://www.chesterdcampbell.com.



JoAnna Carl and Eve K. Sandstrom both write mystery novels which rely on regional settings for atmosphere, background and clues. Eve wrote two mystery series: the Down Home books, set on a ranch in Southwest Oklahoma,

and the Nell Matthews mysteries, books laid in a midsize city on the Southern Plains. JoAnna writes about the shores of Lake Michigan and has been reviewed in Michigan newspapers as a "regional writer." JoAnna/ Eve earned a degree in journalism at the University of Oklahoma and also studied in the Creative Writing Program. After more than twenty-five years working as a journalist at The Lawton Constitution, she took an early retirement to write fiction full-time. She is a former president of Sisters In Crime and has been active in Mystery Writers of America. Read more about her at: http://www.eveksandstrom.com/



Originally from England, now a Washingtonian, nationally-acclaimed, award-winning author **Meg Chittenden** has been writing for 34 years in a variety of genres, including short stories, non-fiction, children's books, mystery, romantic suspense,

romance, paranormal and mainstream fiction. Most of her novels feature mystery and/or sex. Her most recent publications include two mystery/suspense novels published by Berkley -- More Than You Know and Snap Shot -- both set in the Pacific Northwest. Latest short stories are: "Three Blondes living on Geary," in the anthology Blondes in Trouble (Intrigue Press), and "The Spirit of Washington," in the anthology Death Dines In, Berkley).

http://www.megchittenden.com



JUDY CLEMENS is the author of Till The Cows Come Home, in which Stella Crown, dairy farmer by day, biker by night, must unearth the cause of a deadly illness and put a stop to a threatening saboteur. Clemens lives on a farm in Ohio with her husband and two children,

where her livestock consists of three housecats. http://judyclemens.com



DAVID COLE switched to writing mysteries after producing manuals for machines that made cardboard boxes. Shadow Play is the sixth series book involving Laura Winslow, half Hopi and all computer hacker; Falling Down (July 2005) has Laura finding love at last. Cole is currently

working on a standalone thriller, a cozy, and finishing Jasper, Texas, a non-fiction sociological study of hate crimes. A long-time political activist, he co-founded NativeWeb (www.nativeweb.org), an Internet non-profit for Native Americans, First People, and indigenous nations. A member of Mystery Writers of America, Private Eye Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, and Capital Crime Writers (Ottawa), he lives in Syracuse, New York, and Tucson, Arizona. http://www.decole.com/



REED FARREL COLEMAN was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. He began writing and publishing poetry in high school and college. Taking an evening college course in detective fiction changed his life and career path. His first long piece of fiction was published as the

novel Life Goes Sleeping in 1991. This was followed by two more Dylan Klein Mysteries: Little Easter and They Don't Play Stickball in Milwaukee. His highly touted Moe Prager series published by Viking/Plume includes Walking The Perfect Square, Redemption Street and the third installment, The James Deans. In order to feed his writing habit, Reed has worked in the air freight industry, car leasing, and truck driving. He was a house dad for many years. He currently lives with his family on New York's Long Island. http://www.reedcoleman.com/



JENNIFER COLT is the author of the McAfee Twins novels, comic mysteries featuring identical twins and fledgling investigators Terry and Kerry McAfee. Originally self-published, they have been acquired by Doubleday/Broadway for release beginning July 2005:

The Butcher of Beverly Hills (finalist in the PWA/St. Martin's Press Best First Private Eye Novel contest), The Mangler of Malibu Canyon, and The Vampire of Venice Beach.

Reviewers have called the books "hilarious," "delightful," "a breath of fresh air from a very funny writer." Before trying her hand at novels, Jennifer wrote horror screenplays for Dimension Films and television scripts for Playboy Enterprises.

http://www.jennifercolt.com/



RICK COPP is a veteran TV and film writer whose credits include The Golden Girls, Wings, The Brady Bunch Movie, Secret Agent Man, Scooby Doo, Team Knight Rider and Teen Titans. He is the author of two titles in the Jarrod Jarvis mystery series featuring a

gay former child star sleuth including The Actor's Guide to Murder and The Actor's Guide to Adultery. The third installment, The Actor's Guide to Greed, will be released by Kensington in November 2005. http://www.rickcopp.com/



JOHN R. CORRIGAN is the author of the Jack Austin PGA Tour mystery series, which includes Cut Shot (Sleeping Bear Press, 2001), Snap Hook (University Press of New England, October 2004), and Center Cut (UPNE, March 2004). Bad Lie (UPNE,

October 2005) and Double Cross (UPNE, October 2006) are forthcoming. Corrigan and his wife and two young daughters live in Presque Isle, Maine, where he teaches at Northern Maine Community College. In 1998, Corrigan earned his MFA from the University of Texas at El Paso. Corrigan is a regular contributor to Golf Today Magazine. For more information: www.johnrcorrigan.com.



BILL CRIDER is the author of fifty published novels and numerous short stories. He won the Anthony Award for best first mystery novel in 1987 for Too Late to Die and was nominated for the Shamus Award for best first private-eye novel for Dead on the Island. He

won the Golden Duck award for "best juvenile science fiction novel" for Mike Gonzo and the UFO Terror. He and his wife, Judy, won the best short story Anthony in 2002 for their story "Chocolate Moose." His latest books are A Bond with Death (St. Martin's) and Dead Soldiers (Five Star).

http://www.billcrider.com/



BLAKE CROUCH grew up in Statesville, a small town in the piedmont of North Carolina. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2000, where he studied literature and creative writing. He is the author of the thriller, Desert Places,

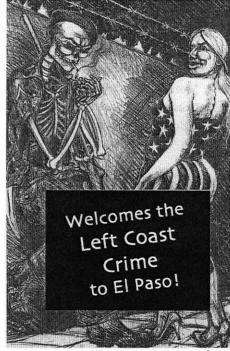
published in 2004. Its sequel, Locked Doors, is forth-coming in July 2005 from St. Martin's Press. He lives in Durango, Colorado. Please visit his website at: http://www.blakecrouch.com.



R.P. Dahlke is a member of Mystery Writers of America, chapter President of Sisters in Crime, Cochise County Chapter, Sierra Vista, AZ. R.P. worked in the crop dusting industry for her father, Robert A. Phillips, career crop duster. She presently lives

with her husband in southeastern Arizona where she is working on her second novel, Flying Blind. Read more about her and her books at http://www.rpdahlke.com/ Notice is hereby given that the management of this hotel, its employees and agents assume no liability for any emotional damage, real or imagined, incurred by participants at this conference who fail to purchase a copy of Relative Danger, the debut novel by Charles Benoit. We've made it easy to buy a copy of the book that Publishers Weekly called "smashingly good" in their starred review. We've kept the lights on, the elevators running, the hallways free of ne'er-do-wells so you can't blame us. Sure, you knew that Booklist said that, "every element of this rollicking adventure shines, from its suspenseful, globetrotting plot to its nicely rounded characters," when they slapped a star on their review and then went and named it to their Top Ten New Mysteries list for 2004, so don't get all huffy with us when you get home and realize you don't have a copy. And when all your friends are buzzing about this around-the-world adventure novel, quoting folks like John Orr of the San Jose Mercury News who said "Benoit is definitely star material...blending elements of a good mystery with the boyish, wanderlust charm of Mark Twain and a goofy but brilliant humor that reminds me a little of Dave Barry," you'll be kicking yourself for not picking it up. And did we mention it was just named as one of Publishers Weekly's 7 Hot Debut novels of 2004? Oh you can get it at any good bookstore and you can visit his website at CharlesBenoit.com, but if you miss out on the fun of getting it at this event, don't come crying to us. - The Management

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JANET DAWSON created private investigator Jeri Howard, who has sleuthed her way through nine novels, beginning with Kindred Crimes, a St. Martin's Press/Private Eye Writers of America contest winner and a Shamus, Macavity and Anthony award nominee.

Janet's short story "Voice Mail" appeared in the collection Scam and Eggs and won the Macavity award given by Mystery Readers International for best mystery story of 2002. A Jeri Howard story, "Slayer Statute," a Shamus nominee, appeared in the September/October 2003 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine. Janet is a former MWA chapter president and Edgar chair. Her website is http://www.janetdawson.com.



DENI DIETZ worked briefly at a singing career, a teacher at Flushing High School (NY), and an extra for Paramount, before writing for a Texas newspaper. Using a typewriter, Deni pounded out her first mystery, Throw Darts at a Cheesecake - inspired by her

part-time job as a Weight Watchers lecturer. The second book in the series, Beat Up a Cookie, revolves around a group of M*A*S*H* addicts. Deni hit the bestseller list with the first in her second series, Footprints in the Butter, an Ingrid Beaumont Mystery co-starring Hitchcock the Dog. Married to fellow author Gordon Aalborg, Deni, with Gordon, collaborated on a romantic suspense, Finding Bess, and moved to Vancouver Island. Website:



It is often said that the lives of individuals are shaped by specific events. As a young man, **PHILIP DONLAY'S** life was altered by two distinct occurrences. At the age of seventeen, he earned his pilot's license and at eighteen was published in a national aviation

magazine. The combination of these two passions - flying and writing - has led to a successful career as a pilot as well as the recent publication of his first

novel, Category Five. Currently, Donlay resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Category Five marks his first foray into the world of contemporary fiction. http://www.philipdonlay.com



MARGARET DUMAS holds a Master's Degree in English Literature, which led her unsuspectingly into a career as a technical writer and computer software executive. Her first novel, Speak Now, was short-listed for the 2003 CWA Debut Dagger award. Dumas

lives in the Bay Area, where she is currently at work on a sequel that continues the adventures of her new best friends, Jack and Charley Fairfax. http://margaretdumas.com/



DAVID DUN graduated from Seattle University and the University of Washington and took up the practice of law in the small coastal town of Eureka, California. Dun began writing in 1994, and writes adventure thrillers favoring outdoor settings. His books

include Necessary Evil, At the Edge, Overfall, and, Unacceptable Risk. When he has spare time, which isn't often, he enjoys cruising in British Columbia. Funniest moment as an author: a flight attendant approaches me on an airplane, says she's read my books, and asks for a primer on writing suspense fiction. She persuades the other attendant to continue serving refreshments on the mostly empty airplane, sits down immediately across the aisle with a pad and pencil, and takes notes until preparation for landing about 45 minutes later. Only a couple of passengers seemed angry at having lost their flight attendant.

http://daviddun.com

FEBRUARY 24 - 27, 2005



LAURA DURHAM is the author of Better Off Wed, the first novel in the Annabelle Archer mystery series from Avon. Like her protagonist, Laura is a professional wedding planner in Washington, D.C. who has planned some of the city's most extravagant weddings

and dealt with some of the world's most neurotic brides. She has consistently been named D.C.'s top wedding planner by Washingtonian Magazine and her real wedding experiences continue to be the inspiration for her books.

http://www.lauradurham.com



MICHAEL ALLEN DYMMOCH has served as President and Secretary of the Midwest Chapter of Mystery Writers of America, and as newsletter editor for the Chicagoland Chapter of Sisters in Crime. Michael currently lives and works in Chicago's northern

suburbs. Her most recent book is The Feline Friendship. Favorite opening line: Lambert Fleming was barely fifteen years old and trying very hard to fit into that bright, sad afternoon in October when he suddenly became invisible. (David J. Walker, Applaud the Hollow Ghost).

http://MichaelAllenDymmoch.com



KIT EHRMAN is the author of the highly praised Steve Cline mystery series published by Poisoned Pen Press. From the fancy hunters and show jumpers that display their prowess as they soar over challenging obstacles to the sleek, often high-strung, thoroughbreds that

compete at the racetrack, the horses and settings are as integral to the stories as the mysteries themselves. Titles include At Risk (2002) and Dead Man's Touch (2003) and Cold Burn (2005). Ehrman has worked as a groom, veterinary assistant, and barn manager at numerous horse facilities in Maryland and Pennsylvania and currently lives in Indiana. http://www.kitehrman.com.



BARRY EISLER'S thrillers, featuring the half-Japanese, half-American freelance assassin John Rain, have been included in numerous "Best Of" lists, including Publisher's Weekly's Best Books of 2002 and Amazon.com's Editors Picks of 2003 and 2004;

have been translated into over a dozen languages; and have been optioned for film by Barrie Osborne, Oscar-winning producer of the Lord of the Rings trilogy. The fourth book in the series, Killing Rain, will be published in June 2005. For more information, go to http://www.barryeisler.com



DAVID ELLIS, who won the Edgar Award in 2002 for Line of Vision, releases In the Company of Liars in April 2005. Liars follows a woman accused of murder, trapped between an FBI operation and the family she's trying to protect. In the Company of Liars is written in

chronological reverse, where the "ending" on page 1 is explained ultimately, going back in time day by day, by a shocking "beginning" on the final pages. Before Liars, David followed up his Edgar winner with the novels Life Sentence and Jury of One. You can reach Dave at Dave@DavidEllis.com.



SUZANNE EPSTEIN has been reading mysteries since she was ten years old. During the past ten years, she has become a reviewer and collector of signed first editions. Recently, she has done several "book talks" on mystery topics to community groups. She

loves attending mystery conventions, visiting with the many authors and fans she has met over the years, and discovering new authors. Suzanne Epstein is a retired Marriage and Family Therapist and lives in Northridge, California. 34 LEFT COAST CTIME 15



A UCLA film school dropout, ROBERT EVERSZ lives, at various times, in Los Angeles, Prague, and St. Pol de Mar, on the coast of Spain. His Nina Zero novels, Shooting Elvis, Killing Paparazzi, and Burning Garbo, have been translated into ten languages and

have made the best of year lists of newspapers and periodicals from Norway to Brazil. Thora Birch, star of American Beauty and Ghost World, recently signed on to play Nina Zero in the filmed adaptation of Shooting Elvis. http://www.ninazero.com/



ELIZABETH FACKLER was born in Michigan, grew up in California, and, after living in such diverse locales as Mexico, Santa Fe, El Paso, and Tombstone, she now makes her home in the Pecos Valley of New Mexico. She has written several acclaimed novels

of the old west, and recently has written three mystery novels built around the character of Devon Gray, who, at the beginning of the series was a homicide detective in El Paso. Her most recent, Endless River, is due out in March of 2005. Read more about Elizabeth and her books at her website: http://elizabethfackler.com



After working as an advertising copywriter and university English instructor, **NANCY FAIRBANKS** took up novel writing. Seven historical romances by Elizabeth Chadwick were followed by seven comic police procedurals by Nancy Herndon. Now Nancy Fairbanks

(these are all the same lady) is writing the Carolyn Blue culinary series about a food columnist who does her civic duty by solving murders here and abroad while traveling with her scientist husband and eating sumptuous meals. Each mystery is set in a different city or country and includes local recipes. Holy Guacamole!, the sixth and most recent, features El Paso, Juárez, and Tex-Mex. http://nancyfairbanks.com/



KAY FINCH began her legal assistant career in Houston at Richard "Racehorse" Haynes' criminal defense firm before specializing in family law, where she continues to encounter deceit, intrigue, and murderous plot ideas. Her debut mystery, Final Decree, features Corie McKenna, a PI who

spearheads investigations by day and composes country music lyrics by night. Kay is a member of Mystery Writers of America - Southwest Chapter, Sisters in Crime, and the State Bar of Texas Legal Assistants Division. Visit her at http://www.kay-finch.com.



TED FITZGERALD'S a mystery critic, mostly for The Drood Review, as well as the creator of Massachusetts private eye Matthew Gereghty, a character in several published short stories. Ted was a recent finalist for the American Crime Writers League Ellen Nehr Award, an "unexpected and most

pleasant surprise," and has served on the Best Novel Committee for The Private Eye Writers of America Shamus Awards. He's contributed files and numerous comments on several TV shows.



BILL FITZHUGH is the author of Pest Control and Cross Dressing, now in development at Warner Brothers and Universal Studios. Reviewing Fender Benders, the New York Times said, "Fitzhugh is a strange and deadly amalgam of screenwriter and comic novelist and his facility and wit, and

his taste for the perverse, put him in a league with Carl Hiaasen and Elmore Leonard." His other books include The Organ Grinders and Heart Seizure. He won the Lefty Award and the Best Fiction award from the Mississippi Library Association. Radio Activity, the first in a new series, was published in 2004. Funniest moment as an author: Signing at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, I was seated between Heidi Fleiss and T.C. Boyle. So there we were, a pimp, a whore, and a real novelist.

http://www.billfitzhugh.com/index2.html

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VLADIMIR LANGE, a graduate of Harvard Medical School, is an emergency physician and an award-winning multimedia producer in Hollywood.

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He now resides in California, where he is working on his next thriller powel.



To see a video of the MEG brain scanner procedure please visit www.vladimirlange.com



Child psychologist **Barbara Fradkin** is the author of numerous dark short stories as well as a gritty detective series featuring the quixotic Ottawa Police Inspector Michael Green, whose passion for justice and love of the hunt often interferes with family, friends and

police protocol. The fourth novel, Fifth Son, was released in October 2004. Her work has been shortlisted for the Arthur Ellis Award for best Canadian Crime fiction, and she is currently president of Crime Writers of Canada.

http://www.barbarafradkin.com.



JIM FUSILLI is the author of the award-winning Terry Orr crime series, which includes his Closing Time, A Well-Known Secret, Tribeca Blues and his current novel, Hard, Hard City. A resident of New York City, Jim also writes for The Wall Street Journal, for

whom he has served as rock and pop critic since 1983, and is a contributor to National Public Radio's All Things Considered. His book on Brian Wilson and the Beach Boy's album Pet Sounds will be published in May by Continuum.

http://www.jimfusilli.com/



ALICIA GASPAR DE ALBA is the author of various works of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. A native of the El Paso/Juárez border, Gaspar de Alba has been researching the crimes [murders of women in Juarez] since 1998. She is Associate Professor of Chicana/o

Studies and English at UCLA. Desert Blood is her first detective novel.



BRAD GEAGLEY worked for many years as a producer in the entertainment industry. History and writing were Brad's real loves, however. His first mystery novel, Year of the Hyenas, is set in ancient Egypt and will be released by Simon & Schuster in February 2005. He is

currently at work on his second novel in the series, Day of the False King, and a new stage play and screenplay. Brad lives in Southern California. To learn more, please visit his website at http://bradgeagley.com/ and/or http://yearofthehyenas.com



CHRISTINE GOFF is a two-time Willa Literary Award Finalist for Best Original Paperback, and Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers 2002 Writer of the Year. Death Takes a Gander, the fourth novel in her Birdwatcher's Mystery series, features a U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Special Agent, an eclectic group of birdwatchers, a Canada goose die-off, and environmental disaster in the making-the perfect prescription for murder. Visit her website at http://www.christinegoff.com.



LEE GOLDBERG, is a writer/producer and a two-time Edgar Award nominee whose many television credits include Martial Law, Diagnosis Murder, Spenser: For Hire, Nero Wolfe, 1-800-Missing, and Monk. He's also the author of My Gun Has Bullets,

Beyond the Beyond, and the Diagnosis Murder series of paperback originals, as well as coauthor of Successful Television Writing. His most recent books are Successful Television Writing, Diagnosis Murder: The Silent Partner, Diagnosis Murder: The Death Merchant, and The Walk.

http://www.lgoldberg.com



JOEL GOLDMAN started writing thrillers when one of his law partners complained about another partner. Joel told him they should write a murder mystery, kill the son-of-a-bitch off in the first chapter and spend the rest of the book figuring out who did it. His

partner found other ways to deal with his frustrations, and Joel wrote his first thriller, Motion to Kill, a Pinnacle paperback published in 2002. That and three subsequent novels feature attorney Lou Mason. His most recent novel is Deadlocked (January 2005). Learn more at his website: http://joelgoldman.com/

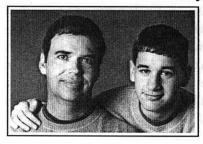


THOMAS H. GRIFFITH is a clergyman who has loved reading mystery novels, particularly those with "professional religious" as protagonists, for many years. He likes them so much he wrote his own novel, The Burger Barn on Sunset (2004, Virtualbookworm.com).

Tom says "When I started, I thought I was writing a mystery novel. By the time I finished, I realized I'd invented a new sub-genre; something I'm openly calling my book: A Male Romantic Suspense Novel of Faith. It's a romantic suspense novel with (gasp) a male, clergy protagonist!" His day job is being pastor of a small United Methodist Church.

http://www.thomashgriffith.com/

Along with his teenage nephew, Matthew LaBrot, the Lone Star State's own **Daniel J. Hale** writes the



Zeke Armstrong Mystery series for kids ages 8 to 98. Green Streak, the most recent release from the uncle/nephew team, is the sequel

to the Agatha Award-winning Red Card. A former competitive mountain biker who loves hitting single-track trails in Texas Hill Country, Daniel holds degrees from Cornell University, Dallas' own Southern Methodist University and the Bowen School of Law. http://www.zekearmstrong.com/



LYNN HALL was born in Lombard, Illinois and now lives in the country near Elkader, Iowa. She is the author of numerous mysteries for children, including Edgar-nominated books The Tormentors and The Whispered Horse, Murder in a Pig's Eye, and

Mystery of the Phantom Pony.



PARNELL HALL has penned three mystery series: the Steve Winslow series, the Stanley Hastings series, and most recently, his hilarious Puzzle Lady books, the most recent of which is And a Puzzle to Die On (October 2004, Bantam). Learn more about his books at his

website: http://parnellhall.com



DENISE HAMILTON writes the best-selling Eve Diamond crime series. Her books have been shortlisted for the Edgar, Macavity, Anthony and Willa Cather awards. Her debut The Jasmine Trade, was also shortlisted for the prestigious Creasey Dagger Award given by the

UK Crime Writers Association. Hamilton's books have been BookSense 76 picks and Mystery Guild alternate selections. Her latest, Last Lullaby, is a USA Today Summer Pick and a finalist for the Southern California Booksellers Association 2004 Award for "best mystery." Her fourth Eve Diamond novel, Savage Garden, will be published by Scribner in May 2005.

Prior to writing novels, Hamilton was a Los Angeles Times staff writer. Her award-winning stories have also appeared in Wired, Cosmopolitan, Der Spiegel and New Times. During the Bosnian War, Hamilton lived and taught in Yugoslavia as a Fulbright Scholar. She now lives outside of Los Angeles with her husband and two boys. http://www.denisehamilton.com

38 LEFT COAST Crime 15



LAUREN HANEY, a former technical editor in the aerospace and international construction industries, is the author of the ancient Egyptian mystery series featuring Lieutenant Bak. Set during the reign of Queen Hatshepsut, the series includes The Right Hand

of Amon and, most recently, A Place of Darkness, A Cruel Deceit, Flesh of the God, and A Path of Shadows. She lives in Northern California and travels to Egypt at every opportunity.



A high-tech escapee, RJ HARLICK spends much of her time roaming the forests surrounding her country retreat in West Quebec. Because of this love for the untamed wilds, she decided that she would bring its seductive allure alive in her writings. This she has done in

Death's Golden Whisper, where the wilderness setting plays almost as large a role as the main character, Meg Harris. Death's Golden Whisper is the first of a new series and according to Margaret Cannon of the Globe & Mail, Canada's national newspaper, is "a promising start for a series."

http://www.rjharlick.ca



CHARLAINE HARRIS has been a published writer for over two decades. Her current series include the crossover mystery/horror/ romance books about telepathic barmaid Sookie Stackhouse, and Harper Connelly books featuring a lightning-struck young

woman who has developed a strange gift. Harris, married with three children, spends her "leisure" time reading and going to the movies. In addition to her human family, she has three dogs and a duck. The duck stays outside.

http://www.charlaineharris.com/



STEVEN F. HAVILL is the author of the Sheriff Bill Gastner mysteries, as well as several Westerns. His most recent book is Convenient Disposal. He has recently retired from a teaching position and lives with his wife, Kathleen, in Raton, New Mexico.



L. C. HAYDEN is the creator of Harry Bronson who is featured in What Others Know, Where Secrets Lie (optioned for a movie), and Who's Susan? (a B&N Top Ten Bestseller). Her other mystery is When Colette Died (an Oprah Online Reading Cafe Selection.)

In addition, Hayden has penned the inspirational, nonfiction book When Angels Touch You, a spiritually uplifting book about miracles and angels. Her newest release is the horror novel, The Drums of Gerald Hurd which promises all the punch of a first-class horror story and the sensitivity of a romance. Hayden would like to invite you to visit her website at:

http://www.lchayden.freeservers.com



I.M. HAYES has been an anthropologist, an archaeologist, and a small businessman. He has raised commercial flowers, worked theater sound and lights, and supervised camping, sports, and recreation programs. He was raised on the flat earth of central Kansas

where his Mad Dog & Englishman mysteries take place. After graduating from Wichita State University, he did post-graduate work at the University of Arizona. He has lived in Arizona, where his first novel (The Grey Pilgrim) is set, ever since. Mike shares his central Tucson home with his wife, several computers, 4000± books, and a small herd of German Shepherds.

http://www.jmhayes-author.com/

February 24 - 27, 2005



JULIE WRAY HERMAN, (Three Dirty Women and the Shady Acres -- third in her landscaping series) currently lives on a small farm outside Houston, Texas with her long-suffering husband, well-behaved teen-aged children, two large black dogs, two cats, three

horses, and the creature who lurks in the pond. She can be reached through her website at: http://MysteryGarden.com



David Hewson's books include the Venetian twin-era tale Lucifer's Shadow, A Season for the Dead and The Villa of Mysteries, the first two titles in a crime series set in contemporary Rome, and Semana Santa, a murder mystery in Spain which was filmed with Mira

Sorvino. A former arts correspondent of the London Times, he is now working on the fifth book in the Rome series, the first six of which have been purchased for annual publication by Random House in the US and Macmillan in the UK.

http://www.davidhewson.com/



RAELYNN HILLHOUSE has been recruited as a spy by both Libyan and East German intelligence. (They failed.) A former professor and Fulbright Fellow, she has not only faced the barrels of Kalashnikovs, but has run rum, smuggled jewels and laundered

money between East and West. Her debut novel Rift Zone (Forge, August 2004) draws from her experiences. Names have been changed to protect the not-so-innocent. The American Booksellers Association (Book Sense) selected Rift Zone as one of the best books of 2004.

http://www.internationalthrillers.com/



KATHLEEN HILLS spent the first forty years of her life in rural Minnesota before leaving for the real world and a career in speech and language pathology. After determining that ten years in the real world should be all that is demanded of anyone, she turned to

writing. She is the author of Past Imperfect and Hunter's Dance, mysteries set in 1950s Michigan featuring John McIntire, township constable. Kathleen divides her time between her home on a northern Minnesota lake and Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The third McIntire novel is due to make its appearance in 2005.



JIME HIME, a native of Arkansas, grew up in several communities in Louisiana, Virginia, and Texas. A tax lawyer, he has practiced in Houston, Washington, D.C., and New York. Jim published his first novel, Night of the Dance, in August 2004. His second book,

Scared Money, came out in October 2004. Jim is hard at work on his next novel: Three Thousand Bridges, based on his 9/11 experience. Jim and his wife Paulette live in Houston, Texas, again, sometimes accompanied by their two sons.

http://jameshime.com



HARRY HUNSICKER'S first novel, Still River, featuring Dallas PI Lee Henry Oswald, will be published in spring of 2005 by St. Martin's Press. Harry Hunsicker lives in Dallas, the fourth generation of his family to call the city home. When he's not penning the next

Lee Henry Oswald mystery, he works as a commercial real estate appraiser and speaks on creative writing. Still River is his first novel. Learn more about him at: http://harryhunsicker.com.



J.A. JANCE is the author of three distinct series and two police procedurals. Detective J.P. Beaumont (fourteen and a half books) hails from Seattle while Sheriff Joanna Brady (ten and a half books) calls southeastern Arizona home. Jance's third series.

a trio of thrillers, is set in and around Tucson. Her most recent book, Day of the Dead, is number three in that series. A volume of poetry, After the Fire, is also back in print. As bi-regional as her characters, J.A. divides her time between Arizona and Washington state. She has a husband, five children, four grandchildren and two dogs.

http://www.jajance.com/



LINDA O. JOHNSTON recently left her full-time law job to devote more time to writing. She is a member of the Orange County (California), Los Angeles and RWA Mystery-Suspense chapters of the Romance Writers of America. She also belongs to Sisters in Crime,

Los Angeles Chapter, and her mystery short story "Love on Sunset Boulevard" is in the SinC/LA anthology Murder on Sunset Boulevard. After writing several romance and intrigue novels, her first mystery, Sit, Stay, Slay, was published by Berkley in January 2005. She lives in the Los Angeles area with her husband and two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, and enjoys the frequent visits of her two young adult sons.

http://www.lindaojohnston.com/



DAVID KENT is the pseudonym for Kent Anderson, program director and on-air radio personality for KCSC, Oklahoma City's classical music station. His acclaimed debut novel, Department Thirty, is available in paperback from Pocket Star Books, and was also one of

the bestselling eBooks of 2003. His new Department Thirty thriller, The Mesa Conspiracy, was released in January 2005. He grew up in Madill, Oklahoma, and is

a former press secretary and media advisor to several congressional candidates. He lives in Oklahoma City with his wife and three sons.

http://www.davidkentauthor.com/



LEE KILLOUGH has loved both SF and mysteries-and police procedurals in particular-since age 11, a consequence of growing up with Dragnet, Naked City, M-Squad, and Police Story. Afraid of exhausting the supply of her favorite genres in her small

hometown library, she began writing her own stories, and rather than choose between SF and mystery, she combined them as much as possible. The habit has stuck. Approximately half of her 14 novels are police procedural mysteries with SF or dark fantasy detectives: including future cops (Bridling Chaos); a vampire cop (BloodWalk and Blood Games), and werewolf cops (Wilding Nights).

http://www.authorsden.com/LeeKillough



GAY TOLTL KINMAN coordinates Workshops for Writers at Cal State, San Bernardino and has eight writing award nominations. She has published over one hundred and fifty articles, six children's books, several short stories in American and English magazines,

and a gothic novel. She has also coedited a cookbook and had a play produced. She was the MWA Edgars Chair for Children's Mystery, and on Young Adult Edgars committee. Kinman is a scholar for the Library of Congress/UCLA "Women of Mystery" discussion groups; an active member of MWA, SINC, PWA, Short Mystery Fiction Society, and Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Kinman has a library degree and a law degree.

http://gaykinman.com

February 24 - 27, 2005 41



J. A. Konrath is the author of numerous short stories and a continuing mystery series featuring the insomniac hero Lt. Jacqueline Daniels of the Chicago Police Department's Violent Crime Unit. Whiskey Sour was released in 2004, and Bloody Mary is

forthcoming in May 2005. http://jakonrath.com



HARLEY JANE KOZAK grew up in Nebraska, attended New York University's Graduate Acting Program, and spent the next two decades in show business, starring in fifty plays, ten feature films, and a dozen TV movies, series, and miniseries. Harley lives in the

wilds of Los Angeles with her husband, a trial lawyer; two big dogs; and three small children. Her first novel, Dating Dead Men, was published by Doubleday in January 2004, and the sequel, Dating is Murder, will be out in March of 2005.

http://www.harleyjanekozak.com



Anthony Award-winner **ROCHELLE KRICH** writes an award-nominated mystery series (Blues in the Night, Dream House) featuring Los Angeles true crime writer/freelance reporter Molly Blume ("A sleuth worth her salt," New York Times Book Review). The third in the

series, Grave Endings, is "an entertaining thriller...Krich doesn't miss a beat." (Publishers Weekly). Rochelle has also penned five stand-alones (one was filmed as "Perfect Alibi"), five novels in the Agatha-nominated Jessie Drake series, and several award-nominated mystery short stories. Ballantine will publish the next Molly Blume mystery, tentatively titled Now You See Me, in November 2005.

http://www.rochellekrich.com



KEN KUHLKEN'S novels are Midheaven, The Loud Adios, The Venus Dea and The Angel Gang. His stories have appeared in Esquire, dozens of literary magazines and frequently in the San Diego Reader. His work has been chosen as finalist for the

Ernest Hemingway Award for best first novel, named Private Eye Writers of America best first novel, honorably mentioned in Best American Short Stories, and rewarded with a National Endowment for the Arts Literary Fellowship.For more information, go to: http://www.kenkuhlken.net



A mystery reader since 1943, **MARVIN LACHMAN** has written for many fan journals and reference books. He was co-author and co-editor of the Edgar-winning Encyclopedia of Mystery and Detection (1976). His A Reader's Guide to the American Novel

of Detection (1993) was nominated for the Edgar, Anthony, Agatha, and Macavity Awards. In 1997 MWA awarded him their Raven Award. His last book, The American Regional Mystery (2000), won the Macavity Award and was nominated for the Anthony and Agatha. His next book will be The Heirs of Anthony Boucher: A History of Mystery Fandom.



Kelly Lange is the acclaimed author of a new series of mystery novels featuring her sleuth, fictional television news anchorreporter Maxi Poole. The first book in the series, The Reporter, came out in July of 2002, and the second, Dead File, came out in

July of 2003, along with the paperback edition of The Reporter, all from Warner Books. She has written two other mystery novels, Trophy Wife and Gossip, from Simon & Schuster. Learn more about Kelly Lange at her website: http://www.kelly-lange.com/



VLADIMIR LANGE, son of Russian parents, grew up in Brazil, lived in France and Iran, and came to the United States at the age of 17. He graduated from Harvard Medical School, then worked as an emergency physician in California for 15 years. There he founded a

multimedia production company specializing in healthcare topics, and achieved national recognition with his book on breast cancer. Vladimir's hobbies include flying and mountain climbing. His first novel, Fatal Memories, will appear in bookstores on March 15, 2005. You can visit his site at: http://www.vladimirlange.com.



JANET LAPIERRE'S Port Silva Mysteries are set in a fictitious town on California's north coast. In Keepers (Perseverance Press/ John Daniel & Co.), a search for a missing child takes private investigator Patience Mackellar and her daughter, Verity, to a

remote religious commune. In 2004's Dath Duties, from the same publisher, Patience and Verity roil old animosities in Port Silva as they attempt to find the truth behind a 27-year-old suicide. Berkeley resident LaPierre does research from a travel trailer in the company of her husband, Richard, and two yellow Labs, Emmitt and Dulcie. Learn more at: http://www.janetlapierre.com.



ROBERT S. LEVINSON is the author of Ask a Dead Man, Hot Paint, The John Lennon Affair, The James Dean Affair (#1 Los Angeles Times bestseller) and The Elvis and Marilyn Affair. His short stories appear regularly in Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine

and Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine. A Readers Award choice of EQMM readers, Bob is included in the current edition of the annual World's Finest Mystery & Crime Stories anthology. He is past president of the Mystery Writers of America-Southern

California chapter and currently serves on the national board as Director At-Large. He produced MWA's Edgar Awards gala in 2003 and 2004. http://www.robertslevinson.com.



CLYDE LINSLEY is the author of the Josiah Beede mysteries, including Death of a Mill Girl and Saving Louise, and the forthcoming Die Like a Hero. He is also the author of the Leo McFarlin mysteries.



Douglas Lyle was born and raised in Huntsville, Alabama and for the past 28 years has practiced Cardiology in Orange County, California. He has worked with many published authors and with the writers and producers of several popular television shows,

including Law & Order, CSI: Miami, Diagnosis Murder, Monk, Judging Amy, Cold Case, Peacemakers, and 1-800-Missing. His non-fiction works include Murder and Mayhem: A Doctor Answers Medical and Forensic Questions for Mystery Writers, a compilation of the most interesting questions he has received over the years, and Forensics For Dummies, an in-depth look into the world of forensic science. His published fiction includes the thrillers Devil's Playground and Double Blind. Visit his website, The Writers' Medical and Forensics Lab at http://www.dplylemd.com.



MARY JANE MAFFINI is a lapsed librarian, former co-owner of Prime Crime Mystery Bookstore in Canada's capital city, and a past President of the Crime Writers of Canada. She's the author of four books in the Ottawa-based Camilla MacPhee mystery series. Lament

for a Lounge Lizard, the first book in the Fiona Silk series, was shortlisted for a Crime Writers of Canada Arthur Ellis award for best novel. Her quirky short story characters appear in many anthologies and magazines including Ellery Queen, Death Dines In and all five Ladies Killing Circle anthologies. She believes humor should be taken seriously.



DR. DEANE MANSFIELD-Kelley teaches detective fiction at the University of Texas at El Paso, and is the co-author of the recently published Longman Anthology of Detective Fiction.



Dr. Lois Marchino teaches detective fiction at the University of Texas at El Paso, and is the coauthor of the recently published Longman Anthology of Detective Fiction.

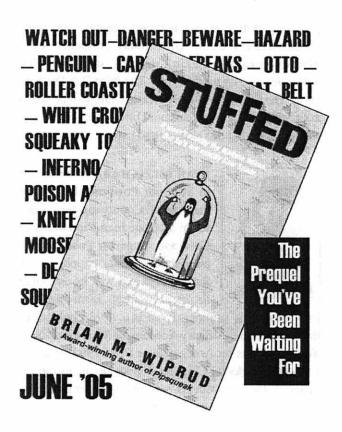


MICHELE MARTINEZ'S debut thriller, Most Wanted, is the first in a series featuring Manhattan prosecutor Melanie Vargas, in a wild race against the clock to solve a brutal Park Avenue murder before the killer gets her. Most Wanted will be available in

hardcover, paperback, audio and large print, and is a Mystery Guild, Literary Guild and Doubleday Featured Alternate Selection. Michele spent eight years fighting crime as a federal prosecutor in New York, specializing in narcotics and gang cases. A graduate of Harvard and Stanford Law, she lives in Manhattan with her husband and two children. http://www.michelemartinez.com



SUSAN McBride is the author of The Good Girl's Guide to Murder, the second of her Debutante Dropout Mysteries, hot off the press from Avon. Blue Blood, the series debut, spent three months on the IMBA's paperback bestsellers list and has gone into multiple



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44 Left coast crime 15

printings. Both titles are featured alternate selections of the Mystery Guild. USA Today bestseller Katie MacAlister calls Good Girl "exciting, sassy and filled with a deliciously wicked wit!" The third Deb Dropout book, The Lone Star Lonely Hearts Club, will be out in 2006. Check out http://susanmcbride.com/ for all the scoop, including this year's road trips.



Evan McNamara is the author of Superior Position, the first of the Mineral County mystery series set in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado. Superior Position was published in trade paperback by Salvo Press and will be available in mass market from Berkley

Publishing this summer. Evan is a 1993 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and was an Army officer from 1993 to 2000. Evan now works for Cingular Wireless as an operations manager. He lives with his wife and daughter in Kansas City, Missouri. You can see more at: http://www.evanmcnamara.com



MARILYN MEREDITH is the author of Deadly Omen, Unequally Yoked, Intervention, and Wingbeat in the Deputy Tempe Crabtree mystery series, along with the prequel, Deadly Trail. The first two of her Rocky Bluff P.D. series are Final Respects and Bad Tidings;

the third is Guilt by Association, publisher's award winner for mystery and suspense. She is an instructor for Writers Digest School.

http://fictionforyou.com



SUSAN CUMMINS MILLER worked as a field geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey before becoming a writer of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. In Death Assemblage, geologist Frankie MacFarlane uncovers clues that solve ancient and recent murders

while unraveling the geologic secrets of the mountains

near Pair-a-Dice, NV. In the sequel, Dead Ringer, set in southeastern Arizona and Sonora, Mexico, Frankie becomes embroiled in cross-border artifact-smuggling, money-laundering, and murder.

http://hometown.aol.com/stmiller46/myhomepage/index.html



CAMILLE MINICHINO is the author of the periodic table mystery series and NorCal President of Sisters in Crime. Her seventh novel, The Nitrogen Murder, will be out in May 2005. Her newest paperback is from WorldWide Mysteries: The Carbon Murder.

Camille has a Ph.D. in physics and a long career in research and teaching. She's on the faculty of Golden Gate University in San Francisco, and on the staff of the Engineering Department of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Camille lives in the San Francisco Bay aArea with her husband and five satellite dishes. http://www.minichino.com.



National award winning author, **ED MITCHELL** is a former airborne infantry ranger, rocket scientist, and consultant to the National Missile Defense Program and Department of Homeland Security. He writes among the oaks in Monterey County, California.

His first two contemporary thrillers, Gold Lust and Gold Raid, have each won multiple book awards. Ask and he'll share his tour experiences of doing a reading with fruit flies attacking his nose (it's large), doing a radio show kneeling on the floor (he's flexible), and having his car interior flooded at a library conference. Ed's humorous author newsletter is at: http://www.BooksByMitchell.com

FEBRUARY 24 - 27, 2005 45



James C. MITCHELL'S Lover's Crossing was nominated for the Shamus Award for Best First Novel of 2003. Booklist called it "as satisfying as the debuts of such classic series heroes as Parker's Spenser and Grafton's Kinsey Millhone." The second novel

featuring Tucson private investigator Brinker, Choke Point, was published in October 2004. Before turning to fiction, Mitchell was a broadcast news reporter and a lawyer. His most recent day job is college professor, teaching news media law at The University of Arizona. Jim lives in Tucson with his wife, the children's author Marianne Mitchell.

http://www.jamescmitchell.net



DAVID MORRELL is the author of First Blood, the award-winning novel in which Rambo was created. Many of his thrillers have been New York Times bestsellers, including The Brotherhood of the Rose, The Fraternity of the Stone, and the Fifth Profession.

A former professor of American literature, he is also the co-president of the International Thriller Writers Organization. His website is at:

http://www.davidmorrell.net



ADRIAN MULLER was born in Canada, but was raised and educated in the Netherlands. After obtaining a degree in Arts Administration from the Reinwardt Academy for Museology, he moved to Bristol in the United Kingdom where he held various posts at Watershed,

Britain's first media centre. Adrian has since become a freelance journalist and events organiser specialising in crime fiction. His profiles of crime novelists have been published in books and magazines in Europe, Australia and the United States. He was one of the organisers of the 1997 St. Hilda's Crime and Mystery Weekend in Oxford. In 1998 Adrian helped to found Dead on Deansgate, Britain's largest crime fiction convention,

and served as Chairman in 2000 and 2001. Adrian was also one of the originators of, and contributors to, the 'Masters of Crime' supplement published by The Times. Most recently he helped found the International Thriller Writers Association. In 2006 Adrian will be co-hosting Left Coast Crime in Bristol, England.



RADINE TREES NEHRING has called Arkansas home since 1988. She began writing for publication in 1986 and was a broadcast journalist for ten years. Nehring's non-fiction book, Dear Earth: A Love Letter from Spring Hollow --published in 1995 -- won the

Governor's Award for best writing about the state. She is author of a mystery series set throughout Arkansas. The first book, A Valley to Die For, (St Kitts Press, 2002) earned a Macavity nomination. Music to Die For (set at the Ozark Folk Center), appeared in 2003. Her newest, A Treasure to Die For, takes place in Hot Springs, AR.

http://www.radinesbooks.com/



SHARAN NEWMAN writes the Catherine Levendeur mystery series, set in twelfth century France, where she feels very much at home. The most recent is The Witch in the Well (Forge, 2004). Her first non-fiction book is The Real History Behind the Da Vinci

Code (Berkley, 2005). http://sharannewman.com/



MICHAEL NEWTON has published 181 books since 1977, with 10 more forthcoming from various houses through 2006. His work includes 147 novels and 34 nonfiction books, most recently The FBI Encyclopedia (2003), The Encyclopedia of Unsolved Crimes

(2003) and The Encyclopedia of Cryptozoology (2004). For more details visit his website at:

http://www.michaelnewton.homestead.com/

46 Left coast crime 15



GARY WARREN NIEBUHR is the author of Make Mine a Mystery (Libraries Unlimited, 2003) which won the Macavity Award, the Anthony Award, and The Kenneth Kingery Scholarly Book Award from the Council for Wisconsin Writers in 2004. He is the author

of A Reader's Guide to the Private Eye Novel (G. K. Hall) in 1993 which was nominated for an Anthony Award. His private eye short story, "Over There," appears in the Summer 2004 issue of Hardluck Stories. He received the Don Sandstrom Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in Mystery Fandom and he was the Fan Guest of Honor at the 2004 Bouchercon and the 1995 Magna Cum Murder. Gary Warren Niebuhr operates P. I. E. S. (Private Investigator Entertainment Service), a mail order catalog of private eye fiction at: http://www.execpc.com/~piesbook/piescatalog.html.



ANN PARKER is a science writer by day and a historical mystery writer by night. Her first novel, Silver Lies, is set during the wild days of the 1879 Colorado silver rush. Silver Lies was named a best mystery of 2003 by Publishers Weekly and The Chicago Tribune,

won the Willa Literary Award for Historical Fiction and the Colorado Gold Award for Best Mystery, and was a finalist for both the Bruce Alexander Historical Mystery Award and the Spur Award for Best Novel of the West. A sequel is in the works. Ann's web site is at: http://www.annparker.net.



P. J. PARRISH is author of the critically acclaimed and New York Times best-selling Louis Kincaid series. The two sisters - Kristy Montee and Kelly Nichols - pooled their life-long loves of writing by teaming up in 1995 to create their fictional

ex-cop turned PI. Kristy is a recovering journalist who worked for the South Florida Sun-Sentinel. Kelly has worked in casinos in Nevada and Mississippi, in a variety

of positions and now writes full-time. Their books have been Edgar, Shamus and Anthony award finalists. Their latest, A Killing Rain, is a February 2005 release. Please visit PJ Parrish at: http://www.pjparrish.com.



Lewis Perdue has taught journalism at UCLA and Cornell, founded four companies including a wine company, a magazine which remains the top trade publication for the North American wine industry, and two technology firms. Lew has 19 published books including 12

novels which have collectively sold more than 3 million copies. Among his recent books are Daughter of God, The Da Vinci Legacy, and Slatewiper. http://www.lewisperdue.com



BARBARA PETERS started Scottsdale, Arizona's The Poisoned Pen in 1989 and went on to form Poisoned Pen Press with her husband Robert Rosenwald in 1997. Unfortunately, the businesses now leave her little time for leisure reading, which is what hooked her

on mysteries in the first place.



LINDA LEE PETERSON is the co-founder of a marketing communications firm with offices in the San Francisco Bay area and Philadelphia. Her first novel, published in 2004, is Edited to Death. She and her husband, a judge, live in Lafayette, California. They have

one son. She is a graduate of Stanford University.



PHELAN TWIST received her law degree from Stanford University, completing her undergraduate studies in two years. Success as a plaintiff's trial lawyer enabled her to retire in her early thirties. Her home base an ocean-going boat, Twist enjoys extreme endurance athletics (triathlon, skate-skiing, distance cycling, outrigger canoe paddling, team roping) and writing Pinnacle Peak mysteries, a legal-themed series featuring different sports. Family Claims (Poisoned Pen Press) is her latest book; Spurred Ambition, which features rock climbing, will be released in Summer 2005. http://twistphelan.com/



GARY PHILLIPS writes in several mediums in his ongoing effort to tap the primal. Monkology, a collection of his Ivan Monk private eye short stories is out now from Dennis McMillain Publications as is Angeltown, a five-part comic book mystery mini-series from

DC/Vertigo Comics. Later this year the Cocaine Chronicles, co-edited with Jervey Tervalon, will premiere from Akashic Books. This is a collection of original short stories that are funny and harrowing, sad and scary, but at all times riveting centered around that pernicious substance.

http://www.gdphillips.com/



SUZANNE PROULX (rhymes with "clue") turned to mystery novels because writing unites her two most marketable skills (fast typing, good spelling) with her irresistible urge to tell great whopping lies. Her novels (Bad Blood, October 1999, Bad Luck, September

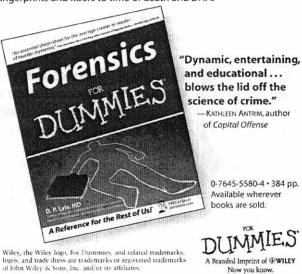
2000, Bad Medicine, July 2001 and Declared Dead, November 2002) feature Vicky Lucci, a savvy, in-yourface hospital risk manager who uses her own skills to get to the heart of crimes and misdemeanors in her Denver hospital.



Manuel Ramos is the Acting Executive Director of Colorado Legal Services, the statewide legal aid program. His awards include the Colorado Book Award and the Chicano/Latino Literary Award, as well as an Edgar nomination. His most recent, Brown-On-Brown, is

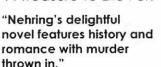
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48 Left coast crime 15

set in Colorado's San Luis Valley amid a water rights war and the clash between tradition and development. As with most of his writing, the culture and politics of Colorado's Mexican-American community provide the backdrop. His story "Sentimental Value" will appear in the 2005 anthology The Cocaine Chronicles. The characters first appeared in Moony's Road to Hell, Ramos's private eye novel.

http://hometown.aol.com/mrriter/ myhomepageindex.html



FREDERICK RAMSAY, author of Artscape (Poisoned Pen Press) is now retired from full-time ministry and writes fiction. Dr. Ramsay is the author of several scientific and general articles, tracts, theses, and co-author of The Baltimore Declaration. He is an iconographer,

an accomplished public speaker and once hosted a television spot in Baltimore. He currently lives in Surprise, Arizona with his wife and partner, Susan. Visit his website at http://www.frederickramsay.com/



GAIL RAMSEY is a graduate of Temple University and American University where she studied litigation and public relations. She is the author of Communications Theories on Trial and also Courtroom Drama or Headlines News? Winner of

the Art Sanctuary's 18th Annual Celebration of Black Writing Competition for an essay on a high-profile case in Philadelphia involving the death of her sister, her next novel is inspired by actual events of the Pier 34 disaster. Visit her at:

http://www.gailramsey.com.



RANDY RAWLS is a native of Williamston, NC, a small town in the northeastern part of the state. He enjoyed a career in the US Army. A bachelor and member of Mystery Writers of America, Florida Writers Association, he is

retired in South Florida. He is currently under contract for full-length mysteries with Quiet Storm Publishing. His Ace Edwards, Dallas PI, series has won fans across the country. He invites comments through his web site at: http://www.randyrawls.com.



BEN REHDER is a native Austinite and a graduate of the University of Texas. His first Blanco County mystery, Buck Fever, was nominated for the Edgar, the Lefty, and the Barry awards, and was named one of the best books of 2002 by both Publishers Weekly and

Library Journal. Rehder_s second novel, Bone Dry, was named by Field & Stream as one of the most worthwhile books of 2003. Ben_s latest novel, Flat Crazy, was published in September. He lives in Austin with his wife Becky. Visit his website at:

http://www.benrehder.com.



CHRISTOPHER RICE published his first novel, A Density of Souls, a dark coming-of-age story set in his hometown of New Orleans, when he was 22. His second novel, The Snow Garden, won a Lambda Literary Award. He is the former fiction editor of Genre

magazine and currently a contributing columnist for the Advocate. His latest novel, Light Before Day, is the story of a young gay reporter and a straight best selling mystery novelist who team up to find the truth behind a series of strange disappearances in southern California.

http://www.densityofsouls.com/index2.htm



RICK RIORDAN is the author of six award-winning mystery novels from Bantam Books. His first, Big Red Tequila, won the Anthony Award for Best Original Paperback Novel and the Shamus Award for Best First Private Eye Novel. His second book, The Widower's

Two-Step, won the Edgar Allen Poe Award for Best

Original Paperback Novel of 1999. His fifth novel, the standalone thriller Cold Springs, was named one of the top ten suspense novels of 2003 by the American Library Association. His latest book is Southtown (April 2004). In June 2005, his first children's book, Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief, will be published by Miramax Books. A San Antonio native and graduate of UT Austin, Rick is certified in both English and history, and taught for fifteen years in both public and private schools before retiring to write full-time. He lives in San Antonio with his wife and two sons. http://www.rickriordan.com/



JOHN MADDOX ROBERTS is the author of some 52 books in the mystery, science fiction and historical genres. His ancient roman mystery novel spqr was nominated for the edgar award and the series is now up to 12 volumes in 9 languages to date. His latest

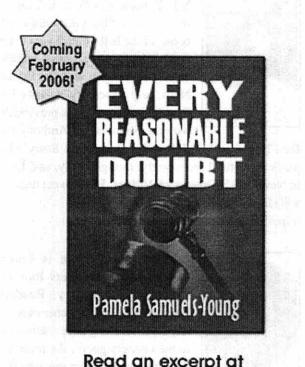
mystery from st. Martin's press is spqr ix: the princess and the pirates. John and his wife, beth, live in the tiny town of estancia, nm, where they are very slowly restoring a 100-year-old adobe house, which they share with an indeterminate number of cats.



PRISCILLA ROYAL grew up in British Columbia and has a degree in world literature from San Francisco State University, where she discovered the beauty of medieval literature. Until recently, she worked for the federal government in a variety of positions, all

of which provided a wonderful education in the complexity of human experience and motivation. She is a theater fan as well as reader of history, mysteries, and fiction of lesser violence. She now lives in Northern California and belongs to the Mystery Writers of America, California Writers Club and Sisters in Crime. Visit Priscilla's website at:

http://www.priscillaroyal.com.



Read an excerpt at www.pamelasamuels-young.com

RendezVous Crime authors at Left Coast Crime

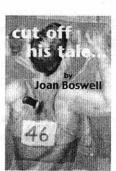


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50 Left coast crime 15



S.J. ROZAN was born and raised in the Bronx. She is the author of 8 books in the Bill Smith/Lydia Chin series, the most recent of which, Winter and Night, won the Edgar, Nero, and Macavity awards for Best Novel. Rozan has previously won the Shamus and Anthony for

Best Novel and an Edgar for Best Short Story. She plays basketball incessantly, though badly, and lives in New York's Greenwich Village. Her newest book is a 9/11-based standalone, Absent Friends. http://www.SJRozan.com



JANET A. RUDOLPH is Editor of the Mystery Readers Journal, Director of Mystery Readers International, and a teacher of mystery fiction. A long time contributor to the mystery genre, she received her Ph.D. in religious mystery fiction. Janet writes customized mys-

tery scripts, a challenging twist on the mystery genre, for her company, Murder on the Menu, California's #1 interactive mystery event company. She lives in the Berkeley hills (CA) with her husband, a golden retriever, assorted cats and marauding deer, odoriferous skunks, steely-eyed possums, and burrowing gophers. Her websites are http://www.murderonthemenu.com and http://www.mysteryreaders.org



PENNY RUDOLPH'S second novel Thicker Than Blood, a 21st century version of California's Chinatown water wars, is slated for June release by Poisoned Pen Press. She won the 2003 EPPIE Award for her historical suspense novel Listen to the Mockingbird.

She also has earned awards from the National Writers Association, Southwest Writers, Florida First Coast Writers and Panhandle Professional Writers. Visit her online at http://www.PennyRudolph.com



KIRK RUSSELL is the author two John Marquez novels, Shell Games and Night Game. A third with the same undercover California Fish and Game protagonist will be published in the fall. He is married, has two children, and lives in Berkeley, California.

http://kirk-russell.com/



PAMELA SAMUELS-YOUNG'S first novel, Every Reasonable Doubt, will be published in February 2006 by BET Books. Pamela has a bachelor's degree in journalism from USC and a master's degree in broadcasting from Northwestern University. She spent several years

as a television news writer before earning her law degree at UC Berkeley. Pamela is currently an employment attorney for a large corporation in Southern California. She served as legal consultant to the Showtime series, Soul Food, and teaches Employment Law at the University of Phoenix. She is married and is writing her third novel.

http://www.pamelasamuels-young.com/



MARY SARBER has been reading detective fiction for more than fifty years, beginning not with Nancy Drew but with Mary Roberts Rinehart and Dorothy L. Sayers. She is a librarian, retired after 22 years with the El Paso Public Library where she was a specialist

in El Paso history and current information. She is Co-Chair of Left Coast Crime 15.



WALTER SATTERTHWAIT has lived in New York City and in Portland, Oregon, and abroad in Africa, Thailand, Greece, the Netherlands, England, and France. He has worked as an encyclopedia salesman, a proofreader, a bartender, and a restaurant manager.



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His first novel, Cocaine Blues, was published in 1979. His most recent books are Masquerade, a sequel to Escapade, a novel which features Harry Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; and Accustomed to the Dark, the fifth book in a series featuring Santa Fe detectives Joshua Croft and Rita Mondragon. Wall of Glass, the first book in the Joshua Croft series, was nominated for a Shamus award by the Private Eye Writers of America. Escapade was nominated for an Agatha Award; and, in France, it won the Prix du Roman d'Aventures. Mr. Satterthwait now lives in Santa Fe. http://www.satterthwait.com/



MARY SAUMS grew up in North Alabama. After college, she worked in Muscle Shoals, Alabama as a recording engineer on gold and platinum albums by Bob Dylan, Jimmy Buffett, and many other artists. Her debut novel, Midnight Hour, is set in the Nashville music

scene among a rich cast of characters, enhanced by Mary Saums knowledge of the industry. Mary also writes poetry and short fiction. Her short story "Aiyee, Chihuahua!" received an Editor's Choice Award from Futures Magazine as well as the 1999 Fire To Fly Award for Fiction. Read more at her website: http://www.marysaums.com/



DYLAN SCHAFFER is a Northern California criminal defense lawyer. The Chicago Sun-Times called his debut legal thriller, Misdemeanor Man "one of the freshest and most original mysteries in a long time.... If you're tired of the conventional legal thrillers that overflow book-

store shelves, do yourself a favor and try something with personality and panache. Misdemeanor Man is a gem of a novel that deserves to be discovered." FOX television is planning an hour-long series based on Misdemeanor Man. A sequel, I Right the Wrongs, will be released in May 2005. More information about Dylan Schaffer can be found at: http://www.dylanschaffer.com.



Tom Schantz and his wife Enid have been owners of the Rue Morgue Bookshop since 1970, written a monthly mystery book review column for The Denver Post since 1982, and are co-authors of What Do I Read Next?, a twice annual book on genre fiction. They

own The Rue Morgue Press which has reprinted 60 plus vintage mysteries since 1997, and are the recipients of the 2001 Raven from the Mystery Writers of America. http://www.ruemorguepress.com



THERESA SCHWEGEL grew up in Chicago, the site of her first novel Officer Down (to be released by St. Martin's/Minotaur Fall 2005). A graduate of Loyola University Chicago, Theresa also holds a master's degree in Film/Screenwriting from Chapman

University. She currently lives in Southern California and is working on her second book for St. Martin's. She is represented by David Hale Smith. For more info, visit http://theresaschwegel.com.



BARBARA SERANELLA is the nationally best-selling author of crime novels featuring Munch Mancini, a woman mechanic with a past. Seranella's books have been hailed for their "gritty realism, smart plotting, taut suspense, and [their] highly original heroine."

A dramatic television series based on the character of Munch Mancini is in development with NBC and shepherded by the legendary Stephen J. Cannell, author and producer of 40 acclaimed television series. Mrs. Seranella divides her time between her homes in Laguna Beach and La Quinta, California where she lives with her husband, Ron, and their dogs. http://www.barbaraseranella.com/



ZOË SHARP'S fourth title, First Drop, displays a fluent writing style and love interest thrown in for good measure. It features bodyguard Charlotte (Charlie) Fox, and proves Sharp to be in the front ranks of contemporary crime writers--and one who should

appeal to readers across the board.



JEFF SHELBY spent more than twenty years growing up around the beaches of Southern California. He graduated from the University of California, Irvine with a bachelor's degree in English. After six years as an athletics administrator and high school basketball coach, he

quit to be a stay-at-home dad and full-time writer. His first book, Killer Swell, featuring P.I. Noah Braddock and the city of San Diego, will be published by Dutton this June. He currently lives in Castle Rock, Colorado with his wife and daughter.



KATHERINE SHEPHARD'S degree in criminal justice and her experience as a political speech writer and attendance at convention, rallies, and political fundraisers afforded her a first-hand opportunity to research the life of politicians. Much of what gave her the inspira-

tion for her book, Fraternity of Silence, was garnered through conversations overheard in ladies restrooms! She has been dubbed "the mole in the hole." She is now writing the second in the Silence Series from her home in southern California or her "second home," the Texas Hill country. Favorite murder method: fiery crashes-planes, helicopters, automobiles.

http://www.KatherineShephard.com

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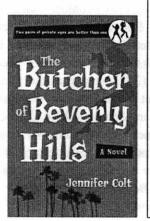
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Please visit the author at www.gailramsey.com

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54 LEFT COAST CTIME 15



Grandmother to two, **GAMMY L. SINGER** has been a professional actress for more than thirty years, and she recently returned to school to earn a master's degree in writing at Seton Hill University, which resulted in a book contract and a literary agent. She is a resident of

Harlem, and A Landlord's Tale, her debut novel set in Harlem in the late 70s, will be published in March 2005 by Kensington Publishers.

http://www.gammysinger.com



MICHAEL SIVERLING in the author of The Sterling Inheritance, the St. Martins Press/Private Eye Writers Association best first novel award winner. He is also a Supervising Criminal Investigator in Sacramento, California who has worked assignments ranging from

homicide to political corruption to child abduction in cases that have taken him throughout the United States as well as Mexico, Germany and Romania. He is also a qualified police instructor in firearms and weaponless defense. http://www.midnight-investigations.com



SUSAN SLATER writes the acclaimed Ben Pecos series set in New Mexico pueblos: Pumpkin Seed Massacre, Yellow Lies, Thunderbird, and a novella in Crooks, Crimes & Christmas. Flash Flood (2003) started a new series also set in New Mexico featuring

insurance investigator Dan Mahoney. Five O'clock Shadow (2004), a standalone, has been hailed as a "page turner." In real life Susan produces documentaries for the Department of Energy and lives in Albuquerque with Molly and Yuri, two Belgian sheepdogs.

http://www.susanslater.com/



KIT SLOANE was the first fiction editor of Futures Mysterious Anthology Magazine. She has published short stories and articles on writing. The latest in her Margot O'Banion series is Last Words (her daughter's cover for an earlier one, Grape Noir, was an Anthony

nominee for Best Cover Art 2002). She is a movie buff who lives on a hilltop northern California ranch with her college professor husband, four horses, four cats, two goats, and a boxer named Sally.

Favorite opening line: "Hale knew, before he had been in Brighton three hours, that they meant to murder him." (Graham Greene, Brighton Rock) http://www.kitsloane.com



PATRICIA SMILEY was born and raised in Yakima, Washington. She graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle with a BA in Sociology. She also holds an MBA with Honors from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California. Before turning to writing, Patricia

held many jobs, ranging from juvenile corrections officer, to Easter bunny at a children_s party, to independent business consultant. False Profits is her first novel. She currently lives in Los Angeles where she is at work on her next Tucker Sinclair novel. http://www.patriciasmiley.com/



PATRICIA SPRINKLE'S fifteenth mystery is Who Killed the Queen of Clubs?, released by Signet in time for this conference. It is the seventh in her Thoroughly Southern series. Sprinkle is currently national President of Sisters in Crime and lives with her

husband in Smyrna, Georgia. http://www.patriciasprinkle.com/ February 24 - 27, 2005



CHRISTINA SUMNERS' debut thriller, Crooked Heart (2003) was followed by Thieves Break In.



KAREN SWEE, whose ancestors fought in the American Revolution, lives in Highland Park, New Jersey, across the Raritan River from New Brunswick, where Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Murder is set. She is a former psychotherapist who grew up in Chicago, then

moved to Seattle where she received her BA and M.Ed. from the University of Washington. She has also lived in Iowa, Toronto, Guadalajara, and Nova Scotia. http://www.karenswee.com/



LEANN SWEENEY, long time member of Sisters in Crime and MWA, writes the Yellow Rose Mystery series for NAL/Signet featuring adoption PI Abby Rose. Leann lives in Friendswood, Texas with husband Mike and cats Indigo, Agatha and Archie. The first book

in the series, Pick Your Poison, was released in 2004 and A Wedding to Die For came out in January. Look for Dead Giveaway in the fall of 2005.

http://www.leannsweeney.com



PARI NOSKIN TAICHERT hails from Albuquerque and had the smarts to return after living in wetter climes. She has worked as a belly-dancing instructor, textbook sales consultant, and PR pro-among her more respectable jobs (she has a BA in Asian stud-

ies and an MSW in transcultural therapy). A national award-winning journalist, she writes a monthly literary column for the Albuquerque Tribune. The Clovis Incident introduces reality-challenged PR pro Sasha Solomon who specializes in helping small towns attract tourists. Unlike Sasha, Taichert is married, has kids and leads a normal life.

http://www.parinoskintaichert.com and http://badgirlspress.com



PACO IGNACIO TAIBO II is Left Coast Crime 15's International Guest of Honor. A prolific writer of novels, history, and detective fiction, he has recently garnered much publicity for his collaborative novel written with Subcomandante Marcos that has appeared weekly

in the Mexican newspaper La Jornada. Titled Muertos incómodos (Akward Deaths), the novel will soon be published in book form and a translation into English is probable. Fans of his detective Héctor Belascoarán Shayne will look forward to reading the entire work.



Dry Heat is the latest mystery from **Jon Talton**. Like Concrete Desert and Camelback Falls, it follows sleuth David Mapstone, the historian-turned-deputy. Jon is a fourth-generation Arizonan. His writing was developed over 25 years as a journalist, working for

newspapers in San Diego, Denver, Dayton, Cincinnati and Charlotte. In 2001, Jon returned to Phoenix as a columnist for the Arizona Republic. Before journalism, Jon worked as an ambulance medic in the inner city of Phoenix. Educated at Arizona State University and Miami University of Ohio, Jon was also a Knight Fellow in Journalism at the University of Southern California.

http://www.jontalton.com



MARGARET TESSLER was born in Houston and lived "all across Texas" for twenty-four years. She attended UTEP (when it was Texas Western College) and later taught third grade at Burleson Elementary School in El Paso. She moved to Albuquerque in 1961 and has

lived there ever since (except for the eight years she and her husband spent on the road in their RV). They have a "blended family" of eight children, fourteen grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Margaret Tessler is the author of two mystery novels: Tangled Webs (set in Zapata, Texas), and its sequel, Class Disunion (set in San Antonio). http://www.ABQ-TaleSpinner.com



STEVEN TORRES is the author of the Precinct Puerto Rico novels. Read more about him at his website:

http://www.steventorres.com



MARK TROY is the author of the Shamus-nominated Pilikia Is My Business and of seven short stories in the Val Lyon, private eye series. Val's beat is the section of Honolulu that tourists rarely see. The most recent story can be found in the forthcoming anthology, Sex,

Lies and Private Eyes. Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, Mark lived in Thailand and Hawaii with his wife and sons before moving to Texas. He is on the staff at Texas A&M University where he evaluates academic programs and advises the skydiving club. Mark is an avid marathoner.

http://www.marktroy.net/



SUZANNE TYRPAK spins tales of historical suspense set in the ancient worlds of Egypt, Rome, and Greece. She left a successful advertising career to devote her time to writing and now works for an airline which allows her to travel the world and do research.

Her short story "Venus Faded" appears in Pronto! Writings from Rome (Triple Tree Publishing) along with notable authors including Dorothy Allison,

Elizabeth Engstrom, Terry Brooks and John Saul. She is currently completing Vestal Virgin, an historical suspense novel featuring Nero-the Hannibal Lector of Roman Emperors-and the Vestal Virgin who plots to murder him.



Louise Ure is a fourth-generation Arizonan who spent a quarter of a century in advertising and marketing in the United States, Singapore and Australia before she found her true love: writing crime fiction. Her first novel, Forcing Amaryllis, features Arizona jury

consultant Calla Gentry, who becomes embroiled in a world of buried lies and violent rage when she tries to uncover the truth about her sister's rape. Forcing Amaryllis will be a June 2005 hardcover release from Mysterious Press. Ure currently lives in San Francisco with her husband and whichever senior golden retriever rescue dog has most recently captured her heart. http://www.louiseure.com



JUDITH VAN GIESON'S most recent mystery series features Claire Reynier, buyer of rare books for the University of New Mexico library in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Shadow of Venus (2004) won acclaim and was nominated for major awards. An earlier series, featuring

Neil Hamel, attorney and investigator, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, still has many fans. Read more at her website: http://www.judithvangieson.com/



LEA WATT writes historical novels for ages 7 and up, and the Agatha-finalist Shadows Antique Print Mystery series for adults starring antique print dealer Maggie Summer, who solves crimes by finding clues in her 19th century prints. Find out more about Lea at

her website: http://www.leawait.com/



Lono WAIWAIOLE lived in Portland, Oregon, for more than thirty years. He moved to Hilo, Hawaii, in 2003. Wiley's Shuffle is his second novel. Lono's debut novel, Wiley's Lament, was named a finalist for the 2003 Oregon Book Awards in October, 2003, but was

no longer eligible for this award following his move to Hawai'i. Learn more about him at his website at: http://www.lonowaiwaiole.com/



DAVID WALKS-AS-BEAR, the Shawnee tribal name of David W. Davis, took a dramatic turn away from his usual American Indian themes in The L.P. This tense story explores battlefield leadership and heroism during the coalition's advance on Baghdad in the Iraq war.

His first novel Murmurings, featured a hero, Ely Stone, who was the product of many of the same experiences as Walks-As-Bear. Stone, like the author, was raised in a traditional American Indian family and retired from the Coast Guard as a Chief Petty Officer after a career that included service as a special agent in intelligence and drug enforcement. Read more about his books at: www.Walks-As-Bear.com



NATHAN WALPOW writes the Joe Portugal mystery series. The current book is One Last Hit and the fourth, The Manipulated, is scheduled for spring 2005. His short story "Push Comes to Shove" appears in The Best American Mystery Stories 2001. Nathan

is president of the Southern California chapter of Mystery Writers of America and a five-time Jeopardy! champion. http://www.walpow.com.



BETTY WEBB is the author of the prize-winning Lena Jones mystery series: Desert Shadows, Desert Wives, Desert Noir, and Desert Deceit. Mystery News said, "Betty Webb is writing what I am certain will become classics of the mystery genre"; the New York

Times described them as "Eye-popping"; Publishers Weekly called the series "socially conscious" and said of Betty's last book (Desert Shadows), "Loyalty, compassion and a sharp sense of humor help Arizona PI Lena Jones survive as she continues to struggle with her troubled past." Betty is a columnist for the Tribune Newspapers and lives with her family in Scottsdale, Arizona, where her books are set. http://www.bettywebb-mystery.com/



NANCY GLASS WEST'S Nine Days to Evil is a fascinating tale of betrayal and deception, according to Barbara D'Amato. She has been nominated for Agatha and Anthony Awards and won the Macavity Award Winner for Writing the Mystery. Also published in

nonfiction and poetry, West lives in Texas where she is working on the sequel, Forever Fatal.

"The action is nonstop, and West is careful to peel the layers of evil with a practiced eye." -- Midwest Book Review.

"West spins out a chilling tale in an engrossing, compelling style." -- G. Miki Hayden http://www.nancygwest.com



NANCY WIKARSKI is a fugitive from academia who became a computer consultant before turning to writing for fun and profit. She has served as vice president of Sisters In Crime - Twin Cities and is an active member of MWA and the Society of Midland Authors.

Her short stories have appeared in Futures Magazine and DIME Anthology, while her mystery reviews

have been featured in Murder: Past Tense and Deadly Pleasures. She writes the Evangeline LeClair series set in 1890s Chicago. Titles include The Fall Of White City (2002) and Shrouded In Thought (2005). http://www.nswikarski.com



As owner of Prime Crime Books in Ottawa, Canada, LINDA WIKEN gets the best of the mystery world-she gets to read and buy them, plus write them, too. Her short stories have appeared in all five Ladies' Killing Circle anthologies (the most recent is

Bone Dance), Mysterious Intent magazine, and Over My Dead Body.

Favorite murder method: a fire produced by exposed wires in a telephone-oh, yes... someone had to make the call! http://www.primecrimebooks.com



JACQUELINE WINSPEAR was born and raised in the county of Kent, England. She worked in both general and academic publishing, in higher education, and in marketing communications before emigrating to the United States in 1990. Then, employed in

business, Winspear embarked upon a lifelong dream to be a writer. Maisie Dobbs, the first in her series of war novels and a Top Ten BookSense 76 selection, is set during World War I-a time of great social upheaval and intense emotions that offers ample fodder for stories of guilt and innocence. Winspear is also a regular contributor to journals covering international education and lives in Ojai, California, with her husband, John Morell. http://jacquelinewinspear.com/



BRIAN M. WIPRUD'S book Papsqueak won the 2003 Lefty Award and was nominated for a Barry Award. It was re-published by Bantam Dell as a mass-market paperback in 2004. The prequel, Stuffed, also a Bantam Dell book,

will be in bookstores in June 2005. Brian lives in New York City and chews bubble gum. http://www.wiprud.com/



TIM WOHLFORTH'S contemporary noir novel, No Time To Mourn, was published by Quiet Storm in 2004. He is a 2003 Pushcart Prize Nominee and received a Certificate of Excellence from the Dana Literary Society. Wohlforth has had forty-nine short stories ac-

cepted for publication in magazines, on-line sites, and anthologies. A Cyber Pulp has published Dynamite!, a novella. Echelon just published Eagle Down! as a chapbook. He co-authored the non-fiction book, On The Edge: Political Cults Right and Left.

"An exciting new voice." - Lee Child. Jeremiah Healy called No Time To Mourn "a dark gem of a crime novel."

http://www.timwohlforth.com



SIMON WOOD is a California transplant from England. He shares his world with Julie (his American wife), Royston (a longhaired dachshund) and Streetcar (a cat). In the last five years, he's had over one hundred stories and articles published. His fiction has appeared

in several "Best Of" anthologies and his "How to" articles have appeared in Writer's Digest. He's the author of the suspense-thriller, Accidents Waiting To Happen and the short story collection, Dragged Into Darkness. Readers are welcome to visit his website at:

http://www.simonwood.net.

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BOOK AWARDS

Only current members of Left Coast Crime 15, meaning anyone registered for the meeting, may vote for these awards. The ballot was available on-line before the meeting, and in paper copy at the registration site.

The LEFTY is for the best humorous mystery novel published in 2004.

- ·Blue Blood. SUSAN McBRIDE
- ·Carnage on the Committee, RUTH DUDLEY EDWARDS
- ·Holy Guacamole, NANCY FAIRBANKS
- ·Perfect Sax, JERRILYN FARMER
- ·We'll Always Have Parrots, Donna Andrews

The BRUCEALEXANDER HISTORY MYSTERY

AWARD is for the best historical mystery (set anywhere and in any time period up to the end of World War II) published in 2004.

- ·Birds of a Feather, JACQUELINE WINSPEAR
- ·Five for Silver, MARY REED AND ERIC MAYER
- ·Murder on Marble Row. VICTORIA THOMPSON
- ·Tyrant of the Mind, PRISCILLA ROYAL
- ·The Witch in the Well. SHARAN NEWMAN

The CALAVERA, like the Otter in 2004, is for the best mystery set in the geographic area covered by Left Coast Crime and published in 2004.

- ·Family Claims, Twist Phelan
- ·Grave Endings, ROCHELLE KRICH
- ·Shadow Play, DAVID COLE
- ·Snap Shot, Meg CHITTENDEN
- ·What Others Know, L.C. HAYDEN

DILYS awards

THE DILYS AWARD HAS BEEN GIVEN annually since 1993 by the imba to the mystery titles of the year which the member booksellers have most enjoyed selling. The Dilys Award is named in honor of dilys winn, the founder of the first specialty bookseller of mystery books in the united states. Previous winners of the Dilys Award include Val McDermid, Robert Crais, Janet Evanovich, Carl Hiaasen, Dennis Lehane, and Julia Spencer-Fleming.

The Independent Mystery Booksellers Association is comprised of a network of independently owned retail bookstores across North America and the United Kingdom, devoted to the sale of mystery books. This year's nominees:

- ·The Enemy, LEE CHILD (DELACORTE)
- ·Darkly dreaming dexter, JEFF LINDSAY (DOUBLEDAY)
- ·Something rotten, JASPER FFORDE (VIKING)
- ·The intelligencer, Leslie Silbert (Atria)
- -Birds of a feather, ${f JACQUELINE\ WINSPEAR}$ (SOHO)
- ·Shadow of the wind, CARLOS RUIS ZAFON (PENGUIN)

Left coast crime 15 silent auction

Don't MISS THE LCC15 SILENT AUCTION to benefit the Paso del Norte Literacy Council, an advocate for literacy learners, organizations, and providers in far west Texas and southern New Mexico!

You'll find signed first editions, themed baskets, El Paso treats and souvenirs, gift certificates for restaurants in the downtown El Paso area, and other fine gift items.

Auction Hours:

THURSDAY, 2/24

9:00-6:00, with selected items at the Opening Reception from 6:00-8:00



SATURDAY 2/26

8:00-2:30.
Final results will be posted at 4:00, with pickup from 4:00-6:00

FRIDAY, 2/25

8:00-7:00, with selected items closing at 2:30, with pickup by 3:30

Payment/Pickup From 8:00-12:00

The auction will have two closings--on Friday at 2:30 for certificates you might want to spend in El Paso, and at 2: 30 on Saturday, February 26th for everything else.

Worried about getting your auction purchase home? All items will be packed and ready for shipping when you pick them up!

BOOK DeaLers

PLEASE VISIT THE BOOK ROOM in Ballroom B at the Camino Real.

Dealers represented This year include:

Buffalo Medicine Books

Box 1762

Gallup, NM 87305

Contact: Ernie Bulow

E-mail: ernie@buffalomedicine.com

Phone: 505-722-2904

Cinco Puntos Press

701 Texas Avenue

El Paso, Texas 79901 Contact: Bobby Byrd

E-mail: bbyrd@cincopuntos.com

Phone: 915-838-1625

Douglas Wood, Bookseller

2868 South 625 West

Bountiful, UT 84010

Contact: Douglas Wood

E-mail: info@bookstash.com

Phone: 801-295-8601

Mary Mason/Legends

P.O. Box 15804

San Diego, CA 92175

Contact: Maggie Mason

E-mail: maggiemary@yahoo.com

Phone: 619-287-2299

Metheglin Press

1541 West Verde Lane

Phoenix, AZ 85015

Contact: Katie Hamilton

E-mail: khamil@earthlink.net

Phone: 602-266-5376

Page One Too Antiquarian Books

11200 Montgomery Blvd. N.E., Ste 10-14

Albuquerque, NM 87111 Contact: Betty Parker

E-mail: antiquarian@page1book.com

Phone: 505-299-6766

Poisoned Pen Press

962 E. 1st Ave., #103

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Contact: Robert Roseald

E-mail: mail@royalbooksonline.com

Phone: 800-421-3976, 480-945-3375

Rue Morgue

87 Lone Tree Lane

Lyons, CO 80540

Contacts: Tom and Enid Schantz

E-mail: tomenid@aol.com

Phone: 303-823-2401 (h), 303-823-9699 (w)

WYSIWYG Books

P.O. Box 1095

Renton, WA 98057-1095

Contacts: Thom Walls, Bryan Barrett

E-mail: wysiwygbooks@cs.com

Phone: 206-721-2598

Barebones sessions

(All Barebones Sessions will be in the Angus Room, 3rd Floor)

THURSDAY, FEB. 24

1:00

Clyde T. Linsley, "Roots of War: Why I Write About the Early 19th Century"

1:20

Barbara Fradkin, "The Catharsis of Murder: Confessions of a Practicing Psychologist"

1:40

Mike Hayes, "Aunt Em's Kansas: Revealing the Mystery of Unexpected Places"

2:00

R. J. Harlick, "Murder in the Wilds of Quebec: My New Novel, Death's Golden Whisper"

2:20

J. A. Konrath, "Sex, Violence, and Free Stuff"

2:40

Sandra Balzo, "Coffee as Grounds for Murder: Why I Owe My Writing Career to McDonald's"

3:00

Pamela Samuels-Young, "How to Finish a Novel Despite Having a Day Job"

3:20

Kelly Lange, "Foot in Mouth Anchors: TV News Bloopers"

FRIDAY, FEB. 25

9:00

Camille Minichino, "Metaphors Are Us"

9:20

Lewis Perdue, "Predicting the Future: How Do You Feel When Your Fiction Becomes Fact?"

9:40

Lee Goldberg, "Why Would Anyone Want to Read a TV Show?"

10.00

David Cole, "The (Mis)adventures as a Man Creating and Preferring to Write About Women Characters"

10:20

Vladimir Lange, "Why I Left Medicine? It's a Mystery to Me! (Career-Change Issues)"

10:40

Radine Trees Nehring, "How Book Research Can Help Pay The Bills"

11:00

Susan Slater, "Reader Influence - Do We Listen?"

11:20

"Self-Defense Tactics from Zoë Sharp, Ineptly Assisted by Meg Chittenden" (combined session)

1:00

J. A. Jance, "On Being Bi-Regional and Bi-Sexual"

1:20

Michele Martinez, "Guns and Roses: the Female Sleuth and the Sexy Cop"

1:40

Rhys Bowen, "Rhys's Pieces"

(2:30, All-Conf. Session)

4:00

Randy Rawls, "Historical Anecdotes of Small Towns in Texas"

4:20

Charles Benoit, "To the Ends of the Earth: Traveling the Globe as 'Research'"

4:40

Twist Phelan, "The Agony of DeSeat" Cross Country Bike Ride, Rodeo, and Other Research Adventures"

SATURDAY, FEB. 26

9:00

Jacqueline Winspear, "The Background of the Maisie Dobbs Novels"

9:20

Denise Hamilton and Pari Noskin Taichert, "Witchy Goddesses of the Southwest: Female Sleuths with Foibles" (combined session)

10:00

Jim Fusilli, "Hard, Hard City"

10:20

Tim Wohlforth, "Noir Writing in Noir Times"

10:40

Barbara Seranella, "Writing What You Know, No Matter How Bizarre: Is There a Limit?"

11:00

Nancy Glass West, "Whose Head Are You In? Choosing Your Point of View"

11:20

Michael Siverling, "Interrogate the Interrogator: Ask a Professional Criminal Investigator What It's Like to Interrogate Witnesses and Suspects"

11:40

Steven L. Torres, Reading: "War Story"

(12:00 -- LUNCH)

1:00

Steve Brewer, "Capers, and Why They Make Us Laugh"

1:20

Barry Eisler, "Personal Safety Tips from Assassin John Rain"

1:40

Joan Hess, "Sex, Lies, and Publishers"

(2:30, ALL-CONF. Session)

4:00

Joel Goldman, "Up and Down with Amazon and Edgar"

4:20

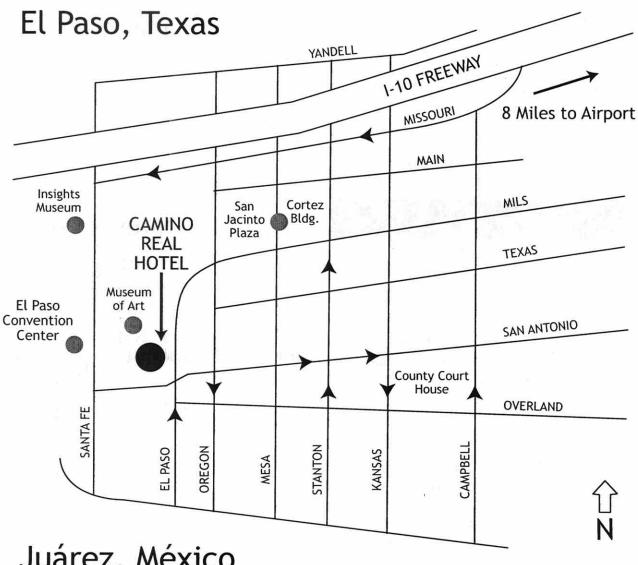
D. P. Lyle, MD, "Medical and Forensic Truths: How Writers Get It Wrong"

4:40

L. C. Hayden, "Introduction to L. C. Hayden's Writings"

Maps

EL Paso

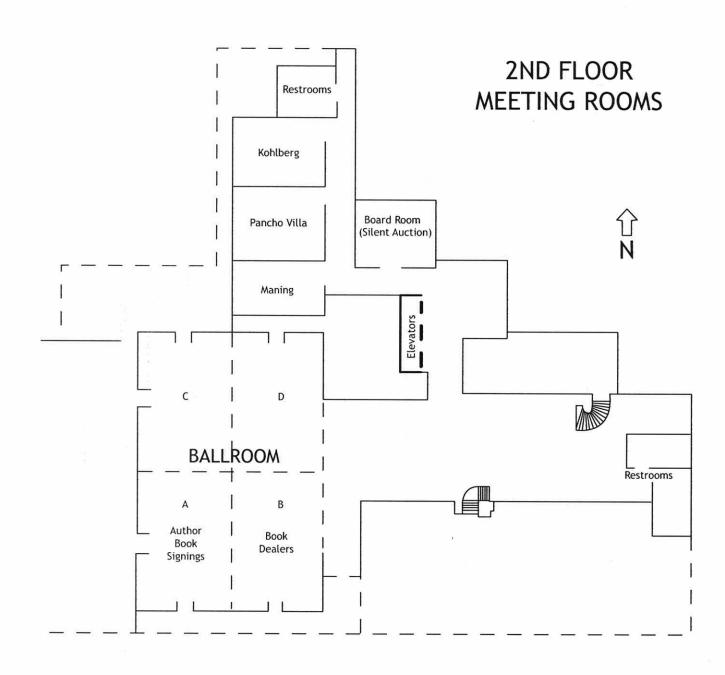


Juárez, México

Maps

camino real hotel

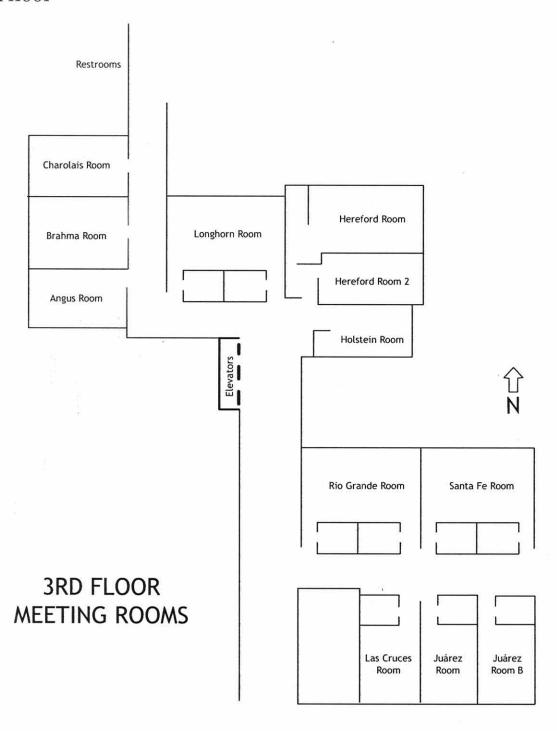
and floor



Maps

camino real hotel

3rd floor



Left coast crime 15 organizing committee

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Volunteers

MARY SARBER

Co-Chair / Programming

CLAUDIA RIVERS

JIM PRZEPASNIAK

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NANCY HERNDON

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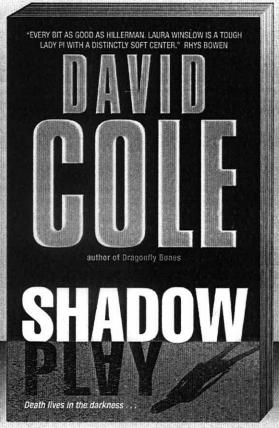


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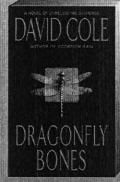
-Rhys Bowen



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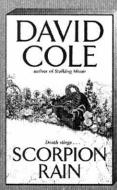
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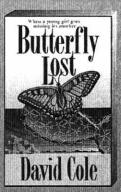
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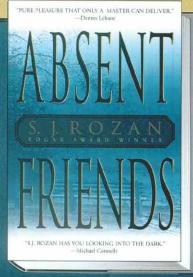
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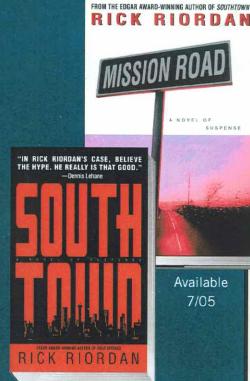
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Shannon Richardson is an award-winning writer / producer and bestselling author of Deadly Deception: A True Story of Duplicity, Greed, Dangerous Passions and One Woman's Courage and Rewrite Your

Screenplay Right: A-Step-by-Step Guide to Polish Your Script. She's featured in Tom Byrnes book, Writing Bestselling True Crime and Suspense. Shannon's had fifteen screenplays optioned in Hollywood, taught screenwriting at the Selling to Hollywood Conference, The Kennedy Center, Allen Ginsberg's Writer's Center, founder of The Best in the West Screenwriting Competition, and judged The Durango Film Festival.



Andi Shechter is a fan, reviewer, chat host, interviewer, panelist, moderator, publicist and new blogger. She will chair Left Coast Crime in 2007, ten years after she chaired and ran program for Left Coast Crime '97.

Andi was Fan Guest of Honor at Left Coast Crime in 2001, ran program for Bouchercon 25, and organized mystery programs for the Northwest Bookfest for three years.

She may also be a blonde cocaineaddicted New York runway model with an attitude or a live action role-playing vampire gaming teenager in Berkeley. She has a psychiatric unit named after her as well.

Brian Wiprud





Simon Wood



Jacqueline Winspear

Ellen Byerrum





Zoë Sharp, author of five books in the Charlie Fox series, was born in Nottinghamshire, but spent most of her formative years living on a catamaran on the northwest coast of England. She wrote her first novel when she was fifteen and had her first short story published in the Crime Writers' Association anthology, Green for Danger:

Crimes in the Country. Zoë and her husband, who is a nonfiction author, have just finished building their own house in Cumbria. The fourth book in the Charlie Fox series, First Drop, is now out in paperback. Book five, Road Kill, will be published in the UK in November 2005. First Drop will be published in the US by St Martin's Minotaur in September 2005. Her website address is: ttp://www.zoesharp.com/



Robert Eversz



Lono Waiwaiole

The editor apologizes for these and other biographies or photos that were inadvertently omitted from the program book--or garbled in the translation from e-mail and the web. CR