

LEFT COAST

CRIME



**CRIME
CROSSES
THE
BORDER**

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1, 1998

SAN DIEGO CA

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ABOUT -THE- CONFERENCE

"It's tough to resist the pull of George's
storytelling once hooked."

-USA Today

BANTAM BOOKS

∞ salutes ∞

**Left Coast Crime 8
Guest of Honor**

ELIZABETH GEORGE

"So much fun to read, it's almost criminal."

-Newsday



Welcome to Left Coast Crime 8!

... and welcome to San Diego. We're happy to have you here and hope you enjoy a great conference in a very special city.

When we chose the theme for this conference, "Crime Crosses the Border," we were thinking of many kinds of borders. The most obvious is the physical border, since we are directly on the border with Mexico. But we also considered the gender border, the emotional borders, the genre borders, the border between "hard-boiled" and "cozy," the borders which exist between different areas of California, the border between reality and fiction, and even the border between earth and space.

In keeping with our place on a physical border, we tried to keep our panel titles reminiscent of our Spanish heritage.

Our first consideration was always to have fun and to try to ensure that you have fun too! We've worked at coming up with some unusual topics and, where possible, put authors on panels where you might not expect to find them.

And don't forget to enjoy San Diego while you're here. It's a gorgeous city with endless possibilities to explore. If we can help with directions or suggestions, just ask.

Enjoy, learn and have fun!

The Left Coast Crime 8 Committee



General Information

What's Included

All LCC8 registered attendees will be our guest for breakfast and lunch:

- Continental Breakfast served buffet style in the foyer of the ballroom Saturday 2/28 and Sunday 3/1 from 7:30 to 8:45 AM
- Box lunch served in the Buena Vista Room on Saturday and Sunday at 12 noon

All attendees, including those with day passes, are invited to attend these events:

- Authors Cruise on the Bahia Belle Friday evening at 9:30 PM
- Chocolate for Charity Auction on Saturday evening at 8 PM
- Cabaret entertainment on Saturday evening at 9 PM
- Hasta La Vista, Baby! conference closer party on Sunday at 4:00 PM

Hotel Map and Information

A map of the hotel and surrounding area has been included with your goodie bag. If you find yourself lost, or not sure where to go next, ask an LCC Committee Organizer with a red name badge or the hotel staff.

Who To Ask

We have lots of volunteers and staff ready to answer your every question.

About the Conference: Volunteers at the Registration Desk and Guest Relations can help answer any questions you might have. LCC8 Committee Organizers are identified by RED name badges

About the Area: Check with Guest Relations in the La Jolla Room, the Hotel Concierge or Front Desk staff

About the next LCC Conference, LCC9, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico: Mr. Harlan Campbell

Hospitality Suite and Guest Services

Las Hermanas En el Crimen de San Diego (Sisters In Crime of San Diego) welcomes Left Coast Crime mystery fans to munch and crunch and quench their thirst at the Pacific Room located across from the Bahia's lobby. Settle into a comfy chair and meet other fans. Swap stories, recommend a great mystery you just read, or simply meditate on the wondrous explosion of so many new mystery authors. If you want to hear about SDSinC projects such as the Bare Bones Writers Retreat, the Girl Scout Mystery Writer's Workshop, Breakout Activities, our fascinating monthly speakers, or just what SinC can offer you, we'd be happy to oblige. Se habla mystery.



ABOUT -THE- CONFERENCE

Mystery Jeopardy

Mystery lovers love to solve puzzles, and we hope you will be entertained by trying to fill in as many spaces as possible in the Trivia Bingo sheets in your goodie bags.

“Sherlock” will be distributing extra hints throughout the weekend, so get to know your neighbors and share information. Prizes will be awarded to the person with the most squares completed at the Hasta La Vista, Baby! Party on Sunday. We will also be holding our drawing for prizes from Avon, Little, Brown, and other publishers at the Conference Closer. Winners must be present, so if you can't stay, be careful with your ticket — we wouldn't want you bumped off for it!

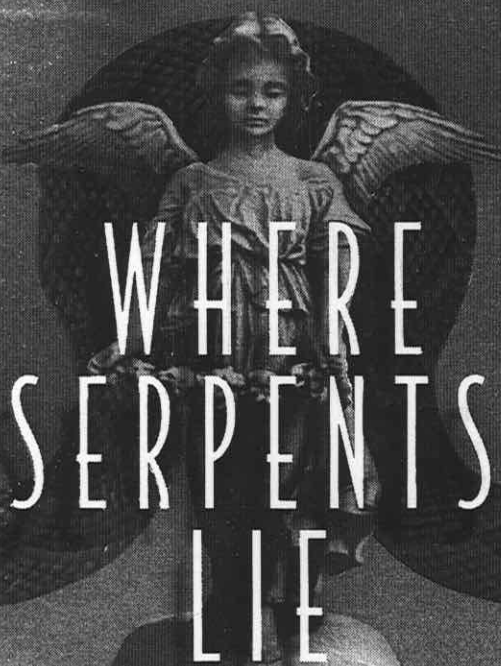
Left Coast Crime Goes East

LCC9 will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico from March 6 -7. The program will feature Deborah Crombie as Toastmistress, with John Dunning as the Guest of Honor and Tasha Mackler as the Fan Guest of Honor. For details, contact Harlen Campbell: (505) 299-2556; campbell@infinet-is.com.

LCC 2000 will be in Tucson, AZ. All details are pending. Contact Chris Burke or Charlene Taylor at Clues Unlimited: (520) 326-8533; clues@AZStarnet.com.

Bids are being accepted for LCC 2001 during this conference. Please contact Maryelizabeth Hart or Terry Gilman of Mysterious Galaxy: (619) 268-4747; mystgalaxy@ax.com.

T. JEFFERSON PARKER



WHERE SERPENTS LIE

“What a terrific read!”

—ELIZABETH GEORGE, AUTHOR OF *IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ENEMY*

In this intense psychological thriller, T. Jefferson Parker masterfully reinvents the classic loner cop: a man with a dark and violent past whose redemption can come only through saving others. *Where Serpents Lie* is a terrifying, engrossingly complex drama of good versus evil—undeniably the breakout novel Parker's fans have been waiting for.

“A powerful book. T. Jefferson Parker weaves an intense, gut-wrenching and redemptive story around a character who jumps off the page and into your heart.” —MICHAEL CONNELLY, AUTHOR OF *BLOOD WORK*

“Where Serpents Lie is the most powerful book that I've read this year...riveting...I simply could not put [it] down.”

—ROBERT CRAIS, AUTHOR OF *INDIGO SLAM*

T. JEFFERSON PARKER

TRIGGERMAN'S DANCE BY T. JEFFERSON PARKER IS AVAILABLE IN PAPERBACK FROM HYPERION

AT BOOKSTORES NOW

HYPERION

ABOUT -THE- CONFERENCE

Local Restaurant Guide

We have compiled a list of local restaurants you may want to try during your stay in San Diego. We can't vouch for the food, but we can guarantee you'll have a good time! You can also pick up a *Dining San Diego* restaurant guide at the hotel lobby's front desk.

Restaurant Guide

The Atoll

Catamaran Hotel
Casual, Patio on the Bay
539-8635

Casa de Bandini

Old Town
Moderate
297-8211

Ember's Wood Fire Pizza

3924 W. Point Loma Blvd.
Moderate, Pizza/Pastas
222-6877

Filippi's Pizza Grotto

962 Garnet Ave.
Moderate, Italian food
483-6222

Firehouse Beach Café

722 Grand Ave.
Casual, family dining, sandwiches
272-0200

The Green Flash

701 Thomas Avenue
Moderate, Seafood/Steak
270-7715

Lamont Street Grill

4445 Lamont Street
Expensive, reservations
270-3060

Luigi's Italian Restaurant

3210 Mission Blvd.
Casual, Pizzas, Patio
488-2818

The Mission Café & Coffee House

3795 Mission Blvd.
Casual, coffee house
488-9060

Nick's at the Beach

809 Thomas Avenue
Moderate, Restaurant/Bar
270-1730

The Old Ox

4474 Mission Blvd.
Moderate, steaks
275-3790

The Pennant

2893 Mission Blvd.
Casual, Sandwiches, Bar
488-1674

Pizzeria Uno

4465 Mission Blvd.
Casual, Family dining, patio
483-4143

Roberto's Taco Shop

3202 Mission Blvd.
Very Casual, walk up
488-1610

Rusty Pelican

4325 Ocean Blvd.
Moderate/Expensive
274-3474

The Salmon House

1970 Quivira Way
Moderate, seafood
223-2234



ABOUT -THE- CONFERENCE

Restaurant Guide, continued

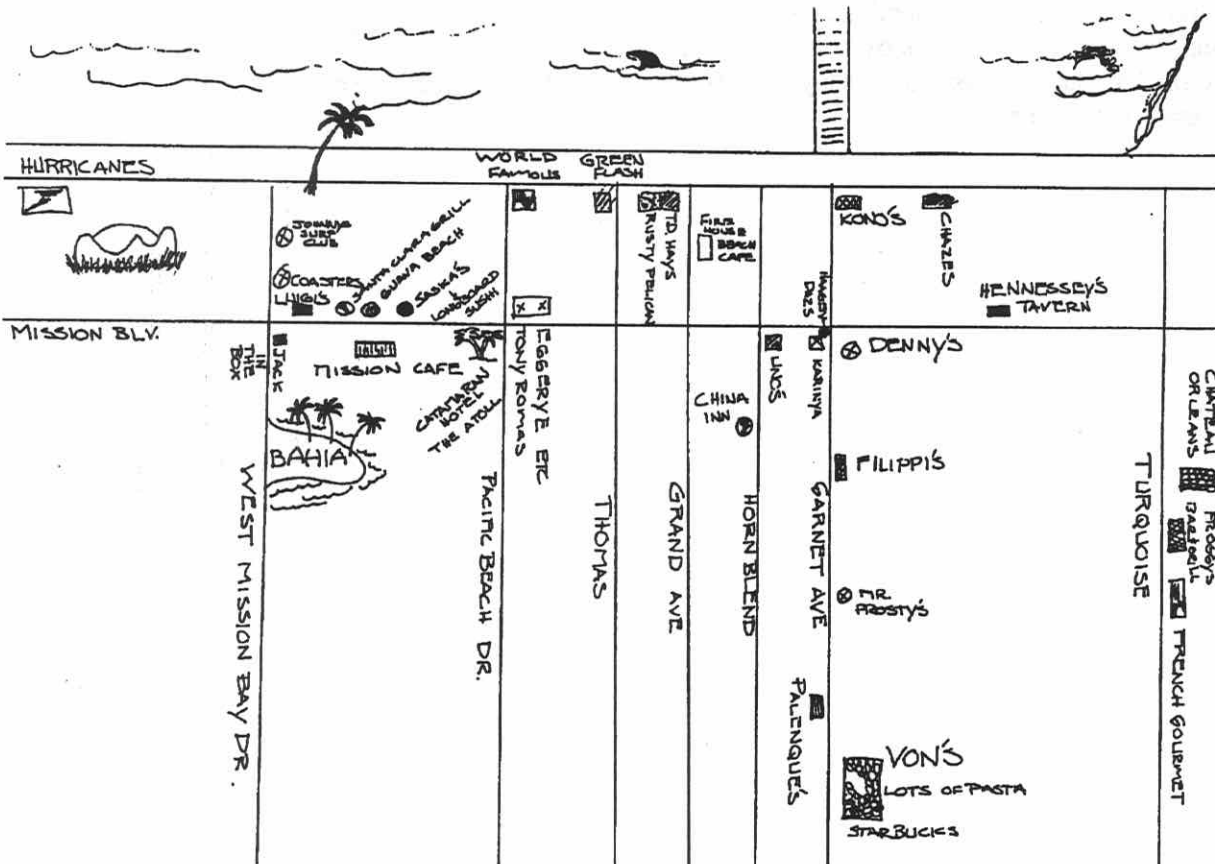
Santa Clara Grill
3704 Mission Blvd.
Casual, continental
488-9484

Saska's
3768 Mission Blvd.
Casual, continental, local favorite
488-7311

Shanghai
1930 Quivira Way
Moderate, Chinese
226-6200

Society Billard Cafe
1051 Garnet Avenue
Casual, upscale pool hall
272-7665

Terrific Pacific
721 Grand Avenue
Restaurant/Microbrewery
270-3596



Conference Protocol

Standard Procedures and Criminal Violations

Be comfortable and have fun! All attendees have something in common — love of the mystery genre. The stranger standing next to you in the elevator wearing an LCC8 badge is no stranger — he or she is a fellow fan. And he or she just might be the answer to one of the Trivia Bingo squares!

Try to mix your activities. Remember, we don't just have panels, we also have activities in the reading room, coffee klatches, and more! Not to mention the chance to just sit down with some of those fellow fans we mentioned and discuss your favorite sleuths. The lobby, hospitality suite and the bar can offer as much enjoyment as the programming rooms!

The conventioneer's rule of thumb is to get at least 5 hours of sleep a night, and eat at least 2 meals during the day to keep one chipper and healthy.

Please, no manuscripts. Aspiring authors may make important contacts at fan conventions, but it is bad etiquette to bring your work with you.

Be courteous of our attending authors. There is a time and a place for autographs (announced in the program). Anyone following an author into the bathroom for an autograph will soon be nothing more than a chalk outline on the floor!

The number one rule: Have fun!



AWARDS -AND- HONOREES

**AWARDS
-AND-
HONOREES**



Awards & Honorees

IN APPRECIATION OF ELIZABETH GEORGE

By Alan Russell



When the Left Coast Crime VIII Committee came up with the conference theme of "Crime Crosses The Border," they were faced with the major decision of selecting a Guest of Honor who exemplified the conference's motif. Elizabeth George, everyone on the Committee exclaimed, would be that perfect standard bearer.

George, an American (born in the Midwest, even), writes the quintessential English mystery. Her major protagonists, Detective Inspector

Thomas Lynley and Detective Sergeant Barbara Havers, work for New Scotland Yard. From her Huntington Beach perch, George looks across the Atlantic (turning her back, I suppose, on her view of the Pacific Ocean) and manages to peer deep into the heart of Mother England. From castles to tenements, from titled lords to ladies of the night, from public schools (oh, forget it, I'm not going to go through that explanation) to immigrant children walking the streets of London, George's nine novels have given us what seems to be an "insider's" view of England, as well as made her an international bestseller. No one knows how to make death cross the border like Elizabeth George.

Among George's many honors, she has won both an Anthony and Agatha, and was awarded France's Grand Prix de Litterature Policiere and Germany's MIMI. In the United States alone, she has more than four and a half million copies of her books in print.

George worked as an English teacher for many years, and has a Master's degree in counseling/psychology. There is still something of the schoolteacher about George, an observation in no way meant to be pejorative. She knows how to take control of a room, and is comfortable at a lectern. From her writing, readers can sense how observant George is. In person, she seems to have

AWARDS -AND- HONOREES

Elizabeth George, continued

the fabled eyesight of a teacher, with eyes in the back of her head. I met Elizabeth several years ago at "An Evening of Mystery" put on by the Friends of the UCSD Library. Along with writer Bill Murray, we three were supposed to provide a triple dose of murder and mayhem. When she saw me feverishly poring over my notes, Elizabeth announced, "Ah, the sign of an 'A' student."

"No," I said, "more like the sign of an unprepared speaker."

George, I noticed, didn't do any cramming. The teacher already knew her subject well.

Although in my time I wasn't exactly a naughty schoolboy, some teachers might have found me a tad exuberant, even opinionated, in the classroom. And like every recovering schoolboy, my radar always seems to go on alert around teachers. Somehow I fear they can still pull out a detention slip from their pocketbook, or threaten my ego with a failing grade. To this day, I suspect them of looking out to the world with red pens,

and making their marks accordingly (and me being on the short end of such marks).

Elizabeth George gave up her red pen for a writing pen, and millions of fans are delighted that she did. I never brought a teacher an apple. Among my peers, it just wouldn't have been considered cool. But Elizabeth George is certainly one teacher who deserves her apple (and polished, even). Her books continue to edify and entertain, and "students" from around the world are the grateful recipients of her teaching.

An "apple" to you, Ms. George, and kudos from all your pupils here at Left Coast Crime.

But about my grade...

Books by Elizabeth George

A Great Deliverance (1988)

Payment in Blood (1989)

Well-Schooled in Murder (1990)

A Suitable Vengeance (1991)

For the Sake of Elena (1992)

Missing Joseph (1993)

Playing for the Ashes (1994)

In the Presence of the Enemy (1996)

Deception on His Mind (1997)



Alan Russell and Shame: An Interview

By "Maryelizabeth Line"

Alan Russell is the type of man who leaves an impression. Soft-spoken, and quick-witted, the 6'7" mystery and suspense author stands out in a crowd - and his books stand out on the shelves of the mystery section. Part of their distinction is his diversity: two novels about a northern California private investigator Stuart Winter; two comedic mysteries about Hotel Detective Am Caulfield; the outstanding multi-layered *Multiple Wounds*, and now *Shame*, an examination of the "Bad Seed" theory.

Q: Alan, tell me why, in a field filled with writers and continuing series characters, you have six books with four different protagonists.

A: The short answer is that I'm a Gemini (a Gemini that doesn't believe in astrology, no matter how much I seem to fit the Gemini mold). The long answer is that I have to be passionate about the books I write. If I'm not excited about the project, I don't want to do it. I plan to return to some of those diverse characters in future books. They're calling to me, courting me even, but the wooing isn't enough. When I commit to a book, I want to be consumed by it, and no other. I am not the only reader who feels that many series out there have lost that initial spark. I don't want that to ever happen to me.

Q: What have your readers' responses to such diversity been?

A: Sometimes they're confused. I have had a lot of people say something to the effect of, "I just read *Multiple Wounds* and I can't believe

you're the same author who wrote *The Hotel Detective*." And while it's true that those books are polar opposites of one another, I'd like to believe that what they have in common is good writing. When my name goes on the cover, I like to say that's my own Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval. The books might be very different, but I hope the readers will be satisfied that they're getting a good read regardless.

Q: In the past you have incorporated a number of real life experiences into your work, including your wife Laura's work with gorillas, who sign language, and your years as a hotel manager for the Sea Lodge in La Jolla. Any real life stories behind *Shame*? Should we be examining your family tree?

A: No, I'm not the son of a serial murderer (as my protagonist in *Shame* is). One of the major tenets of the book is about keeping secrets, something that's always fascinated me. All of us have secrets. My protagonist hadn't told anyone, including his wife and children, about his past, about how his father had been executed for murder. When the sins of the father are revisited upon the child, he is truly "outed."

Q: Most stories grow from one occurrence or idea. What was the catalyst for *Shame*?

A: I didn't set out to write a serial murderer book - and I didn't write one. Books that revel in violence are of no interest to me. But I've always had a fascination with psychology, and I started thinking about the question of what it would be like if you were the son of a serial

AWARDS -AND- HONOREES

Alan Russell, continued

murderer. I couldn't imagine anything that would be worse for a youth growing up. You would automatically be the town pariah. Research followed the original notion, and the characters started to grow. Did you know that Ted Bundy fathered a child while in prison? Think about the legacy of that poor little girl.

Q: Actually, the idea of prisoners engaging in sex makes me uncomfortable. (pause) Let's address the idea that an author's characters are expressions of himself. What does that mean when you write villains, particularly those with complex psyches like in *Multiple Wounds* or *Shame*?

A: It's not easy for me to commit murder in my books. I need to get into the mindset of my antagonist. Verisimilitude is all important to me. I need that truth-like quality. I have to think about my villains quite a bit. They're not "natural" for me, and I don't want them to be cardboard characters. It probably helps that my wife is a psychiatric social worker. I'm always thumbing through her DSM IV. Both *Multiple Wounds* and *Shame* took me about two years each to write. *Shame*, in particular, was my "book from hell." It's the reason why I'm working on a much "lighter" novel at the moment.

Q: What about social issues: family values, the environment, and other politics? One of the significant characters in *Shame* certainly leads what one might call an alternative lifestyle. What are a writer's parameters and responsibilities to his beliefs when creating a work of fiction?

A: The first duty of a writer is to keep a reader reading. The story comes first. You can edify, but not at the expense of the plot. *The Forest Prime Evil* was a particularly tough book

for me to write, because I didn't want my conservationist sympathies to dam up the river of the story. One of my characters in *Shame* is a drag queen. I didn't know anything about that world until I started writing the book. As a writer, I felt it was my responsibility to learn about drag queens. So I wrote to psychologists (one of whom IS a drag queen), and I met with drag queens. And, as with any group, I learned there is no one prototypical individual. One drag queen encouraged me to go out on the town in women's clothing. I said I was too big, too hairy, and too male, and the truth of the matter is that I've never had any desire to wear women's clothing (I did have to perform in a dress once, but that's another story).

Q: We'll be looking forward to your performance in the Cabaret! (both laugh) Let's talk a little about voice. In *Shame*, you have both the story narrative, and excerpts from my true crime works. Are the tools you apply the same ones you use to create separate voices for individual characters, or is this different than dialogue?

A: In *Shame* there are several stories going on. The "back story" is very important, as the past and present merge in many ways. The stories are distinguished in a number of ways, including type style and voice. There are some chapters that have three different fonts in them, but believe it or not, it's not confusing for the reader. I thought it was important to give a sense of history, as well as the various layers of the onion.

Q: There is a theory that every San Diego author must write a "border book." Would you think of one of your existing books as such, or do you think that lies in your future?



AWARDS -AND- HONOREES

Alan Russell, continued

A: *Multiple Wounds* certainly covered a lot of borders of the mind, but I don't know if it's my "border book." At this time, I have no plans for such a book, but the day is still young.

Q: What does the future hold for you and your work? What passion is consuming you at present?

A: I hope I'll break through the "paper barrier" and gain a wider audience. Believe it or not, I am now working on a Christmas novel that is probably more Dickensian than mystery.

Why do that 180 degree twist again? Because the idea for that novel called louder than the other ideas, and I made a vow to myself to always listen to what's "calling" (even, I suppose, at the risk of my career).

Maryelizabeth Line is the author of several true-crime novels. Known as the Queen of Crime, her career started when she survived an encounter with Gray Parker, the serial killer known as Shame. She wants to thank Geraldine Galentree for her contributions to this article.

At Simon & Schuster and Scribner,
wicked deeds are strongly encouraged.

Laurali Wright
STRANGERS AMONG US

Valerie Malmont
DEATH, LIES, AND APPLE PIES

Cynthia Harrod-Eagles
KILLING TIME

Jan Burke
LIAR (COMING IN MAY)

Paul Bishop
TEQUILA MOCKINGBIRD

Alan Russell
SHAME



Available wherever books are sold.





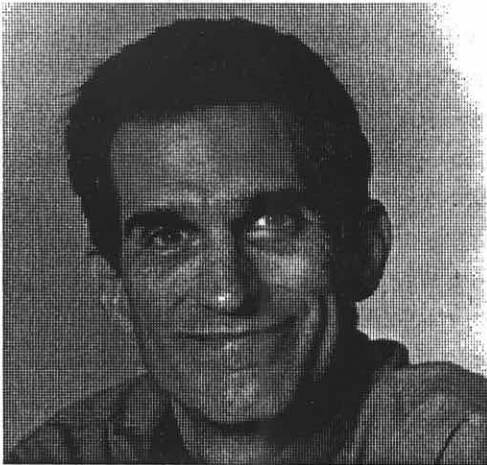
IT'S NO MYSTERY WHY
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WE HAVE THE BEST CRIME WRITERS!

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- EILEEN DREYER
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- JOANNE PENCE
- LISA SCOTTOLINE
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- STUART WOODS

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Accomplished Accomplice Dan Erwine - A Literate Voice

by Jeff Mariotte



When I came to San Diego to sell books in 1983, a major part of my strategy was to bring many more authors to town than any other store had done, to promote those authors as well as I could, and to use that promotion to sell books. Over the years since, I was able to accomplish most of that. But the promoting of authors and books was always a struggle - there were a couple of newspapers, but there was only one local TV show that ever interviewed authors, and it didn't last long. And then there was radio.

In a radio interview host, you want there to be several factors present. You want an interviewer who will take time to read at least some, if not all, of the book the author is promoting. You want someone smart enough to understand the book and to discuss it with intelligence and, hopefully,

wit. You want someone who can relate to a wide variety of people. You want someone who listeners will respond to in the important way, which is coming out to meet the author and buy his or her book. And you want someone who can keep the whole thing interesting and fun for authors and, most importantly, listeners, so they'll keep tuning in.

In short, you want Dan Erwine.

Dan's been a radio fixture in San Diego for a number of years. He started at KOGO-FM, and stayed with that station when it became KFSD-FM, a classical station that lasted until the last year or so. In 1986, he made the jump to our local Public Broadcasting station, KPBS. The day the Gulf War broke out, talk radio suddenly seemed more important than classical music, though, and Dan started his show "These Days."

Since then, he's interviewed more than 2,500 guests. Many, although of course not all, have been authors. In those interviews Dan has shown that he is the best author interviewer San Diego radio has had. He's always prepared, or he fakes it well enough that it doesn't matter. I believe it's the former, though. He's genuinely interested in books and authors. He has his own opinions about things, but is more interested in drawing out the feelings of his guests than in forwarding his own agenda.

AWARDS -AND- HONOREES

Dan Erwine, continued

I've been a guest on Dan's show, and I've sent more than a few his way, so I've been able to see Dan in action from both sides. And from any angle, his approach works. As a guest, I was not the tongue-tied imbecile I expected to be, thanks to Dan's easy, soothing on-air approach. As a bookseller, I admire the way that he can talk about seemingly anything, and leave audiences wanting more. This benefits not only my store but every bookstore and library - Dan makes people want to read books, and that's got to be a good thing.

Dan's guest list over the past five years is a virtual who's who of the publishing world, including many mystery writers. Guests on the show have included such public figures as John Denver, Edward Albee, Rosalynn Carter, Judy Collins, Fred (Mr.) Rogers, Betty Friedan, Michelle Shocked, and many others. A few of the many authors who have been interviewed on the show include: Patricia Benke, Rita Mae Brown,

James Lee Burke, Taffy Cannon, Orson Scott Card, Stephen Coonts, Lucha Corpi, Robert Crais, Clive Cussler, Susan Dunlap, Aaron, Elkins, Harlan Ellison, James Ellroy, Peter Gilboy, William Gibson, Wendy Hornsby, Susan Isaacs, Ken Kuhlken, Joe R. Lansdale, William Murray, Abigail Padgett, Sara Paretsky, Ridley Pearson, Anne Perry, Patrick Robinson, Rebecca Rothenberg, Alan Russell, Diane K. Shah, Janice Steinberg, Gore Vidal, Joseph Wambaugh, and Carolyn Wheat. You'll notice a preponderance of mystery writers in that list - not that mysteries are the only thing Dan reads, but he does have an interest in the genre.

Sometimes it's hard to remember when we didn't have Dan Erwine around to spur conversation about books and authors. Fortunately, we have Dan now. He should know that he's deeply appreciated by the community of writers and readers in San Diego. Thanks, Dan.



Bob Wade: Lifetime Achievement Award



Bob Wade is no stranger to getting Lifetime Achievement Awards - or awards in general for that matter.

In 1989 he received a special Anthony honoring his contribution to the mystery field with a Lifetime Achievement Award. And this year the San Diego Public Library recognized his literary achievements by awarding him their Lifetime Achievement Award. Wade deserves all those laurels and more, and we would like to pay him further tribute by presenting him Left Coast Crime 8's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Wade is the Edgar Award winning author of forty six novels (thirty three of them written in

collaboration with Bill Miller). Writing under a variety of pen names including Wade Miller, Will Daemer, Dale Wilmer (acronyms for Wade and Miller - Wade regretted that no publisher ever let he and Miller use the pseudonym "Earl Milldew"), and Whit Masterson, Wade's body of work has earned him world-wide acclaim.

His literary output has been diverse, with his books running the gamut of the mystery and suspense field. Wade's first novel was published in 1946, and over the next four decades many of his books became best-sellers. Eight of his novels were made into movies, with probably the best known of those being *Touch Of Evil*, a film Orson Welles adapted and directed from Wade's novel *Badge Of Evil*.

Wade's interest in mysteries has never waned. He is one of the most respected reviewers in the country, with his longstanding "Spadework" book review column for the San Diego Union-Tribune considered a must read by many mystery aficionados.

Wade is a lifelong San Diegan, and was among the first to put San Diego on the country's literary map. One of his more renowned series characters is Max Thursday, a San Diego private eye (a character established long before Joe Friday).

We are proud to honor San Diego's own literary giant with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Congratulations, Bob!

Intrigue Press salutes our Left Coast Crime 8 authors

Connie Shelton with the Charlie Parker mysteries

Deadly Gamble

Vacations Can Be Murder

Partnerships Can Kill

Small Towns Can Be Murder – coming in May

and

Mari Ulmer with her Christina Garcia y Grant mystery

Midnight at the Camposanto - coming this fall

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Mention From the Heart: Willis Herr, Fan Guest of Honor

By Maryelizabeth Hart



**Willis Herr
1939 - 1997**

One of the hardest things about doing this piece, other than writing about Willis Herr, our Fan Guest of Honor, in the past tense, was locating a photo of him. Don't get me wrong - in the nearly five years of Mysterious Galaxy events, we have plenty of photos of Willy. They are just mostly inadvertent pictures of Willy - the back of his head here, a glimpse of his black bag of books there. Willy was our constant at mystery events - Jeff, Terry or I might not all be able to attend an event, but Willy was faithful as he could be. During the infancy of the store, this was sometimes a lifesaver - sometimes our only audience for an author was staff and Willy.

We benefited from being Willy's neighborhood store, as did many of our customers by extension. A casual comment from Willy, "Have you heard the buzz on this book?" often resulted in our increasing our stock on things like Nevada Barr's *Track of the Cat*, or Laurie King's *A Grave Talent*. And Willy was generous with his time as well, offering to take our store stock with him when visiting authors in LA who were not stopping in San Diego, or to include our books in shipments to authors off in the wilds of Nebraska and the like.

Willy was a good friend in other unobtrusive ways. He could be coerced into buying Girl Scout cookies or supporting our kids and their activities in other ways. We got postcards when he made his trips to Alaska. And I still, months after his death, haven't been able to remove him from my Email address book; that's probably because the last time I heard from him was a request for me to keep forwarding jokes to help keep his spirits up.

Willis Eldon Herr was born March 7, 1939, in Orrville Ohio to Elmer D. and Elda V. Herr. He is survived by his brother Wilbur J. Herr and sister-in-law Sandra K. Herr, and his former wife and friend Barbara Herr.

Willis' background included his college major in mathematics, a stint in the Army and teaching public school, and a long relationship with System Development Corporation which continued even after he semi-retired in the 1980's to open his book business out of his home in San Diego.

AWARDS -AND- HONOREES

Willis Herr, continued

tem Development Corporation which continued even after he semi-retired in the 1980's to open his book business out of his home in San Diego.

He was buried with his parents in Orrville. Willis will be missed by many.

Some remembrances and comments following his death include:

"I'm still not believing this is reality, and I don't like it much. I will miss him more than I can say. He was my cheering section during late night conversations when the words just weren't coming. Always ready to boost me up when I was feeling so out of the loop here in Montana. Willy was my touchstone, and I am honored to have been his friend." —*Sandra West Prowell*

"Willy was a quiet man. You had to listen closely to hear his often muttered one-liners. He knew the mystery field very well, not only as a bookseller, but as a fan. Even if he didn't have a table at a mystery convention, Willy was a regular in the dealer's room. He was at home amongst the books. That is how I will always remember him."

Willy was very generous with this author (and others as well). He would often let me buy books at his cost, and not only that, he would deliver them to my house when he was in the neighborhood. And he was a good advocate for books in the only way that publishers notice - he would buy books he liked and respected and hand sold them through his catalog."

For those of you who bought your books through Willis Herr, Bookseller, I am afraid you will have to buy your books elsewhere. But it will be a lot easier replacing the bookseller than the person. We will miss you, Willy." —*Alan Russell*

"Willis was a valued part of the mystery world, and it's so sad he didn't live to be a fan guest of honor." —*Judith Van Gieson*

"Damn, damn, damn. A serious loss. I will miss Willy terribly." —*Nevada Barr*

"I had bought books from Willis for only a year and a half, and I will miss his kind remarks, the generous way he sometimes included free books of interest to me, and his great service - I felt I had a friend in San Diego." —*Anne Petersen of Denmark*

"I got to know Willis Herr six years ago when I ducked out of my first mystery conference to stand around beneath the skinny iron legs of a three-story flamingo outside an L.A. hotel. When I ran into him a week later at my neighborhood post office in San Diego, it already seemed natural to hang around in the parking lot and talk. Over the years, more often than not, Willis and I would wind up at the post office at the same time. He always said he didn't know the latest book-biz gossip, but he always did. And I still catch myself looking for him in the line." —*Abigail Padgett*



The "Lefty" Award

The "Lefty," Left Coast Crime's Award for the funniest novel of the previous year, debuted at LCC6 in Boulder. Tom and Enid Schantz and their committee conceived the award because "we decided to make LCC in Boulder as far off the wall as possible and because we always thought that the English Crime Writer's Last Laugh award ought to be imported to the U.S."

This year's nominees, nominated by LCC attendees, are:

Dead Men Don't Dance
by Margaret Chittenden

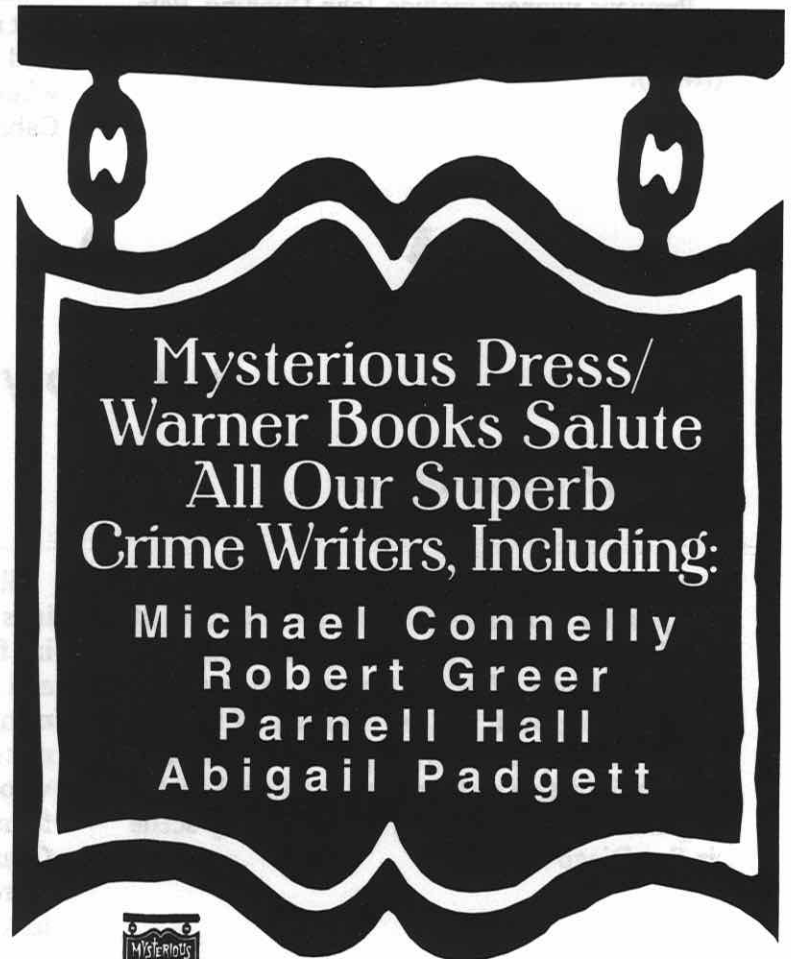
Three to Get Deadly
by Janet Evanovich.

Scam
by Parnell Hall

I Still Miss My Man But My Aim is Getting Better
by Sarah Shankman

The Death and Life of Bobby Z
by Don Winslow.

All attending members' book bags contain a ballot of the five finalists. Please check ONE choice and return your ballot to the box by Registration NO LATER than 2 PM on Saturday, 2/28. The ballots will be counted, and the winner will be announced at the Cabaret by the original "Lefty" winner, Toastmaster Alan Russell.



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AWARDS -AND- HONOREES

The Dilys Award

The Independent Mystery Booksellers Association was organized in 1992 and decided that an award to recognize the book members found the most fun to sell — modelled after the American Booksellers Association's ABBY — would be worth doing. It was also decided that to announce the award early in the year at LCC, before other award lists, would give it more impact.

Previous winners include John Dunning, Pete Hoeg, Janet Evanovich and Michael Connelly (twice).

This year's finalists were:

The Killing Floor by Lee Child
Backspin by Harlan Coben
Three to Get Deadly by Janet Evanovich
Sacred by Dennis Lehane
Deja Dead by Kathy Reichs
The Devil in Music by Kate Ross

The Dilys, named with her permission for the first mystery bookseller, Dilys Wynn, is symbolized by an engraved inkwell presented to the winner. The winner will be announced at the Cabaret.



In Memory ...

Marilyn Jean Onyon

1927 - 1997

It is with a great deal of sadness that we report the passing of Marilyn Onyon, the President of the San Diego Mystery Club. A great mystery fan and encourager of newer readers, she has been vital in the growth and development of the San Diego Mystery Club for the past fifteen years. It was her initiative and her drive that have kept the organization a crucial part of the mystery scene in San Diego County.

She provided the club's monthly dinner meetings with superb speakers from the mystery writing field as well as real-life figures in the mystery and detective world. Marilyn was also instrumental in the beginning of a local mystery gourmet dinner group which met regularly, discussing whodunits while feasting on the culinary delights found in many mystery novels. She attended Left Coast Crime conferences because she loved the more intimate atmosphere. Her passing is a great loss to the San Diego mystery scene.



PROGRAMMING



DAY	TIME	LOCATION	ACTIVITY
Friday, February 27	12:00 PM	La Jolla Room	Registration Opens
	12:00 PM	Pacific Room	Hospitality Room Opens
	1:00 PM	Del Mar Room	Dealer Room Opens
	4:00 PM	Chula Vista Room	DorothyL Reception
	5:00 PM	Tangier Bar	Happy Hour "Panel"
	5:00 PM	Del Mar Room	Dealer Room Closes
	7:00 PM	Pacific Room	Meet for "Dinners on the Town"
	9:30 PM	Bahia Belle, Dockside	San Diego Authors Cruise on Mission Bay
Saturday, February 28	7:00 AM	Hotel Lobby	Walk/Run
	7:30 - 8:45 AM	Ballroom Foyer	Complimentary Continental Breakfast
	9:00 - 10:45 AM	Ballroom ABC	General Session with Elizabeth George, "Well-Schooled in Murder" <i>The Opening Session features our Guest of Honor, Elizabeth George, interviewed by Alan Russell.</i>
	11:00 AM	Ballroom ABC	Agua Caliente or Beyond the Perils of Pauline: Getting One's Protagonist Out of Hot Water <i>How an author creates a scene of deadly peril and then gets his/her character out of it, believably.</i> Moderator: J.A. Jance Panelists: Carolina Garcia-Aguilera Paul Bishop Charles Knief Patricia McFall Philip Reed
	11:00 AM	Ballroom DE	It's About Crime, It's About Space Where No One Can Hear You Detect <i>A panel made to order for all the Star Trek and Star Wars fans out there. Who <u>was</u> Luke and Leia's mother anyway?</i> Moderator: Carolyn Wheat Panelists: Janet Dawson Carole Nelson Douglas Lee Goldberg Toni Kerner
11:00 AM	Comedy Isle	Reading Room: Gar Anthony Haywood <i>A reading from <u>Assume Nothing</u>, a novel-in-progress, and a discussion about a current trend in the mystery field: changing from series writing to thrillers.</i>	

PROGRAMMING

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	ACTIVITY
Saturday, February 28	11:00 AM	Buena Vista Room	Coffee Klatch: Herbal Tea with Susan Wittig Albert She will share her tea and herbal recipes.
	11:00 AM	Del Mar Room	Dealer Room Opens
	12:00 PM	Buena Vista Room	Box Lunches
	12:00 PM	Comedy Isle	Reading Room: Willetta Heising, Nick Pappas and Janet Rudolph Bring your lunches to a discussion of the mystery series: Past, Present and Future. Audience participation.
	1:00 PM	Ballroom ABC	Elizabeth George Writers Workshop
	1:00 PM	Ballroom DE	¿Es verdad?: When Real Life is Stranger Than Fiction <i>How a writer creates believable, exciting plots, in a world where we are faced with Jeffrey Dahmer and Heaven's Gate.</i> Moderator: Robert Greer Panelists: Jeffrey Denhart Michael Newton Megan Rust Barbara Seranella
	1:00 PM	Buena Vista Room	Las Ninas y Los Ninos: Blame It on Nancy Drew! Mystery Fiction for the Younger Set <i>Most of us were introduced to mystery fiction through Nancy Drew and/or the Hardy Boys. A discussion of the latest in this important sub-genre.</i> Moderator: Taffy Cannon Panelists: Rhys Bowen Beverly Hastings Joan Oppenheimer Lora Roberts
	1:00 PM	Comedy Isle	Reading Room: Jan Burke A reading from <i>Liar</i> , the new Irene Kelly mystery, and a discussion of one of the most important mystery themes: the past haunting the present.
	2:00 PM	Ballroom ABC	Lines and Shadows, Centurions and Choir Boys <i>Dan Erwine of KPBS Radio interviews Joseph Wambaugh, followed by a question-and-answer session.</i>



DAY	TIME	LOCATION	ACTIVITY
Saturday, February 28	2:00 PM	Ballroom DE	<p>Los Amigos: The Sidekick in Mystery Fiction <i>From Dr. Watson to Grandma Mazur, the detective's sounding board is vitally important. How do they happen?</i></p> <p>Moderator: Susan Holtzer Panelists: Bill Albert Bruce Alexander Michael Dymmoch Christine Jorgensen</p>
	2:00 PM	Comedy Isle	<p>Reading Room: Laurali R. Wright This distinctive Canadian novelist discusses how through style, characterization and theme she defines a region within British Columbia.</p>
	3:00 PM	Ballroom ABC	<p>¿Como Se Llama? What's in a Name? <i>Character names and place names help set the atmosphere of a story. The challenge is to find or create the right names.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Janice Steinberg Panelists: Earlene Fowler Dale Furutani Miriam Grace Monfredo Mari Ulmer</p>
	3:00 PM	Ballroom DE	<p>Los Robozos: The Five Stooges Run Amok: No Moderator, No Moderation! <i>An unmoderated hour of sheer fun. The management is not responsible for anything which happens here!</i></p> <p>Panelists: G.M. Ford Martha Lawrence Gary Phillips Lillian Roberts Alan Russell</p>
	3:00 PM	Comedy Isle	<p>Reading Room: Margaret Coel A reading from her forthcoming Arapaho mystery novel and an unusual talk on one of its fascinating themes: the Plains Indian Ledger Books.</p>

PROGRAMMING

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	ACTIVITY
Saturday, February 28	4:00 PM	Ballroom ABC	<p>Erotica: Or What Your English Teacher Never Taught <i>Panelists vary from those whose chapters end when the characters go to bed, to those whose chapters start there.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Maryelizabeth Hart Panelists: Terrill Lankford Val McDermid Sharan Newman Gillian Roberts</p>
	4:00 PM	Ballroom DE	<p>El Mercado: Marketing Techniques & the Writer <i>You've published a wonderful book -- now what? Useful tips from three authors, a literary agent and a publicist.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Penny Warner Panelists: Kimberly Cameron Margaret Chittenden Walter Halee Joanne Pence Alice Volpe</p>
	4:00 PM	Comedy Isle	<p>Reading Room: Michael Connelly The first public discussion of Connelly's new novel, <i>Blood Work</i>, and an hour for fans to ask any and all questions of this award-winning author.</p>
	6:00 PM	Del Mar Room	Dealer Room Closes
	8:00 PM	Ballroom ABC	Chocolate for Charity Auction "Short & Sweet!"
	9:00 PM	Ballroom DE	Come to the Cabaret!
Sunday, March 1	7:00 AM	Hotel Lobby	Walk/Run
	7:30 - 8:45 AM	Ballroom Foyer	Complimentary Continental Breakfast
	9:00 AM	Ballroom ABC	<p>"The Ghost of Honor," Raymond Chandler <i>In our special morning session, four very literate men discuss the life and legacy of Raymond Chandler, who lived and worked in San Diego.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Peter Rowe Panelists: Michael Connelly Arthur Salm Robert Wade</p>



DAY	TIME	LOCATION	ACTIVITY
Sunday, March 1	10:00 AM	Ballroom ABC	<p>La Policia: Good Cops, Bad Cops, Human Cops <i>Whether starring in a police procedural or in a supporting role, police have always been an important element of the mystery. Can a mystery be written without them?</i></p> <p>Moderator: Peter Robinson Panelists: Carola Dunn Martin J. Smith Charlene Weir L.R. Wright</p>
	10:00 AM	Ballroom DE	<p>¡Atender! Why You Should Buy My Book! <i>A book is published and a writer's job is just beginning. Now there are publicity tours, book signings and fan conventions. How do you get them to buy your book?</i></p> <p>Moderator: Parnell Hall Panelists: Peter Lance C.W. Morton Keith Snyder Barbara Sohmers Marianne Wesson</p>
	10:00 AM	Comedy Isle	<p>Reading Room: Abigail Padgett, Sandra Dijkstra and Sara Ann Freed A mystery author, an agent and an editor discuss the creation, sales and refinement of a new series character: Blue McCarron.</p>
	10:00 AM	Del Mar Room	Dealer Room Opens
	11:00 AM	Ballroom ABC	<p>¿Your Place or Mine? Situación, Situación, Situación! <i>Five accomplished writers tell how they portray a location and its ambiance.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Sarah Shankman Panelists: Jeanne Dams Sybil Downing Donna Huston Murray T. Jefferson Parker</p>

PROGRAMMING

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	ACTIVITY
Sunday, March 1	11:00 AM	Ballroom DE	<p>The San Andreas Fault: California Crime from Logland to Fogland to Smogland <i>One state, many environments for Left Coast Crime.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Richard Barre Panelists: Jonnie Jacobs Ken Kuhlken Maxine O'Callaghan Dianne Pugh</p>
	11:00 AM	Comedy Isle	<p>Reading Room: Carolina Garcia-Aguilera The only female Cuban-American mystery writer reads from a work-in-progress and discusses her new literary life.</p>
	11:00 AM	Buena Vista Room	<p>Coffee Klatch with Don Winslow Share a cuppa with the creator of the Neal Carey series. He will discuss his next novel, <i>California Fire and Life</i>.</p>
	12:00PM	Buena Vista Room	Box Lunches
	12:00 PM	Comedy Isle	<p>Reading Room: Eddie Little His stark, poetic, often humorous prose will give you a new look at the life of an ex-con. His book, <i>Another Day in Paradise</i>, will soon be a movie.</p>
	1:00 PM	Ballroom ABC	<p>The Sons and Daughters of Noir: The Dark Side of Humor in Mystery Fiction <i>Do violence and humor mix? A terrific discussion by six of the best practitioners of the art.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Jon Jackson Panelists: Noreen Ayres Jen Banbury Gar Anthony Haywood Don Herron Sarah Lovett</p>
	1:00 PM	Ballroom DE	<p>Red Herrings and White Lies: Should the Reader Solve the Mystery Before the Protagonist? <i>Should an author always play fair and give us all the clues? This dilemma may be one of the author's toughest tasks.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Rochelle Krich Panelists: Erin Grady Valerie Malmont Taylor Smith Catherine Todd</p>



DAY	TIME	LOCATION	ACTIVITY
Sunday, March 1	1:00 PM	Comedy Isle	Reading Room: Sharan Newman Visit 12th century France with the author of the Catherine LeVendeur mysteries, who will discuss her forthcoming novel.
	2:00 PM	Ballroom ABC	¡No Violencia, Por Favor! We're Mystery Writers! <i>Does a mystery have to have a murder? Does violence have to be implicit to have impact?</i> Moderator: Alison Gordon Panelists: Patricia Guiver Renee Horowitz Camille Minichino Lynn Murray
	2:00 PM	Ballroom DE	Trabajo Troubles: An Eclectic Mix of Detecting Protagonists <i>A look at the widely diverse professions amateur detectives hail from.</i> Moderator: Carole Epstein Panelists: Kate Flora Dolores Johnson Miriam Ann Moore Connie Shelton
	2:00 PM	Comedy Isle	Reading Room: Peter Lance When this first novelist reads, it's with as much dramatic flair and excitement as a Broadway show. Treat yourself to a reading from his forthcoming novel, <i>Twice Amy Nite</i> .
	3:00 PM	Ballroom ABC	The Lifespan of a Mystery Series: How Does a Series Begin, and How Long Should It Continue? <i>Where does a writer get ideas for a series? How does one keep it going, and perhaps most significantly, when should it end?</i> Moderator: Margaret Coel Panelists: Emily Brightwell Marlys Millhiser Paul Schiele Joyce Spizer

PROGRAMMING

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	ACTIVITY
Sunday, March 1	3:00 PM	Ballroom DE	<p>La Migra, Border Crossings: Obstacles to Crossing from Another Genre to Mystery <i>Each genre has its special challenges. This panel will discuss the pleasures and pain of crossing the borders.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Laurie King Panelists: Carol Caverly Cynthia Harrod-Eagles Laura Hayden Scott Kessler</p>
	3:00 PM	Comedy Isle	<p>Reading Room: T. Jefferson Parker <i>A reading from Where Serpents Lie, the new novel by one of California's finest thriller writers, and a discussion of its theme and characters.</i></p>
	3:30 PM	Del Mar Room	Dealer Room Closes
	4:00 PM	Ballroom ABC	<p>Conference Closer & Party: Hasta La Vista, Baby! <i>Farewell Fling to the Bash by the Bay!</i></p>



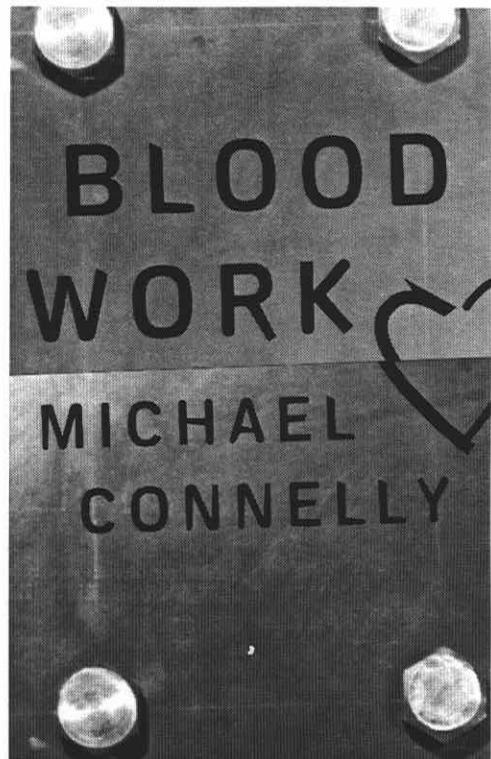
SPECIAL EVENTS

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LCC8 Special Events

DorothyL Reception

Friday, 4:00 PM, Chula Vista Room

Wondering who those mysterious folks with the cat-and-mouse pins are? Looking for a spot on the internet where you can chat with Danger Mouse, Mrs. De Winter, Cass Jameson and other fictional detecting types? DorothyL is the list-serve for many members of the mystery community. With hundreds of subscribers from all over the world discussing mysteries and related topics on a daily basis, it's no mystery why it's so popular. Members of DorothyL will be meeting f2f (that's face-to-face) to say "hello" in person. On line but not yet on DL? One of them will be sure to have helpful information for you.

Happy Hour Panel

Friday, 5:00 PM, Tangier Bar

OK, so there is no panel. There are no authors designated to lead fascinating discussions. There are no chairs lined up in straight little lines. There are no microphones. And there are no moderators.

But there is a social, free-form get-together. And it will be a lot of fun to meet and greet both authors and fans in a pre-dinner gathering. We will meet around 5:00 in the Tangiers Bar, eat complementary hors d'oeuvres and talk. We may even laugh some. Drinking is recommended, but optional.

Dinner on the Town

Friday, 7:00 PM

To take the mystery out of where to have dinner on Friday evening, LCC 8 is offering "Dinner on the Town." This special event will allow attendees to mingle and get to know each other over dinner at pre-selected restaurants. We have selected five restaurants, each offering a different cuisine and atmosphere. Reservations for groups of 12-15 people have been made at each restaurant for 7 PM. This will allow plenty of time for a leisurely dinner *and* return to the hotel in time for the San Diego Author's Cruise aboard the Bahia Belle. If you are interested in going, sign-up sheets will be available at the information area.

Italian

Luigi's Italian Restaurant

3210 Mission Blvd.

488-2818

Casual, pizza, patio

Mexican

Old Town Mexican Cafe

2489 San Deigo Avenue, Old Town

Atmosphere and shopping

297-4330

Seafood

Rusty Pelican

4325 Ocean Blvd.

274-3474

Moderate/expensive, ocean view

SPECIAL EVENTS

Dinner on the Town, Continued

San Diegan

The Green Flash

701 Thomas

270-7715

Seafood/steak, ocean front dining, local favorite

Burgers & Beer

Hennessey's Tavern

4650 Mission Blvd.

483-8847

Irish Pub, burgers, beer, best french fries in town

San Diego Authors Cruise

Friday, 9:30 PM

Join a delightful group of talented hometown authors aboard the lovely 19th Century stern-wheeler, The Bahia Belle, while cruising the calm waters of Mission Bay. The San Diego Authors cruise departs at 9:30 Friday evening. Enjoy live musical entertainment as well as no-host cocktail refreshment. Cost is just \$5.00 per person. Don't miss it!

Walk or Run for Fun

Saturday & Sunday, 7:00 AM

Those with strength, fortitude, and an interest in fresh air and exercise will meet in front of the Bahia lobby at 7:00 AM Saturday and Sunday. Come with athletic shoes and a sense of adventure! See you there!

Chocolate for Charity

Saturday, 8:00 PM

The only thing mystery writers seem to like as much as a good whodunit is a good piece of chocolate. While chewing over ideas for our charity theme, we found the answer right in our mouths: chocolate. Our auction will be short and sweet — literally. Among the items to be auctioned will be four “decadent” creations by chocolatier Joe Grundemann of the Firehouse Deli. If you want to sample Joe's wares on a smaller scale, he will be selling them at the door.

All proceeds from the auction will be going to benefit the Read For Fun Program. The goal of Read For Fun is to get young people reading. Currently, Read For Fun is working with five inner city San Diego elementary schools, with hopes of expanding the program to a number of other schools (targeting those with the worst reading scores). Last year Read For Fun gave away 1200 books. This year it hopes to “significantly add” to that total.

“To earn a book,” said Chet Cunningham, one of the administrators of the program, “students need to do two hundred pages of reading outside class, and then write up a book report for the librarian. Every time they turn in a book report they get to select a free book off the Read For Fun bookshelf.”

Over one hundred different titles are available for students, topics for virtually every taste.

“These are books appropriate for their age level,” said Cunningham. “They're not picture books. The kids call them ‘chapter books.’”

Where will your auction money go? Virtually every cent will go into buying books. The Read For Fun Program has no administrative costs and no overhead.



“We send out a letter to the parents (a letter that goes out in several languages) explaining the program,” said Cunningham. “The schools love it, the parents love it, and best of all, the kids love it.” Cunningham said one librarian told him about a little boy who turned in his book report, selected his book, and then asked the librarian when he had to return it. When told he could keep the book, that he had earned it, the boy hugged it tight and said that it was the first book he had ever owned.

The Read For Fun Program has agreed that a significant portion of the money we earn will be earmarked for young adult mysteries. So don't feel guilty. Bid early, and bid often!

Auction Items

Charity auction items come in all shapes and sizes, from the tangible to the intangible. In the spirit of creativity, Auctioneer Alan Russell has put his mustache, which he is rather attached to, on the line. Cast your vote for him to keep it or shave it via the buckets in the dealer's room. A dollar counts as a vote, and the contents of both buckets will go to the Read For Fun program.

Other items include:

Two LCC8 tee shirts signed by our attending authors, anniversary tee shirts from Grave Matters, a Jeri Howard tee shirt, promotional posters from Mysterious Galaxy, a mountie hand puppet, one of Dorothy Martin's hats, one of Meg Chitenden's cowboy hats, an engraving of Henley-on-Thames, a Cardew Design Mystery Teapot, dinner in Julian prepared by Don Winslow, an original oil painting by Richard de Faut, Tarot readings, and a highly desirable assortment of books and character name opportunities, as well as many other mysterious items.

With only an hour for the auction before the cabaret, this will be short, sweet, and result in a lot of funds for books for young readers!

A Cabaret, You Say?

Saturday, 9:00 PM

Saturday's Mysterious Cabaret may feature drama, acrobatics, comedy, striptease, poetry, political rant, kickboxing, a tidal wave, male or female impersonators, a visiting evangelist, a Shakespeare folio as a doorprize — you never know until you show up.

Arrive early for the auction by 8:00 PM, hang out by the bar and prepare to cheer for the Lefty and Dilys award winners. Then watch our collection of infamous novelists prove either that 1) humans aren't necessarily limited to one talent, or 2) nobody's great at everything!

Hasta la Vista, Baby

By Carolyn Wheat

See, the thing is, we all have to go home. No matter how much fun this eighth annual Left Coast party becomes, we can't make it last forever. We can't set up permanent residence in the Mission-style fantasy hotel or spend the rest of our days lolling around the hot tub or having just one more nightcap at the Tangiers bar. Brigadoon has to melt into the mist so that it can reappear once more, as if by magic, in the next city to host the next reunion of our mystery family.

But saying good-bye is hard. It's not easy to watch people trailing their luggage on little leashes, making their way to the checkout counter and turning in their room keys, or sitting forlornly on benches waiting for the airport shuttle. Leaving before noon on Sunday. Leaving on Saturday night, some of them. Trickling away until late Sunday afternoon, when you walk into the lobby looking for a friend and realize, with a bone-freezing shudder, that the people sitting so comfortably in those overstuffed chairs are NOT US.

Not only are they NOT US, they don't recognize the DorothyL crest on our T-shirts or peer myopically at our name tags to see if they recognize the name. They would be offended if we plopped down next to them and started discussing arcane poisons or Dell mapbacks we picked up for a song in the dealer's room.

The party's over. It's time to call it a day.

But wait - Not so fast, pilgrim.

We're not letting you go so easily. No sneaking out of town like a guy caught with his hand in the till. No making your escape without a nice long good-bye. One more for the road. A last hurrah. A fiesta of farewell. A little thing we like to call - *Hasta la vista, baby*.

If that's not motivation enough — okay, how about this? Those mysterious raffle tickets in your bag are about to win you some special loot — but only if you're at the party to collect it!

So enjoy your trip home, but before you book that shuttle, drop by the ballroom. Raise a glass and crunch a corn chip and say, "Until the next time." Vaya con Dios.



MURDER AROUND TOWN

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A Jason Keltner Mystery

by Keith Snyder

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ISBN prefix: 0-8027

Murder Around Town

By Alan Russell

There are a lot of wonderful things about San Diego even beyond its fabled surf, sand and sun. For mystery writers it has proven a great place to practice their craft, offering a scenic (and varied) backdrop to a number of novels.

Trouble in paradise has always been a popular theme (the story of Adam and Eve in Eden is one good early example). I set two of my novels (*The Hotel Detective* and *The Fat Innkeeper*) in a luxury beachfront resort in San Diego. As a recovering hotel manager, I knew only too well how a lovely setting with a breathtaking view could easily mask trouble. Like Toto, I wanted to pull the curtain back on OZ, and I had great fun showing the worm in that delicious looking apple.

In my novel *Multiple Wounds* I decided I needed to have a homicide set in downtown San Diego. Our profession takes us to strange places. On a number of occasions I went to the downtown area, sometimes after midnight, looking for just that right spot for a murder. I suppose I'm lucky I didn't end up being the victim, but like most writers, I felt the need to get the description right.

In my forthcoming novel *Shame* one of my main protagonists is a drag queen. In pursuit of verisimilitude I found myself meeting with a drag queen at midnight in a gay coffee shop in Hillcrest, and San Diego showed me yet another of its faces.

Truth does trump fiction, though. Last year I met with Lieutenant Gerald Lipscomb, head of the San Diego Sheriff's homicide division. I asked Lieutenant Lipscomb a number of questions (again, that verisimilitude word), and determined that the Sheriff's Department had jurisdiction over Rancho Santa Fe, a very exclusive city in north San Diego county. I told Lipscomb that I was planning to set a homicide there, to which the Lieutenant replied, "We never get called out there."

Less than twenty-four hours later I saw Lipscomb with a bank of microphones in front of his face, and illuminated in a sea of flashes. All of the victims of Heaven's Gate had been discovered at — where else? — a mansion in Rancho Santa Fe.

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Border Crossing

By Janice Steinberg

It's la frontera in my English-Spanish dictionary, but Mexicans have another name for the border, one that suggests a sharper, crueller division. *La linea*, the line. Etched by fences and razor wire, by the forbidding Sonoran Desert, by the Rio Grande, *la linea* spans two thousand miles from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean.

Drive across *la linea* from San Ysidro at the southwest corner of the American mainland to Tijuana and, within a few yards you've traveled from the First World to the Third. The road deteriorates. The air seems smuttier; in Mexico, old, emission-belching American cars abound.

And if you have any doubt you've left the promised land for the land of broken promises, just compare the ease of entering Mexico with the lines of cars to your left — waiting, often for an hour or more, to pass the Customs and immigration officials guarding the gate to *el norte*.

Even though I've never had a bad experience in Mexico, every time I take that giant step across *la linea* into Baja, California, I feel afraid.

That's one reason it's such a seductive setting for a mystery novel.

Another reason is that, once you get beyond the main tourist drag in Tijuana, Baja continually challenges your expectations. If you'd like to see the real Baja (I promise, all of these are safe):

- Visit Tijuana's Centro Cultural. Not far from the main tourist area, the Centro has

some terrific art exhibits—and also, the last time I went there, incredibly strong, tasty margaritas.

- Drive (or have a taxi take you through) Tijuana's posh Chapultepec neighborhood, south of the golf course. Just in case you think all Tijuans are impoverished, this will be an eye-opener.

If you have the time, get out of Tijuana and head south for some of my personal Baja faves:

- Enjoy the breath-taking ocean view from the toll highway to Ensenada (about a 90-minute drive).
- Ten and a half miles south of Ensenada, turn right at Punta Banda and follow the road to the Bufadora, a blowhole where the sea makes a spectacular leap into the air. I like it that this wonder of nature is an attraction for Mexican families.
- Check out the delightful “museum” at the Estero Beach Hotel, not far north of Punta Banda. The hotel owner collected pre-Columbian art for years and the originals are in Mexico City. But he had copies made and they're exhibited here.

By the way, if you're driving, DO buy Mexican auto insurance, available on the U.S. side just before the border. If you've read *Death Crosses The Border*, you know what can happen if you don't.

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Best wishes for the Convention!



My (So Far) Favorite Road in San Diego County

By Carolyn Wheat

It's a road thing. For me, the destination is far less important than the quality of the trip. And if the drive is interesting enough, my thoughts turn to — what else? — murder. Which is why I love Route 76. I sail past Mission San Luis Rey (Murder at the Mission. Father Junipero Serra, Detective; Brother Cadfael meets the Conquistadores. Can't miss.) Past the mission, there are still orange groves. (A Deadly Orange? The California Orange Mystery? O Is for You-Know-What?) Horse ranches, too — hey, there's always room for another animal mystery, right? Move over, Midnight Louie, here comes Mr. Ned Beaumont, the talking horse-detective who solves crimes faster than Sneaky Pie Brown can pen a new book.

We're heading into Indian reservations surrounded by brown-purple hills, with little pastel houses guarded by fences made out of abandoned tires.

Okay, the Pala Indians and the Pauma tribe aren't exactly the Navajo as far as well-known cultural heritage is concerned, but they've got to be good for a book or two, given the current fascination with all things Indian. The Suburban Shaman; how's that for a title? It's about this Indian househusband who takes the kids to school in his minivan along Route 76 and sees murder around every curve of the road.

Keep driving; it gets better, because Palomar is up ahead. I read Dorothy Dunnnett's *Dolly and*

the Starry Bird when it was first published as *Murder in Focus*, and I never forgot what a fabulous setting for a mystery an observatory could be. There you are on the mountain, just you and a few coyotes and four totally mad scientists. Someone steals the notes that support the Great Discovery, someone everyone hated is found dead, there are no footprints in the snow and — What year is this? I should have written this one in 1938. Despite not having been born at the time.

The long, winding road down from Palomar leads directly into the desert, a vast wasteland with a perfectly useless lake in it. That lake has to be poisonous; it looks like one sip from it would kill you. So — a nice environmental thriller. Outbreak meets Joseph Hansen's *Nightwork*; toxic waste all over the place (but how could they tell?).

The road ends and I could: turn back the way I came — which I never, ever do — or keep going and head toward Borrego Springs.

Ah, a desert mystery. People in Airstream trailers. Retired cops and their sassy wives. Maybe a retired mystery writer who used to live in Maine. Now that the population of Cabot's Cove has been reduced, we can watch the desert rats and snowbirds disappear one by one, as the town becomes a mecca for murderers.

On the way back, we'll stop in Julian. Poisoned apple pie, anyone?

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Growing Flowers: The Improbable Industry

By Taffy Cannon

I love growing flowers.

I love the miracle of it, to plant an almost microscopic seed and watch it grow into a bush crowded with fragrant blossoms of mystical complexity.

I love the therapy of it, to work my fingers delicately in soft rich soil, to yank out firmly established weeds, to prune and shape and guide a young tree or an elderly rosebush.

And I love the fantasy of it.

I have intermittently pondered the notion of having a little nursery or a field of flowers destined for sale. This is the same sort of romantic and hopelessly misguided dream that causes otherwise rational people to open bed-and-breakfasts or mystery bookstores, and I think it has afflicted most serious gardeners at one time or another.

One of the unanticipated benefits of moving to Carlsbad eight years ago turned out to be that people here actually do raise flowers for a living. Floriculture is a major industry in North San Diego County for the simplest of reasons: this is one of a handful of virtually perfect flower-growing microclimates in the entire world.

I wanted to know more about this industry, and one of the few unmitigated perks of writing is that when you find a subject that interests you, you

can legitimately wallow in it for a while. So I decided to set *Tangled Roots* inside the world of San Diego floriculture.

I visited greenhouses and flower fields. I talked to large and small growers. I attended seeds-and-stems seminars. I rose before dawn to be at the cooperative Flower Auction where thousands of magnificent blooms change hands every morning.

The first thing I learned was that commercial flower-growing is farming. The end product may be more glamorous than soybeans, but the intermediate steps and problems are essentially the same. I discovered that flower farmers are notoriously poor business people (see bed-and-breakfasts and mystery bookstores, above). And I learned the critical nature of timing: the roses **MUST** be ready by Valentine's Day, and if your bronze mums bloom too late, you'll just have to compost them, because the day after Thanksgiving the market demands only red and white.

I found unexpected social, ethnic and international issues. Japanese-American internment during World War II altered the industry dramatically, and ever-changing immigration policies mold the Mexican labor force which had traditionally worked in the field (and in the fields). NAFTA threw the business into a tizzy, and the

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Growing Flowers, continued.

Colombians continue to dump flowers on the American market at prices no local grower can match.

I learned things that are fun to know. Rosebushes in greenhouses are set eight inches apart, growing tall and slim through wire supports. Greenhouse operations have walk-in refrigerated rooms where, a Flower Auction official suggested helpfully, a body might easily be hidden. Tissue culture makes it possible to produce thousands of identical plants from a single parent.

And flower plants are basically grown to death, heavily fertilized and pushed to the max until, exhausted, they are replaced by new seedlings and the cycle begins anew.

By the time I finished *Tangled Roots*, I no longer fantasized about flower farming. It's an occupation so wildly unpredictable and capricious that it makes professional writing appear stable, secure and consistently remunerative.

Although perhaps just a little greenhouse might be nice...



More Murder Around Town

By Robert Wade

When speaking to groups and organizations around town, I'm asked frequently (well, once in a while) why, over the years, San Diego has been largely ignored by mystery writers in comparison to Los Angeles or San Francisco.

The short answer is that I don't know.

However, I can offer a theory, which is that, until recently, America's Finest City was also America's Best Kept Secret — at least, as far as the Eastern literary establishment was concerned.

Everyone knew L.A., if only to deplore it, and, of course, cosmopolitan San Fran was the only city west of the Hudson that deserved to be mentioned in the same breath with New York or Boston. But San Diego? Where was that exactly?

(A few years back, I received a phone call from a New York publisher who was staying at the Beverly Hills Hotel, suggesting that I pop over for a drink. He was amazed to learn that "popping over" would involve a three-hour drive each way; he had San Diego placed next to Long Beach.)

To return to my theory: Eastern editors, who buy the material, preferred novels set in an environment they recognize. Writers, a slavish lot, gave the editors what they wanted — and it wasn't San Diego.

At any rate, for several decades and 19 novels, my late partner Bill Miller and I had the setting pretty much to ourselves and we exploited it fully from sea (Pacific) to shining sea (Salton). Our editors, bless them, accepted the San Diego locale, although none ever ventured south of Disneyland to check it out. One, however, did ask where we got the background material for our hard-boiled thrillers since there could hardly be much crime in "such a sleepy little town."

Things, as you may have noticed, have changed. San Diego, sleepy no longer, has become the attractive alternative to L.A. sleaze and S.F. decadence, in fiction as in life. Perhaps, given time, even the Ivy League types who rule the publishing world will be able to find us on the map.

In The Shadow Of Heaven's Gate

By Martha C. Lawrence

Murder around San Diego? I don't have to look much further than my own back yard to tell this tale.

I grew up in a haunted house in Rancho Santa Fe, about thirty miles north of the city. If the name of the town rings a bell, that's because it made news last year as the site of the nation's largest mass suicide. If you stand on the terrace of my childhood home you look right out at the Heaven's Gate mansion. As far as I know there's no connection between the doomsday cult and the haunted house I grew up in, other than the fact that they were both situated in a rather bizarre neighborhood. An evil vortex, perhaps. Home sweet home.

So how did I know my childhood home was haunted? I didn't, at first. I figured I was just a typical scaredy-cat kid. The rambling ranch house sat isolated on a hill surrounded by orange groves. Day or night, being alone there gave me the willies. It wasn't until I went away to UC Santa Cruz and lived in an unhaunted house that I realized something was rotten back in Rancho Santa Fe.

The weirdness began between my sophomore and junior year in college, when I moved back home for the summer. Now twenty years old, I was able to identify the "scary" feelings I'd had as a kid as an unsettling presence. I felt a person in the house — just couldn't see or hear this person. I told myself it was all in my head, yet

my sense of being watched was so strong that I hesitated to take off my clothes at night. Believe me, I'm aware how crazy that sounds. That's why it took me so long to muster the nerve to broach the subject with my mother, an open-minded sort. Did she, possibly, feel someone in the room, someone besides us? Absolutely not, she said. I felt ashamed, afraid for my sanity. I tried to ignore the presence, hoping it would just go away.

Unwilling to be ignored, the entity at last appeared to me. She hovered over my bed one night — a beautiful blonde woman, her dark eyes filled with cold fear. The sighting left me more excited than afraid: at last I was seeing this thing I'd been sensing.

A historical researcher heard me tell this story at a writer's conference and looked into the history of the house to determine what might have caused the haunting. She discovered that the property on which the house now stands was once owned by the Shaffers, a brother and sister who lost a fortune in the Great Depression. According to the coroner's report, the Shaffers died together by committing double suicide. The researcher was not able to obtain pictures of the deceased. However, if the sister had blonde hair and dark eyes, I have a strong hunch she didn't leave her body willingly. Unlike the thirty-nine cult members who shed their containers on the adjacent hill seventy years later. But that's another story.



America's Finest Murder Setting? Get Real!

By Abigail Padgett

There are no murders in San Diego. Just check the local newspaper. This is America's Finest City. Nothing bad ever happens here except maybe running out of surf wax for your longboard when the waves hit four feet, dude. There are no mean streets in San Diego. There are no streets in San Diego. That's because more than all of our tax dollars go to paying for empty seats in a football stadium less than three percent of San Diego's citizens will ever enter in their entire lives. Hey, we like it that way. We're America's Finest City.

But not America's Finest Murder Setting. See, it just doesn't meld with the image. A dust jacket with blood dripping from a palm tree into somebody's poolside margarita would never make it past the image police, although the palm tree would. Palm trees are always okay, and are invariably seen in San Diego's promotional literature, backlit by a Tahitian full moon. In San Diego we have Tahitian full moons ever night. So maybe a mystery in which somebody murders a palm tree as an ominous wisp of cloud (imported from Colorado, of course) drifts across the moon, would make it. I don't know. I routinely duck the whole issue by sending my San Diego protagonist, Bo Bradley, out to the desert. There are almost no palm trees in the desert. It works.

While the (fictional, of course) crime may actually have occurred in San Diego, Bo drives over those mountains you see to the east and down into the desert to think about it. There, in trackless wastes inhabited only by road runners, pit vipers and the requisite poetic raven, Bo is free to contemplate various evils which couldn't possibly have happened in America's Finest City, but did. As she tramps through blind canyons, collapsed opal mines and lost caves strewn with the bones of lost Mormons, she can safely ponder the fact patterns of countless grisly San Diego (gasp!) murders. She may get her foot stuck in the skull of a prehistoric camel, but it will only remind her that the crumpled pack of cigarettes found under the surfboard beside the presumably drowned body with no water in its lungs couldn't possibly have been left there by the innocent bystander whose enormously popular Jail All Smokers campaign has guaranteed him the next California gubernatorial race and a chance at the presidency. Or could it? Egad, eureka!

As Bo knows, in San Diego it's sometimes wise to head over those mountains before speaking the truth out loud. That's why I like to think of our nearby trackless wastes as America's Finest Desert. Hey, a mystery protagonist can solve crimes out there and never even step on a scorpion. Who could ask for more?

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Where Chandler Lies

By Peter Rowe

Seeking the poet of Southern California's tarnished soul, I drove past shuttered taco stands, ruined houses and one urban outdoorsman, too dazed to recall if the bottle of booze cradled in his arms was blessing or curse. On Market Street, you can find cruel dramas straight out of Raymond Chandler. You can also find Chandler.

On the 3700 block of Market, turn right at the gates of Mount Hope Cemetery. Find Plot 1755-3-8. Read the flat marker:

In Loving Memory, Raymond Thornton Chandler, Author, July 23, 1988 - March 26, 1959.

Black granite. White letters. No flowers.

"There ought to be a better memorial for him," said Ken Kuhlken, a mystery novelist and a writing teacher at San Diego State University. "Of course, I guess he doesn't care one way or the other." But Kuhlken, like many readers who treasure *The Big Sleep* and *Farewell, My Lovely*, does care.

In print, Chandler is crisp and clear. In person, he was as easy to read as a tax form. He spoke with an English public-school accent, and his characters spoke flawless American Thug. He wrote bitterly about Southern California and chose to live in Los Angeles and La Jolla. He drank too much for too long, and in *The Long Goodbye* delivered a clear-eyed portrait of a

booze-bleared novelist. He was defensive about his talent, and loved his words.

"There must be some magic in writing after all, but I take no credit for it," Chandler wrote. "It just happens, like red hair."

Thinking about Chandler's final home, I realized Kuhlken was right. The man deserves better. Cheryl Hurley agrees. She's erecting a fitting monument.

As president of the Library of America, Hurley is publishing definitive editions of American writers. Backed by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Ford and the Andrew W. Mellon foundations, the New York-based venture has issued 73 volumes. "As long as they are good, American and dead," Hurley said, "we want to do them in the Library of America."

"Everyone here has wanted to do Chandler for a long time," said Geoffrey O'Brien, the library's executive editor.

Two Chandler volumes — one of stories and early novels, one of the later novels — will be wrapped in the library's black, red, white and blue dust jackets by fall 1995. I have no doubt he belongs there. But I wondered if any literary bouncers tried to eject this mystery writer from a party whose guest list includes Hawthorne, Melville and W.E.B. DuBois?.

MURDER AROUND TOWN

Raymond Chandler, continued.

“Oh no,” O’Brien said. “I think that point has been settled at this stage.”

Chandler would enjoy hearing that. Critics regularly tut-tutted his choice of material and genre, dismissing them as too shabby for an Artist. Look at his clippings:

The *New York Times of Books Review*, 1948: The *Little Sister* is notable for “its scathing hatred of the human race.”

The *New Yorker*, 1954: *The Long Goodbye* concerns “nymphomania in exalted circles as much as anything else, (and) hardly seems worth the bother.”

Time has humbled these critics. Chandler created an American icon, private eye Philip Mar-

lowe. And he remains the undisputed champ of metaphor and simile. His characters are “bald as a brick,” with “eyes as dead as stale oysters,” a “face tightened up like a charley-horse” and “a voice as hard as the blade of a shovel.”

Chandler lived in La Jolla for 13 years, dying at Scripps Clinic. He told a friend, the *San Diego Tribune* columnist Neil Morgan, that he was uneasy among the well-heeled and well-insulated. Our privileged seaside enclave make him want to “get out in the street at high noon and shout four-letter words.”

There’s no need. Chandler’s found his true home — on a bookshelf, between Willa Cather and Stephen Crane.

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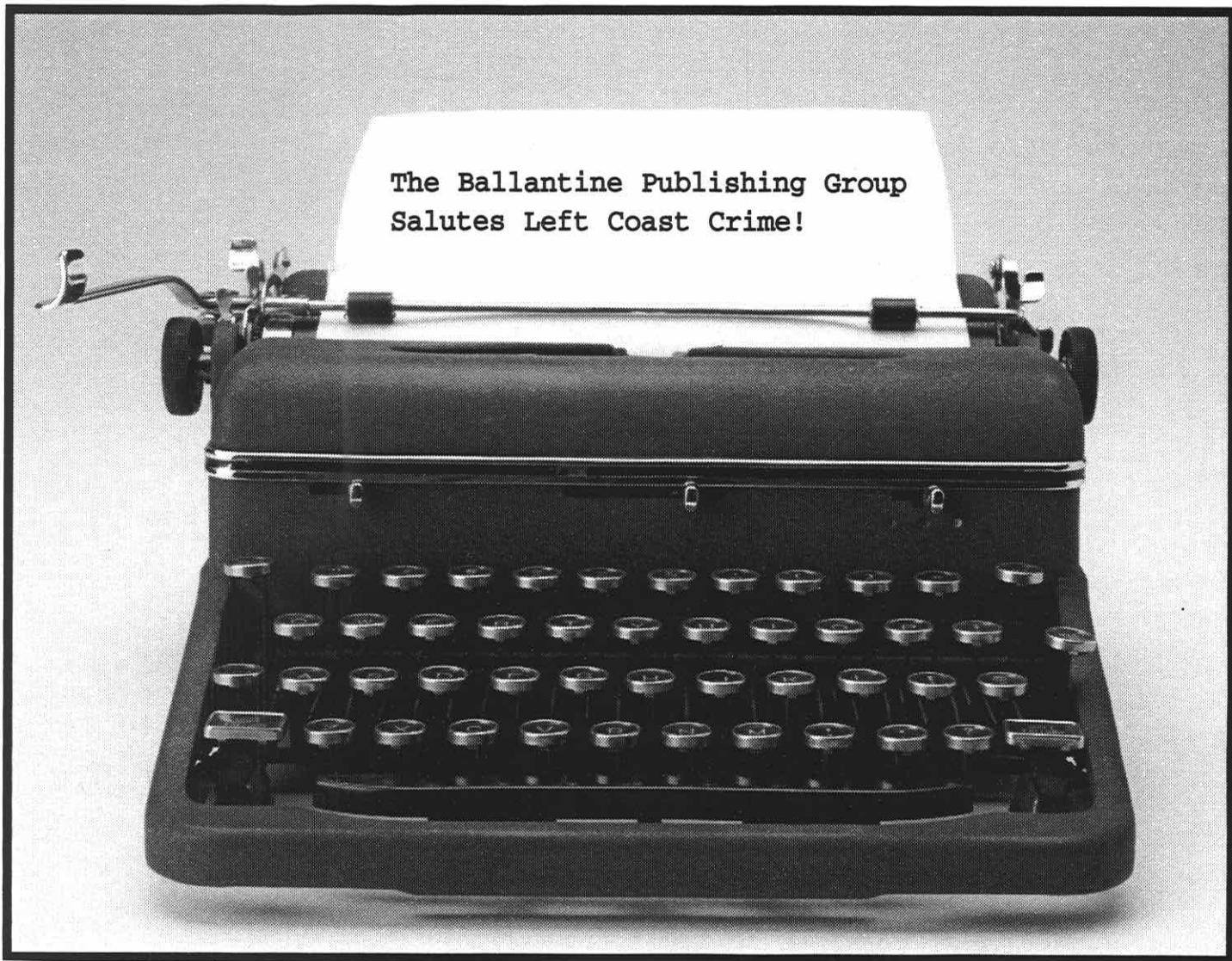
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Susan and Bill Albert, AKA Robin Paige, have been writing as a team since 1986. They are the authors of over 60 young adult novels (including books in the Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys series). Susan writes the China Bayles herbal mysteries, *Thyme of Death*, *Witches' Bane*, *Hangman's Root*, *Rosemary Remembered*, *Rueful Death*, *Love Lies Bleeding*, and the forthcoming *Chile Death*.

Bill and Susan co-author a series of Victorian mysteries under the name of Robin Paige, including *Death at Bishop's Keep* and *Death at Gallow's Green* (to be reissued in 1998), *Death at Daisy's Folly*, and *Death at Devil's Bridge*. The Alberts live in the Texas hill country near Austin.



Bruce Alexander is the pseudonym for a well-known author of fiction and non-fiction. He has written four books in the Sir John Fielding series: *Blind Justice*, *Murder in Grub Street*, *Watery Grave* and *Person or Persons Unknown*. He divides his time between Los Angeles and Paris.

ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Noreen Ayres is an award-winning poet and short-story writer. She has also been a technical writer, editor, and college instructor for many years. The author of the Smokey Brandon mysteries, she recently left Southern California for Texas.



Since graduating from Yale, **Jen Banbury** has been a B-movie casting assistant, waitress, and star of an AT&T commercial. She is the author of the critically acclaimed play *How Alex Looks When She's Hurt*. Like a *Hole in the Head* is her first novel, and LCC8 is her first conference.



Richard Barre is the author of three thriller/mystery novels to date: *The Innocents*, multiple award nominee and recipient of the Shamus award for Best First PI novel of 1995, *Bearing Secrets* (1996), and *The Ghosts of Morning*, which will be released in June 1998. All feature Wil Hardesty - Vietnam survivor, lifelong surfer, Southern California PI.

Rich was born in Los Angeles and raised in California. Prior to taking the leap and quitting his day job to write full time, he was a copywriter and creative director for fifteen years at his own advertising agency. Also a travel writer and editor, he lives in Santa Barbara with his wife, Susan. He is currently at work on his fourth Hardesty novel, *Blackheart Highway*, due out in June of 1999.



ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Rhys Bowen (mystery nom de plume of Janet Quin-Harkin) was born in Bath, England and educated in England, Austria and Germany. She studied dance and drama as a child and went straight from college to work for BBC drama. It was the quality of BBC dramas that first inspired her to try her hand at writing. She wrote several plays for the BBC and performed in her own satirical cabaret show.

Recently she has branched out into adult fiction, producing in quick succession *Madam Sarah* (Fawcett), *Fool's Gold* and *Amazing Grace* (Harper). Approaching her hundredth book with a new name, as Rhys Bowen she has begun a mystery series featuring likable young Welsh policeman Evan Evans. The first book, *Evans Above* has just been published by St. Martin's Press.



Mrs. Jeffries may be the most British of housekeepers, but her creator, **Emily Brightwell**, lives in Southern California. Brightwell's series about the woman behind Scotland Yard's finest is up to 11 titles, the most recent of which is *Mrs. Jeffries Reveals Her Art*.



Jan Burke is an award-winning novelist and short story writer. The newest novels in her Irene Kelly series are *Liar* (forthcoming May, 1998) and *Hocus*. Her latest short stories are *Mea Culpa* in the Malice Domestic 6 anthology, *Two Bits* which will appear in Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine (May, 1998 issue) and *A Man of My Stature*, in the forthcoming Crime Through Time II anthology.

ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Harlen Campbell, a writer of mystery/suspense novels, lives in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains in New Mexico. His first novel, *Monkey On A Chain*, was released by Doubleday in 1993. Monkey was an alternate selection of the Book of the Month Club. The book is the first of a series built around the character of Rainbow Porter.

His interests lie in the nature of the individual's relationships to society and to the world, but he is willing to apologize if they show up in his writing. He believes that a writer's primary obligation is to entertain, and that he should only be allowed to fool around with ideas if he does that superbly. Although he admits to no hobbies and energetically avoids most forms of exercise, Campbell enjoys an occasional solitary walk. In general, he prefers beaches to mountains, warmth to cold, indolence to industry. He is married and has one daughter living at home.



Taffy Cannon is the author of five novels, including three mysteries featuring attorney Nan Robinson: *A Pocketful of Karma*, *Tangled Roots* and *Class Reunions Are Murder*. *Mississippi Treasure Hunt* is a mystery for young adults and *Convictions: A Novel of the Sixties* has been optioned for a feature film. She wrote an Academy-Award nominated short film, *Doubletalk*. Cannon has worked a multitude of odd jobs from carnival barker to professional feminist, but intends her epitaph to read: "She Never Waitressed." She once correctly wagered everything on a Women Writers Daily Double on Jeopardy. (Who was Shirley Jackson?) She lives in Carlsbad, California.



Carol Caverly now resides in Colorado Springs, Colorado, but has used her extensive Wyoming background for the settings of her mysteries, *All the Old Lions*, and *Frogskin and Muttonfat*. Both books were selections of the Detective Book Club. She is currently working on the third in the series, *Dead in Hog Heaven*. She has also published short stories, most recently in the anthology, *Homicide Host Presents*. In her spare time Caverly is a librarian at Aurora Public Library responsible for selection of the juvenile collection. She's a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, and Rocky Mt. Fiction Writers and Novelists, Inc.



ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



After 27 years of writing, former Englishwoman **Margaret (Meg) Chittenden** has shed her mild-mannered image and dress-for-success suits and gone country. Just look at them boots! This from a woman who used to be nicknamed "The Duchess." Why the transformation? Charlie Plato - a sleuth with an attitude suspiciously like Meg's own. Charlie is the star of *Dying to Sing*, *Dead Men Don't Dance* and *Dead Beat and Deadly*, the first three novels in Meg's Charlie Plato Mystery Series.

Besides lecturing on writing, Meg is also the author of *How to Write Your Novel*, and has published over 100 short stories and articles, three children's books, and more than 25 novels that include suspense, mystery, romance and mainstream. Some of her books deal with reincarnation, magic or ghosts.



Margaret Coel is the author of the Father O'Mallery/Vicky Holden mystery series set among the Arapahos on the Wind River Reservation. Publisher is Berkley. The third novel in the series, *The Dream Stalker*, was published last September. *The Story Teller* will arrive in September 1998. She is also the author of four non-fiction books and numerous articles on the West.



Michael Connelly, a former police beat reporter for several newspapers, has written seven crime novels, the latest of which, *Blood Work*, is being published this weekend (March 1) by Little, Brown & Co. Five of the books feature LAPD Detective Hieronymus Bosch while *Blood Work* and a previous novel *The Poet* are non-series thrillers. His previous books have been awarded the Edgar, Anthony, Falcon (Japan) and .38 Caliber (France) awards. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife and daughter.

ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Jeanne M. Dams was the 1995 Agatha winner for the first Dorothy Martin mystery, *The Body in the Transept*. The latest book in the series is *Holy Terror in the Hebrides*; the next, *Malice in Miniature*, will be out in October. Jeanne is working on the fifth Dorothy Martin and on a new historical series set in South Bend, Indiana, where she lives with her husband and three cats.



Janet Dawson is the author of the series of novels featuring Oakland private investigator Jeri Howard. Her first, *Kindred Crimes*, won the St. Martin's Press/Private Eye Writers of America contest for best first private eye novel. It was nominated in the best first category for three mystery awards, the Shamus, the Macavity and the Anthony.

Dawson's second novel, *Till The Old Men Die*, was followed by *Take A Number, Don't Turn Your Back On The Ocean, Nobody's Child* and *A Credible Threat*. The seventh Jeri Howard novel, *Witness to Evil*, has just been published. She is now working on the eighth book in the series, *Where The Bodies Are Buried*.

Dawson lives in Alameda, California.



Jeffrey Denhart, by trade, is a remedial reading teacher, and has taught in an inner-city junior high for twenty two years. Jeffrey was born and raised in Iowa, but has lived around the Los Angeles area for almost thirty years. Denhart is married and has four daughters, one grand daughter, with a second grandchild on the way.



ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Carole Nelson Douglas of Forth Worth is a multi-genre author of 34 novels and writes two award-winning mystery series. *Good Night, Mr. Holmes* initiated four historical mysteries about the only woman to outwit Sherlock Holmes, American diva Irene Adler, and was a New York Times Notable Book. Carole's cozy-noir contemporary series features hard-boiled detective and first-purrson, part-time feline narrator "Midnight Louie," as well as four human crime-solvers. Midnight Louie's latest paperback is March's *Cat in a Flamingo Fedora*, *Cat on a Hyacinth Hunt* is a June hardcover. Carole also edited a recent mystery/mainstream short story anthology, *Marilyn: Shades of Blonde*.



Sybil Downing is the award-winning author of fifteen works of historical fiction and biography. The December issue of BOOK-NEWS from The Poisoned Pen said of her latest, *Ladies of the Goldfield Stock Exchange* (Forge): "A superbly written novel." The co-founder of Women Writing the West, Sybil Downing lives with her husband in Boulder, Colorado.



Born in England, **Carola Dunn** attended Manchester University, then set off around the world. Now living in Oregon, she has a tall, blond surfer/student son with whose answering machine she communicates frequently, and a large, black dog equally slow to respond when called. Her fifth "Daisy Dalrymple" mystery, *Damsel in Distress*, set in 1920's England, came out last October. *Dead in the Water* is due next fall.

ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Michael Allen Dymmoch, who has degrees in chemistry and law enforcement, lives and works in Chicago's northern suburbs.

Dymmoch's first book, *The Man Who Understood Cats*, won the St. Martin's Press "Malice Domestic Award" for Best First Traditional Mystery of 1992, and received enthusiastic reviews from the New York Times Book Review and Kirkus Reviews. It was recommended by Charles Champlin of the Los Angeles Times Book Review, and by Publisher's Weekly as one of the best mysteries of 1993. Dymmoch's second book, *The Death of Blue Mountain Cat* was favorably reviewed by The Washington Post, The Chicago Sun-Times, Kirkus Reviews and Library Journal. *Cats Burning*, the third in the series, is due out in the fall of 1998.



Carole Epstein is a resident of Montreal, Quebec, Canada and the author of two Barbara Simons mysteries. *Perilous Friends* was published in 1996 followed by *Perilous Relations* in 1997. Both are from Walker & Company. She's had a variety of careers including fashion model, production assistant on two films, and a long stint in belt manufacturing, culminating that career as President of the company. All of this proved much too trying so she thought she'd tackle something easier; writing mysteries. This goes to prove that one is never too old to learn that one is an idiot!



Kate Clark Flora is the author of the Thea Kozak series, including *Chosen for Death*, *Death in a Funhouse Mirror*, *Death at the Wheel*, and the most recent entry, *An Educated Death*. Thea is tall, dark-haired and intrepid. The author is short, blond, and likes to stay in her room, writing books. She admits to having previously been a lawyer, from which she is still recovering, though she now writes full time, and is, as a result of having been born in the great state of Maine, an authentic Maniac. Flora now resides in Concord, Massachusetts with her husband and two teenage sons, where her books are nestled on the local authors shelf alongside Alcott, Emerson and Thoreau. She is president of the New England chapter of Sisters in Crime, teaches writing, and does a local radio show about mysteries as "The Sleuthsayer."



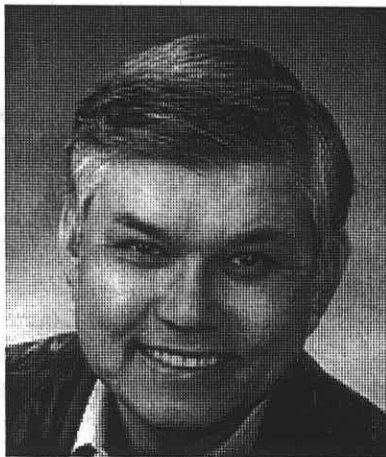
ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



G.M. Ford's first novel, *Who in Hell is Wanda Fuca?*, was nominated for both the Anthony and the Shamus awards for Best First Novel. *Cast in Stone*, the second in the Leo Waterman series, earned a featured review from Publishers Weekly and was among the most critically acclaimed novels of 1996. The third installment, *The Bum's Rush*, was published in May of 1997. Leo Waterman number 4, *Slow Burn* will be available in February 1998. Mr. Ford lives and works in beautiful downtown Seattle, where he makes frequent forays into the sordid underbelly of the city in search of the gritty realism his legions of devoted readers have come to expect.



Earlene Fowler, a native Californian, was raised in La Puente, California. Her first novel *Fool's Puzzle* and two sequels were sold in 1992 within a week of submission to Putnam-Berkley Publishing Group as one of the lead titles in their new Prime Crime hardcover mystery line. *Irish Chain*, *Kansas Troubles* and *Goose in the Pond* followed. Her quilt-titled mystery series is set on the Central coast of California in a town that is remarkably similar to San Luis Obispo and features Benni Harper, ex-rancher and current folk art museum curator. Fowler is an avid lover of quilts, folk art, horses, dogs, chicken-fried steak, cowboy boots and country/western music. She lives in Fountain Valley, California with her husband, Allen. The fifth in her series, *Dove in the Window* will be published in 1998.



Dale Furutani is the first Asian American to win a mystery award. His first novel, *Death in Little Tokyo* (St. Martin's Press), won an Anthony Award and a Macavity, and was nominated for an Agatha. His second Ken Tanaka book is *The Toyotomi Blades*. This summer *Death at the Crossroads* will appear. It's the first book of a mystery trilogy set in 1603 Japan featuring a masterless samurai (Ronin) as the detective.

Dale was born in Hilo, Hawaii. He has a degree in Creative Writing and an MBA. He has written three non-fiction books and over 250 articles. His web site is <http://members.aol.com/Dfurutani>.

ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Carolina Garcia-Aguilera has crossed her share of borders. The Cuban born author of the Loupe Salon mysteries draws on her own ten year experience as a private investigator for her books. She lives in Miami, and the third book in the series, *Bloody Secrets*, was just released.



Susan Elizabeth George publishes her novels as Elizabeth George in order to avoid confusion with the British actress, Susan George. Her first published mystery, *A Great Deliverance*, was honored with the Anthony and Agatha Best First Novel awards, and received the Grand Prix de Litterature Policere. *Payment in Blood*, *Well-Schooled in Murder*, *A Suitable Vengeance*, *For the Sake of Elena*, *Missing Joseph*, *Playing for the Ashes*, *In the Presence of the Enemy* and *Deception on His Mind* have continued her best-selling tradition. The debate on whether to introduce readers to the series with the first book published, or the first book in the characters' chronology rages on.



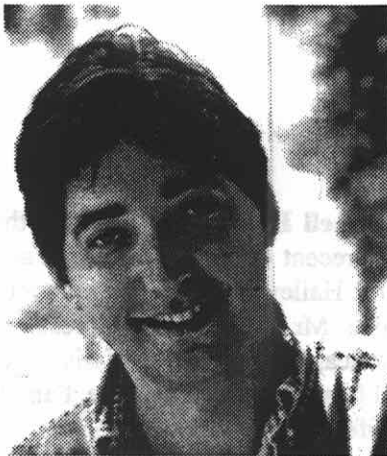
Alison Gordon is author of the Kate Henry mystery series, featuring a Toronto baseball writer. The series reflects Gordon's experience as the first female baseball beat writer in the major leagues when she covered the Toronto Blue Jays from 1979-83. She also has more than 20 years experience in broadcasting and journalism. A cultural activist, Gordon is past Chair of the Crime Writers of Canada, past president of PEN Canada, past National Council member of The Writers Union of Canada and current Associate Regional Director of the International Association of Crime Writers. Her most recent book is *Prairie Hardball*.



ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



San Diego author **Erin Grady** is the epitome of the 90's woman, trying to balance a family and a career. When her novel *Web of Smoke* was published in 1994, she had two "newborns" to handle, since she was a new mother. Now, following another addition to her family, she is working on another addition to her bibliography.



Lee Goldberg is the executive producer and principal writer of the CBS Series "Diagnosis Murder" and the author of *Beyond the Beyond* and *My Gun Has Bullets*, both of which are dark, comic thrillers about the TV industry. He's also past president of the Southern California chapter of the Mystery Writers of America.



A practicing surgical pathologist, research scientist, and Professor of Pathology and Medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, **Robert Greer** also edits the "High Plains Literary Review" and raises Black Baldy cattle on his ranch near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. His mystery novels feature Denver African American bail bondsman, CJ Floyd, and include *The Devil's Hatband*, *The Devil's Red Nickel*, and currently, *The Devil's Backbone*, all from Mysterious Press. Greer lives in Denver where he is at work on a fourth CJ Floyd novel.

ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Born and raised in Surrey, England, **Patricia Guiver** now makes her home in Huntington Beach, California, the setting of her Delilah Doolittle Pet Detective series. When not creating new escapades for her expat British sleuth, Patricia writes newspaper and magazine articles, and hosts a local cable television show featuring animals and the southern California environment.



Edgar and Shamus nominee **Parnell Hall** is the author of the Stanley Hastings novels, the most recent of which are *Scam* and *Suspense*. Under the pseudonym J.P. Hailey, he is also the author of the Steve Winslow courtroom dramas. Mr. Hall is a former president of the Private Eye Writers of America, and a member of Sisters in Crime. An actor, screenwriter, and former private detective, Parnell lives in New York City with his wife and two sons.



Cynthia Harrod-Eagles was born in London, studied at Edinburgh and University College of London, and had a variety of jobs before becoming a full-time novelist in 1979. She is author of forty-seven successful novels, including the best-selling Morland Dynasty series, an historical saga.

Her first published novel, *The Waiting Game*, won the Young Writer's Award in 1972. In 1993 she won the RNA Novel of the Year Award for *Emily*.

Her Bill Slider mysteries are gritty, humorous police procedurals set in London. Detective Inspector Bill Slider struggles to balance his dedication to his job with a personal life of brow-furrowing complexity. The titles include *Orchestrated Death*, *Death Watch*, *Death to Go*, *Grave Music*, *Blood Lines* and *Killing Time*.



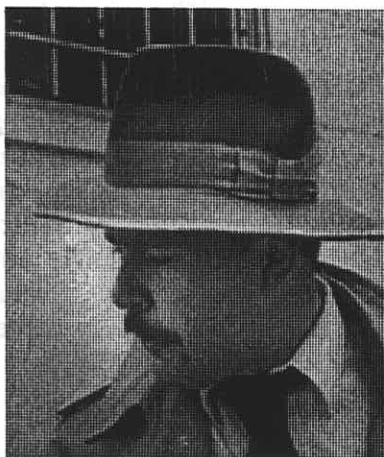
ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Beverly Hastings, with her many young adult novels, is an important successor to Carolyn Keene and Phyllis Whitney. With books like *Home Before Dark* and *Somebody Help Me*, she is grooming the young adult readers to become the type of serious mystery readers who attend conventions like this!



Willetta L. Heising is the two-time Macavity award-winning author and publisher of *Detecting Women* and its long-awaited successor, the brand spankin' new *Detecting Men*, making its world premiere here in San Diego. In 1997, *Detecting Women 2* won the Agatha, Anthony and Macavity awards for nonfiction and was nominated for an Edgar. Before establishing Purple Moon Press in 1994, Willetta spent 18 years in banking. Born in Coronado, California, she has lived in the Detroit area since graduate school.



Don Herron, Grand Mysteriarch of the Hammett Cult in San Francisco, has led the Dashiell Hammett Tour in that city since 1977. A variety of writings in the non-fiction division of the literary field and the shepherding into print of Charles Willeford's long novel, *The Shark Infested Custard*, led to his current project, an extensive biography of Willeford, "the Pope of Psycho-Pulp."

ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Susan Holtzer spent most of her life in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the setting of her mystery series featuring computer programmer Anneke Haagen and police lieutenant (and former linebacker) Karl Genesko. The first, *Something to Kill For*, won the St. Martin's Press manuscript award for Best First Domestic Mystery. She spent her undergraduate days on *The Michigan Daily*, and the 1960's involved in Ann Arbor's hyperactive political scene, during which she received a master's degree in journalism from the University of Michigan. She currently lives in San Francisco with her husband, where her favorite pastime is watching Steve Young throw to Jerry Rice. The fourth book in the series, *Black Diamond*, combines a contemporary murder with a hundred-year-old mystery in the northern Michigan logging towns.



Renee B. Horowitz continues the Rx series with *Deadly Rx* (Avon paperback original) in which pharmacist Ruthie Kantor Morris is accused of making a fatal prescription error. *Deadly Rx* follows her first published novel, *Rx for Murder*. Authentic background material comes not only from her pharmacist husband but also from their dads, who were both pharmacists. A native New Yorker, Renee is a professor of technology at Arizona State University. Until a long-ago May snowstorm motivated her to take refuge in Arizona, she lived in Boulder, Colorado where she earned a Ph.D. in comparative literature at the University of Colorado.



Jon A. Jackson is from Detroit and lives in Montana. He is the author of the Fang Mulheisen series, mostly set in Detroit, including *The Diehard*, *The Blind Pig*, *Grootka*, *Hit on the House*, *Deadman*, *Dead Folks*, and just published (March 1998, available at the conference) *Man With an Axe* (in which Mulheisen discovers the late Grootka's notes on what really happened to Jimmy Hoffa). The Atlantic Monthly Press has published his last four novels. Dennis Macmillan will publish in July, *Go By Go*, a historical crime novel set in Butte, Montana in 1917, about the murder of IWW organizer, Frank Little.



ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Jonnie Jacobs has published five mystery novels in two ongoing series. *Murder Among Neighbors*, *Murder Among Friends*, and the just released *Murder Among Us* feature amateur sleuth Kate Austen. Noted for their wry take on murder, malice and motherhood, they are set in an upscale suburb of San Francisco. Jonnie's second series, featuring attorney Kali O'Brien, began with *Shadow of Doubt*. *Evidence of Guilt*, the second in this series, has just been released in paperback.

Jonnie is a former practicing attorney. She lives near San Francisco with her husband and two sons, and now writes full time.



Many authors would be content with one best selling mystery series; **J.A. Jance** has two, the Sheriff Joanna Brady mysteries, and the Detective J.P. Beaumont mysteries. In order to give her protagonists' settings equal time, Jance divides her time between Arizona and Seattle.



Dolores Johnson is a freelance magazine writer and former newspaper reporter who lives in Aurora, Colorado, with her husband and a cat named Max, who bears no resemblance to Spot, the unfriendly feline in *Taken to the Cleaners*. Her second Mandy Dyer mystery, *Hung Up to Die*, will be released soon.

ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



The woman walking down the halls with lizards on her dress is secure in the knowledge that her attire is in tune with the stars themselves. **Christine Jorgensen**, a former social worker, now devotes her energies to chronicling the misadventures of her protagonist, Stella the Stargazer. Her newest, *Death of a Dustbunny*, debuts at LCC8.



Since **Toni L.P. Kelner** is a Southerner who crossed the Mason-Dixon Line and ended up in Massachusetts ten years ago, she finds this year's theme darned appropriate.

One result of the transplant are Kelner's Laura Fleming mysteries, which are about a North Carolinian who moved up North. In *Tight as a Tick*, the latest book, Laura goes undercover at the Byerly flea market to find out who killed back-stabbing Carney Alexander by stabbing him in the back.

Other results of her move to Massachusetts are being happily married to a Northerner, the accumulation of a wide selection of coats and scarves, and giving birth to a little Yankee girl. Her Southern accent seems to stay constant, no matter what borders she crosses.



Scott Kessler was born and raised in Burbank, California. He moved to San Diego after High School where he attended UCSD and received a degree in Mathematical Computer Science and a minor in Literature/Writing. Mysteries and writing were part of his life since Jr. High School. His recently published first novel, a time-travel murder mystery titled *Three Days Out Of Time*, began as a college project based on an idea he had had for some time.

His current project, a murder mystery with a decidedly off-the-wall sense of humor, follows a present day gumshoe and the often twisted people he meets while tracking down a cunning killer. That project will be followed by a Science Fiction based mystery that he is currently researching. Scott currently resides in San Diego.



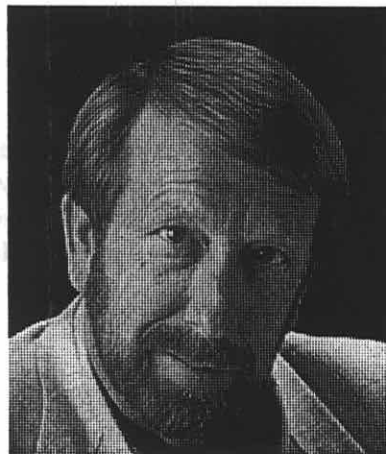
ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Laurie King won the Edgar for Best First Novel for *A Grave Talent*, introducing contemporary detective Kate Martinelli, in 1993. She followed this with *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*, which opened whole new vistas in the Sherlock Holmes saga. Her most recent novel is *The Moor*, featuring Holmes and his wife and detecting partner, Mary Russell.

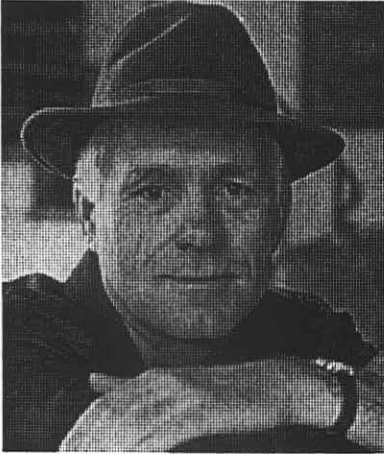


Noted mystery reviewer Charles Champlin recently named **Rochelle Kirch** one of ten women writing "superior crime fiction." Rochelle, whose first mystery, *Where's Mommy Now?*, won an Anthony and was filmed as "Perfect Alibi," has written numerous suspense novels, including *Till death Do Us Part*, *Nowhere to Run*, *Speak No Evil*, and, just out, *Fertile Ground* - "a complex and involving novel" (Publishers Weekly). *Fair Game* and *Angel of Death*, the first two in her series featuring homicide detective Jessica Drake, were both nominated for the Agatha. The third Jessie Drake, published in Britain, has been translated into German, Dutch, Icelandic, Japanese and French.



Despite living in Orange County, **Charles Knief** is a member of the San Diego chapter of Sisters in Crime. His first novel, *Diamond Head*, which won the St. Martin's / Private Eye Writers of America Award, was just released in paperback. The sequel, *Sand Dollars*, will be out in March.

ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Ken Kuhlken's first novel, *Midheaven*, was a finalist for PEN's Ernest Hemingway Award for best first published fiction book of the year. His second novel, *The Loud Adios*, the first of a mystery series set in the 1940s, won the St. Martin's/Private Eye Writers of America best first novel award. *The Venus Deal* and *The Angel Gang* continued that series. His shorter fiction has appeared in *Esquire* and a dozen literary magazines, and gathered awards including a National Endowment of the Arts Literature Fellowship.



Peter Lance is a five-time Emmy winning investigative reporter and lawyer now working as a screenwriter and novelist. With a Masters Degree From Columbia Graduate School of Journalism and a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law, Lance spent the 15 years prior to writing his first book as a print reporter and network correspondent.

Lance's first screenplay, *ANGELS OF DEATH* was recently bought by Columbia Pictures for Michael Douglas' production company. *FIRST DEGREE BURN* is Lance's first novel. A mystery in which an arson investigator for the FDNY breaks a murder case, the book resulted, in part, from the months Lance spent undercover breaking the arson ring in Chicago.



Terrill Lankford is a filmmaker and novelist who writes movies when he needs money and books when he doesn't. He has twenty-five movies in heavy rotation on *The Late, Late Show*. His two novels, *Shooters* and *Angry Moon* were both published in 1997. He lives in Los Angeles, but hopes he will not die there.

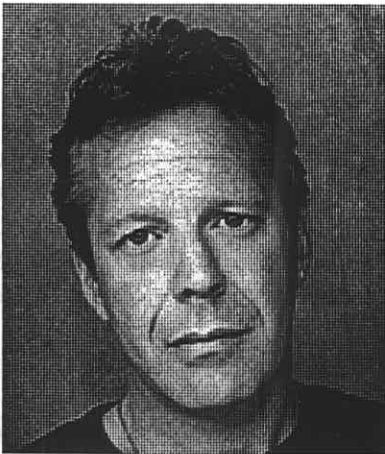


ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Martha C. Lawrence's first novel, *Murder in Scorpio*, was nominated for the Edgar, Agatha and Anthony awards for Best First Mystery in 1996. The "remarkable first novel" (Library Journal) introduced Dr. Elizabeth Chase, a parapsychologist turned private eye. The second novel in the series *The Cold Heart of Capricorn*, appeared in 1997 and a third Elizabeth Chase short story, *A Little Light on the Subject*, was published in the Spring 1997 issue of Family Circle's Mary Higgins Clark Mystery Magazine.

Prior to writing full time, she worked as an assistant editor at Simon & Schuster in New York and for several years served as an acquisitions editor for Harcourt Brace. Martha currently lives in Escondido, California.



Eddie Little, free from a life of drugs and crime, now lives in Los Angeles where he volunteers as a counselor and lecturer for drug addicts and convicts through an organization called "We Care." Eddie writes the "Outlaw LA" column for LA Weekly, which also appears in the magazine Loaded. *Another Day in Paradise* is his first novel. Keep your ears and eyes open for information about the upcoming film.



Sarah Lovett is the author of *Dangerous Attachments*, *Acquired Motives* and her newest book, *A Desperate Silence*, as well as 23 previous non-fiction travel and science books written primarily for children. Prior to becoming a full-time writer, Lovett had worked as a legal researcher for the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General, an executive director of a non-profit theater, a jazz dancer, an actress, a playwright, a gas station attendant, an upholstery assistant and a bartender. But it was her recent experience working in the New Mexico State Penitentiary and the exposure to prison life that lead her to create her alter ego, Dr. Sylvia Strange. Lovett lives in Santa Fe. Her novels are published in thirteen countries.

ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Raised in Okinawa, Japan, Valerie Malmont also lived in Laos, Thailand, and Taiwan. She now resides in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, which inspired Lickin Creek in her Tori Miracle series. Valerie received a BA in anthropology from the University of New Mexico and a MLS from the University of Washington. Her first novel, *Death Pays the Rose Rent* introduced amateur sleuth Tori Miracle. *Death, Lies and Apple Pies* was published last fall by Simon & Schuster. Both books will be re-released in paperback this year. A Christmas murder is in the works.



Val McDermid grew up in Scotland and read English at Oxford. She became a journalist, ending up as Northern Bureau Chief of a national Sunday tabloid. She published her first mystery, *Report For Murder*, in 1997 featuring journalist sleuth Lindsay Gordon, who features in four other novels. In 1992 she created Manchester-based private eye Kate Brannigan, whose sixth outing, *Star Struck* will be published this autumn in the UK.

Her thriller, *The Mermaids Singing*, won the 1995 CWA Gold Dagger. Its sequel, *The Wire In The Blood* has recently been published. She is a regular BBC radio broadcaster and has written a non-fiction work, *A Suitable Job For A Woman - Inside the World of Women Private Eyes*. Val lives in Manchester with her partner and three cats who do not feature in her books.



Marlys Millhiser is the author of ten published novels and numerous short stories in anthologies, as well as two in "Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine." Her latest mystery, *It's Murder Going Home* is the fourth in the Charlie Greene series in which Charlie returns to Boulder to care for her mother after surgery and encounters unwelcome memories, mountain lions and dead bodies. Earlier Charlie Green titles are *Murder at Moot Point*, *Death of the Office Witch*, and *Murder in a Hot Flash*.

Perhaps best known for a previous novel, *The Mirror*, now available in trade paperback from the Rue Morgue Press, she lives in Boulder, Colorado where she has finally finished the fifth Charlie Greene, *Nobody Dies in a Casino*, set in Las Vegas.



ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Camille Minichino, like her amateur sleuth, Gloria Lamerino, grew up in Massachusetts and has a Ph.D. in physics with a long career in research and teaching. She is a volunteer with Project Literacy at her local library and is a member of the Mystery Writers of America. She is at work on *The Helium Murder*, and has a lot of elements left on the periodic table!



A historian and former librarian, Rochester author **Miriam Grace Monfredo** lives near Seneca Falls, NY, birthplace of the women's rights movement. Finding no mention of women in her school textbooks and history courses, Monfredo resolved to research and write about those who began the struggle for equal rights. She decided she could reach more readers in the entertaining format of fiction than in non-fiction, so Monfredo launched her body of work with the highly acclaimed mystery novel, *Seneca Falls Inheritance*. Set in 1848, the year of the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, NY, the 1992 novel earned rave reviews. Since then, this award-winning author and popular public speaker has written four other Seneca Falls Historical Mysteries. Her latest is her March 1998 hardcover release for Berkley Books, *The Stalking Horse*, for which she will tour in 18 states.



CW Morton is a Commander in the Naval Reserve and a former criminal defense attorney in civilian life. In addition to mysteries for St Martins, she also writes technothrillers for Putnam/Berkley (and whomever else they've merged with this week) under the names CA Mobley and Keith Douglass. Her latest book, *Rites of War*, hit the USA Today bestseller list. Her mother, novelist, Ann Woods, is also attending the convention. Be sure and say hi to my mommy — she posts bail when I use my pseudonyms on credit applications.

ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Like her series character, Ginger Barnes, **Donna Huston Murray** admits to being an outsider living on Philadelphia's very "in" Main Line. Her husband was a headmaster, and they do have two children and a disobedient dog. However, Murray describes Gin as much taller and braver. And, "she gets to make cheeky remarks to strangers."

Previous titles are *The Main Line is Murder*, *Final Arrangements*, and *School of Hard Knocks*.

Recent release *No Bones About It* centers around dieting and dogs. Check the cover for a contest sponsored by St. Martin's Press.



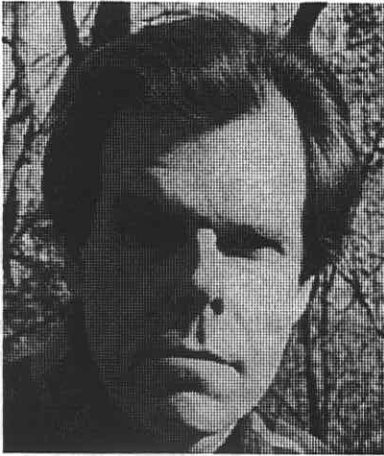
Lynne Murray was born in Decatur, Illinois and raised in Texas, Alaska, Washington and Southern California. She now lives in San Francisco - has been trying to leave for nearly two decades now but never gets further than the Pacific Ocean before turning back. *Larger Than Death* is the first in her new series featuring Josephine Fuller, a woman of size who doesn't apologize. Aside from two other published mystery novels, Lynne has written and directed a play and published more than a hundred newspaper and magazine articles.



Specializing in short mystery fiction, **Kris Neri** has placed more than twenty-five mystery and suspense stories. Her work has appeared in *Woman's World*, *Red Herring Mystery Magazine*, *Mystery Time*, *Whispering Willow Mystery Magazine*, *The Case*, and numerous other publications, as well as several anthologies, including the well-received *Murder by Thirteen* (Crown Valley Press) and the forthcoming *Mordsweiber* (Elefanten Press/Germany). She is the past president of the Los Angeles chapter of Sisters in Crime, and teaches crime writing at Learning Tree University in Chatsworth, California, and the California State University - San Bernardino.



ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Michael Newton has published 135 books since 1977, with 12 more pending release from various houses by the end of the Millennium. He has worked in various genres, under several pen names, but is best known in the 1990's for his true-crime volumes, many dealing with infamous serial killers. Representative titles include *Hunting Humans*, *Raising Hell*, *Silent Rage*, and *Daddy Was the Black Dahlia Killer*. Newton's study of the Charles Starkweather case, *Waste Land* was released by Pocket Books in January 1998. His next project, also from Pocket, is *Rope*, a biography of Harvey Glatman, L.A.'s "lonely-hearts" strangler of the 1950s.



Sharan Newman is a writer and medieval historian, two things that normally guarantee unemployment. However, she manages to survive through the kindness of readers of her medieval mystery series. The most recent book is *Strong as Death* and the next, *Cursed in the Blood* will be out in July of 1998. She is also the author of three fantasies on the life of Guinevere and, with Miriam Grace Monfredo, co-editor of a history/mystery anthology *Crime Through Time*. The second of these will appear in summer of 1998 also.



Steve Oliver was born in Spokane, Washington and reared in the Northwest and California. He attended a state university near Spokane before joining the Army in 1965. He spent a year in Vietnam teaching electronics, then returned to college, graduating with a degree in journalism. During the next few years, Oliver married, had a daughter, and tried several different professions. In 1978 Oliver separated from his wife, and also abandoned his sanity. He was hospitalized for some months, then, upon release, drove a cab for a time before landing a job as a newspaper reporter. He used these varied experiences for his private investigator character, Moody. In October 1996, OffByOne Press published *Moody Gets the Blues*. St. Martin's Press will publish the hardcover edition of the sequel, *Moody Becomes Eternal*, in the fall of 1998.

ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Maxine O'Callaghan writes two mystery series as well as novels of horror and dark suspense. One features Orange County PI Delilah West, credited by some as the first of the current crop of female private investigators. The sixth book in the Delilah West series, *Down for the Count*, is available from St. Martins's Press. The second Dr. Anne Menlo, *Only in the Ashes*, is available from Berkley/Jove.

O'Callaghan's work has been nominated for both the Anthony Award and the Bram Stoker Award given by Horror Writers of America. She is a member of Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, American Crime Writers League, and Horror Writers Association.



Joan Oppenheimer was raised in a his-hers-and-ours family and mined the experience for several books out of the 20 published for teens. San Diego is background for her two mysteries for adults.

She's a writer who eventually became a teacher and editor, as well. Her novels, labeled "romantic-suspense" are more suspense than romance.

Oppenheimer taught at Southwestern College and UCSD, and now heads private workshops. She spent 21 years on the staff at the Santa Barbara Writers Conference, 2 years at Asilomar, and now has a workshop with the Southern California Writers Conference.



Abigail Padgett, a former court investigator in San Diego, now works as an advocate for the mentally ill and maintains an avid interest in desert preservation and Native American cultures. Her debut novel, *Child of Silence*, was the first to feature an investigator living with manic depression. Subsequent Bo Bradley novels include *Strawgirl*, *Turtle Baby*, *Moonbird Boy* and *The Dollmaker's Daughters*.



ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



T. Jefferson Parker was born in Los Angeles and has lived all of his 43 years in Southern California. His six novels, *Laguna Heat*, *Little Saigon*, *Pacific Beat*, *Summer of Fear*, *The Triggerman's Dance*, and *Where Serpents Lie* (Hyperion; Publication date is February 6, 1998) are set in the area in which he grew up.

Parker was educated in public schools in Orange County, and took a bachelor's degree in English from the University of California, Irvine in 1976.



Joanne Pence's series combines mystery with humor, romance and food. It features Angelina Amalfi, an underemployed journalist and gourmet cook, and San Francisco homicide inspector Paavo Smith. The fifth book in the series, *Cook's Night Out*, was released in January, and the sixth book, *Cooks Overboard* will be published in December. Also, beginning in February, the four earlier books (*Something's Cooking*, *Too Many Cooks*, *Cooking Up Trouble*, and *Cooking Most Deadly*) are being reissued.

A native San Franciscan, Joanne now lives in Novato with her husband, two sons, three cats, and a golden retriever. Despite the titles of her books, she is not a cook.



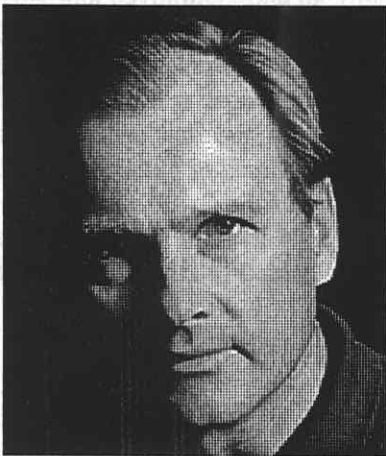
Gary Phillips has written commentaries and articles on politics and pop culture for publications such as the L.A. Times, L.A. Weekly, the Baltimore Sun and Rap Pages magazine. His third Ivan Monk novel, *Bad Night is Falling* will be out in July. He has published short stories, and is at work on a screenplay.

ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Diane Pugh is a native of Los Angeles, where she has lived all her life. She has a BA in philosophy and French and a MBA in marketing and finance both from UCLA.

In 1988, Pugh decided to seriously pursue her passion for writing. Drawing on her first-hand experience as an executive woman, she created investment counselor and amateur sleuth Iris Thorne, who runs with the wolves in LA's financial district. Iris is a working everywoman who thinks on her feet, catches more flies with humor than vinegar, likes winning and designer labels, and can't seem to un-complicate her life. The three books in the series *Cold Call*, *Slow Squeeze*, and *Fast Friends*. Like her protagonist, Pugh also drives a "give me a ticket red", 1972 Triumph TR6. "Not every gumshoe hits the street with as much style as Iris Thorne." *Los Angeles Times*.



Philip Reed began his writing career as a night police reporter for the City News Bureau of Chicago and later wrote for The Rocky Mountain News in Denver. In 1982 he moved to Los Angeles, where he directed his first play, *True Blues*. His plays have been staged in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and New York. His first mystery, *Bird Dog*, was published by Pocket Books in 1997. The sequel, *Low Rider* will be released this summer, when *Bird Dog* appears in paperback. Reed has written several nonfiction books, including *Candidly*, *Allen Funt* and *Free Throw*. He now lives in Long Beach, California with his wife Vivian Blackwell, the poet, and their two sons, Andrew and Tony.



Caught Dead in Philadelphia, which introduced Amanda Pepper, won the Anthony for Best First Mystery of 1987. Since then, seven more books in the series have been published, most recently, *The Bluest Blood*. A second series, featuring a seasoned P.I., Emma Howe, debuts in June with *Time and Trouble*.

Mystery-writer **Gillian Roberts'** personal, educational and work histories are themselves mysteries, but she apparently recycles pieces of Judith Greber's life via her fictional school teacher. Both Greber and Pepper are native Philadelphians, although Greber now lives outside San Francisco. (Nobody knows where Roberts lives.) Amanda and Greber are both graduates of the University of Pennsylvania and both taught high school English and, although this is not necessarily the fault of either their hometown or professions, both are compulsively attracted to crime.



ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Lillian Roberts writes the Andi Pauling, DVM series. As a practicing veterinarian near Palm Springs, she sometimes finds her own life inseparable from that of her protagonist. The first, *Riding For a Fall* is set at the polo grounds east of Palm Springs, and was nominated for an Agatha. *The Hand that Feeds You* sends Andi into the vicious underground world of dog fighting. *Almost Human*, due out in June of 1998, asks the question, "What would you do if you had the power to end a life that has become unbearable?"

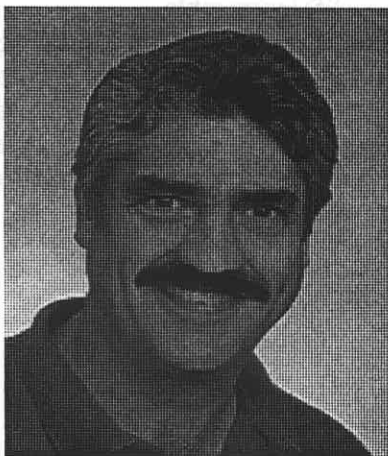


Writing gives **Lora Roberts** goddess-like powers over her imagined universe, which just happens to have the same "look and feel" as the real Palo Alto, California. Roberts had questions about this character who appeared in her head, living in Palo Alto, leading a different kind of life than the one she has. Liz Sullivan and the books about her, *Murder Bone by Bone*, *Murder Mile-High*, *Murder in the Marketplace*, *Murder in a Nice Neighborhood*, and forthcoming, *Murder Crops Up* are part of her answer, so far.



Border crosser **Peter Robinson**, author of the multiple award winning Inspector Bank mystery series, grew up in Yorkshire. A favorite of mystery readers in England, the United States and Canada, Robinson grew up in Yorkshire, resides in Canada, and has come south for a little of that fabled California weather.

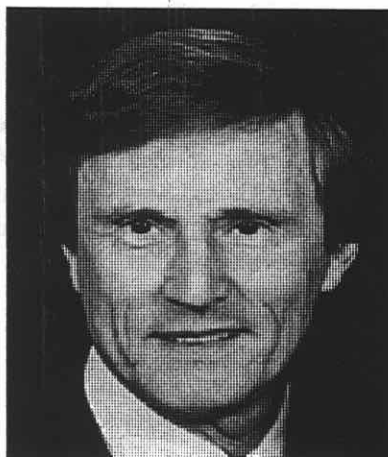
ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Alan Russell was found floating down a stream in a papyrus raft. Of course, that was only last week and the raft sunk. The 41-year-old native Californian has written six critically acclaimed novels (that means a lot more reviewers like the books than didn't like them - but darned if there aren't always one or two nattering nabobs of negativism). His latest, *Shame* (April 1998, Simon & Schuster), has been optioned for film. His previous novel, *Multiple Wounds*, was nominated for both the Anthony and Macavity Awards, but inexplicably didn't win either. Russell's other novels have garnered him awards most people have never heard of, including a Critic's' Choice Award, The Lefty, and a San Diego Book Award.



The severe head injury that terminated Alaskan pilot **Megan Rust's** flying career was not an ending, but a beginning. Using her hospital experience and her aviation knowledge she crafted Taylor Morgan, the pilot-protagonist of *Dead Stick*, the first novel of a new mediflight mystery series coming out from Berkley Prime Crime in April.



Mystery writer **Paul Schiele** has worn many hats: college professor, science consultant, school teacher, and longtime writer of non-fiction books and monographs.

Schiele has completed three novels featuring American professor Peter Ellsworth: *Under Cover of Night*, *Chasing the Wild Geese*, (Owl Press) and *Deceptive Appearances*, to be published late fall.



ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Barbara Seranella, nee Shore, was born in Santa Monica and grew up in Pacific Palisades. After a tumultuous childhood that included running away from home at 14, joining a hippie commune in the Haight, and riding with outlaw motorcycle clubs, she decided to settle down and do something normal; so she became an auto mechanic. In 1993 she retired from her automotive career to pursue the writing life.

Her first novel, *No Human Involved*, debuted at number five on the Los Angeles Times best-seller list. She recently sold a two-book deal to Harper Collins continuing her Munch Mancini mystery series. When not engaged in writing or research, Seranella divides her time between Laguna Beach and La Quinta, California where she lives with her husband Ron, and their four dogs.



Sarah Shankman is the author of ten highly-acclaimed novels including seven in the Samantha Adams comic mystery series, the most recently published, *Digging Up Momma*. These works concern themselves with beauty queens, voodoo queens, Elvis imitators, Bikers for Jesus, con women, barbecue, and hound dogs, as well as murder and other Southern obsessions.

A recent one-off, *I Still Miss My Man But My Aim is Getting Better*, is a farce about a Nashville songwriter whose ex-husband just can't get over losing her.

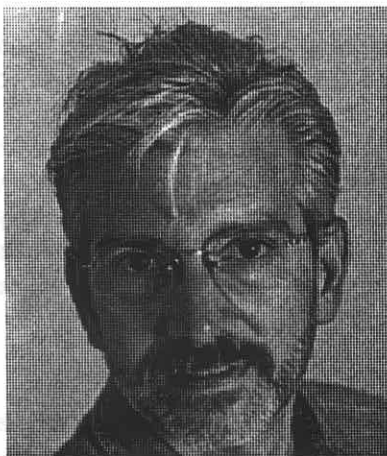
Shankman grew up in the small town of West Monroe, Louisiana, the daughter and only child of a Russian Jewish immigrant and step-daughter of a southern Baptist school teacher. It was a yeasty environment for a budding novelist.



Connie Shelton grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico where she became a mystery fan early in life. She planned on becoming Nancy Drew when she grew up, but today she sits in front of a computer master-minding devious mystery tales. But this is only one facet of this woman. Since 1975, Shelton has been a commercial hot air balloon pilot and currently holds the women's world altitude record for size AX-4 balloons.

Besides writing four Charlie Parker mysteries, Connie is an award-winning essayist. Her work has been published in several anthologies and her short stories have won several prizes. She and her husband currently live in Angel Fire, New Mexico.

ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS

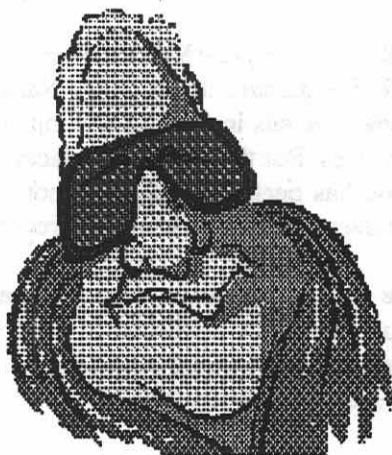


Martin J. Smith, 41, is a veteran journalist and magazine editor. He has won more than 40 newspaper and magazine writing awards, and was nominated four times by his newspaper for the Pulitzer Prize. Smith's first novel, *Time Release*, explored the volatile issue of repressed memory against the backdrop of a sensational product-tampering case. International best-seller James Ellroy called it "a whipcord thriller...spellbindingly accomplished." In *Shadow Image*, a sequel due out in May, memory expert Jim Christensen is drawn into the labyrinth of Alzheimer's disease when the matriarch of a powerful political family apparently attempts suicide. New York Times best-selling author Michael Connelly says *Shadow Image* "hooks you quickly and yanks you right through to the last page."



Taylor Smith, author of the 1997 thriller, *The Best of Enemies* (Mira Books), received a starred review from *Publisher's Weekly*, which praised its "sharp characterization" and "spellbinding tone of immediacy." This is Smith's third published novel of suspense. Her first book, *Guilt by Silence* was published in 1995, followed by her second novel *Common Passions*. Late 1998 will see the release of Smith's fourth novel of intrigue, *Random Acts*, in which a slick and vengeful FBI agent commits the perfect crime.

A native of Canada, Smith studied at universities there and in France. Smith took up fiction writing only in 1991. After a move to southern California, she signed up for fiction writing and forensics classes and joined Sisters in Crime and is president-elect of "Fictionaires."



Keith Snyder is a composer and principal talent at Woolly Mammoth, an award-winning multimedia and print design company in Venice, California. His first book, a critically-acclaimed hard-cover suspense novel called *Show Control*, is now in bookstores. His second, *Coffin's Got The Dead Guy On The Inside*, will be out in August, 1998 from Walker.

Keith has just completed *1 is for Gun*, a short film which he wrote, produced, and directed with Blake Arnold and Richard Bugg. *Session 52*, another short film which he co-produced and scored, was selected for screening at the New Orleans Film Festival and the Bombay International Film Festival. Currently, Keith is writing his third novel and recording a CD of music he wrote for his wife, operatic mezzo-soprano Kathleen Haaversen.



ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Barbara Sohmers, a native New Yorker, lived and worked for many years in Paris, where she was one of very few foreigners to become an established actress in French theater and TV. Since returning to the U.S., she has appeared on Broadway and in prestigious various regional theaters.

In 1990, she noticed the first signs of a neurological disorder which affected her speech. Forced to give up acting, she turned to her second love, and began to write full time. Since then, she has completed two one-act plays, four screenplays, and two mystery/adventure novels, *The Fox and the Puma* and *The Fox and the Pussycat*. A third novel, *The Fox and the Serpent's Tooth*, is in the works. Two of her short pieces have been published in *Cosmopolitan* and *Playgirl*.



Considered the “Hart-to-Hart” of Southern California investigators, **Joyce Spizer** and her husband Harold have had cases involving movie stars, mobsters and millionaires. Her career, spanning several decades of changes in both law enforcement and the judicial system, have become bountiful fruit for her debut Harbour Pointe Mystery Series, *The Cop was White as Snow*. This death of a police officer is a fictionalized story taken from one of her actual case files.

Recent appearances on “Hard Copy” and “Dateline NBC News,” concerning investigation of the Fen-Phen phenomena, have placed Joyce in the spotlight of these nationwide class actions lawsuits. More prominently, her firm is investigating the murder of gangsta rapper, “Biggie Smalls”. The second in her Harbour Pointe Mystery series, *I'm, Okay, You're Dead* is in the computer for a 1999 publishing date.



Janice Steinberg owes her mystery writing career to her mother, who introduced her to Nancy Drew and led her into a life of crime. Three years at San Diego's NPT station inspired her to create her public radio reporter-sleuth, Margo Simon. Margo debuted in *Death of a Postmodernist*, followed by *Death Crosses the Border*, *Death-Fires Dance*, and *The Dead Man and the Sea* (10/97), a mystery with an oceanography theme. Janice founded the San Diego chapter of Sisters in Crime and is now a member of the SinC national board.

ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Catherine Todd is the author of two historical novels, three Regencies (as Elizabeth Jackson), and the contemporary mysteries *Making Waves* and *Staying Cool*, both set in Southern California. She lived for several years in Costa Rica and Italy, and for extended periods in France and Mexico. She has taught English literature and French in the United States and abroad. She and her husband currently live in San Diego, where, in addition to working on a third novel of contemporary suspense, her business is writing highly specialized permanent residency petitions for exceptionally talented immigrants to the United States.



Mari Ulmer's consumer book on every kind of agreement, *Sign Here* has just been published by Columbine Press. She lives in Taos, New Mexico with her husband, Jim, who helps plot the mystery series which will debut this fall from Intrigue Press. The first, set in Taos, starring Christine Garcia y Grant, is *Midnight at the Camposanto*. Christine is a burned out lady lawyer of a certain age, running a B&B to support her writing in the ancient family hacienda.

Mari just happens to be a burned out lawyer, who ran a B&B.... She has written legal books and articles, articles and poetry for popular periodicals, and a collection of her *Little Green Dragon* stories for children will be published next Spring.



Robert Wade is the Edgar Award winning author of forty six novels (thirty three of them written in collaboration with Bill Miller). Writing under a variety of pen names including Wade Miller, Will Daemer, Dale Wilmer (acronyms for Wade and Miller - Wade regretted that no publisher ever let he and Miller use the pseudonym "Earl Milldew"), and Whit Masterson, Wade's body of work has earned him world-wide acclaim.

His literary output has been diverse, with his books running the gamut of the mystery and suspense field. Wade's first novel was published in 1946, and over the next four decades many of his books became best-sellers. Eight of his novels were made into movies, with probably the best known of those being *Touch Of Evil*, a film Orson Welles adapted and directed from Wade's novel *Badge Of Evil*.



ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



San Diego's own **Joseph Wambaugh** is probably thought of as a Los Angeles fixture, following his career on the LAPD, and his many police novels chronicling the lifestyle of LA cops. Being a police officer was in the blood - Wambaugh's father was a small town police chief in Pennsylvania, where Wambaugh was born. All of his novels, and his four non-fiction novels as well, have made the best seller lists, and without the benefit of a series protagonist. While his writing career began in LA, Wambaugh has written about much of Southern California, including Newport Beach, Palm Springs, and, of course, San Diego.



Penny Warner has sold over 25 books, including four books in the Connor Westphal mystery series. With her husband Tom, she writes and produces murder mystery events for libraries, corporations, and other organizations across the country. Warner has a Master's Degree in Special Education/Deaf, and teaches child development, sign language, and special education at the local college. She also teaches creative writing and mystery writing courses at Cal-State University, Hayward and University of California, Berkeley Extension. She has spoken at numerous writing conferences, and has appeared on San Francisco television talk shows for four years, presenting tips for viewers and promoting her books. Warner currently lives in Danville with her husband of 27 years, and has two kids in college.



Charlene Weir is the author of four novels, including *Murder Take Two*. Her mysteries feature Susan Wren, a San Francisco cop transplanted to a small town in Kansas. Susan knows big city crime; small towns are different. Charlene has a home in northern California that has two cats who are always on the wrong side of the door.

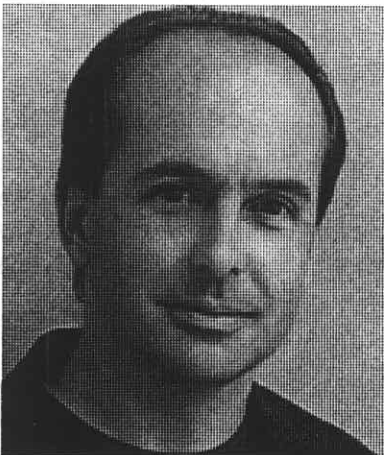
ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



Marianne Wesson is a former federal prosecutor and current professor of law at the University of Colorado Law School, where she has served as acting dean. Since 1991, Wesson has represented a death-row inmate in California. She lives in Boulder, Colorado.



Carolyn Wheat's Cass Jameson mysteries, which the New York Times call "gripping courtroom mysteries," have twice been nominated for Edgar awards. Her short stories swept the awards in 1996, garnering her an Agatha, an Anthony, and a Macavity. She is currently working on non-series titles set in and around her new San Diego home base.



Don Winslow's first novel, *A Cool Breeze on the Underground*, was published in 1991 and was followed by five other books in the "Neal Carey" series. His latest novel, *The Death and Life of Bobby Z*, was published by Knopf in 1997. Don is currently at work on another novel for Knopf. Both *Cool Breeze* and *Bobby Z* are currently in production as feature films. In addition to those projects, Winslow just wrote a story for Warner Brothers entitled "Dojo Wars," and is working with director Richard Donner on an original screenplay about vaudeville. Don lives with his wife, Jean, and son Thomas (age 8) in Julian, California and Riverton, Connecticut.



ABOUT - THE - AUTHORS



L.R. Wright is the author of thirteen novels, including the 1995 award winning *Mother Love*, *A Chill Rain in January* (1990) and *The Suspect* (1985). Her latest novel, *Acts of Murder* is due out in the U.S. in August 1998. Ms. Wright holds an M.A. in Liberal Studies from Simon Fraser University and is an instructor for several writing workshops and seminars. She currently lives in Vancouver, B.C., and holds memberships in various professional writer's organizations.

Some People Will Use ANY Excuse...

January 18, 1998

Dear Marlo:

Due to last minute family requirements I must regretfully withdraw my participation and attendance from Left Coast Crime this year. I was really looking forward to participating on the panel, greeting old friends and making new ones, but a much-detested nephew just decided that he would be married that particular weekend, and at Lake Tahoe at that, making it impossible to do both. As family pressures increased, I decided that it would be best for my marriage that I travel to the opposite end of the state and attend the wedding of the little shit, and not participate in Left Coast Crime.

My deepest regrets. If the little bastard is not hit by a train before then, and if the family holds the funeral on any other weekend, I shall be in Lake Tahoe giving my condolences to the bride Unless she comes to her senses.

I am not certain if I would qualify for a refund of my hundred dollar fee, but anything would help with the pain. If refunded before I head up the mountains, I promise it will be spent on a good brand of scotch. I trust that Left Coast will be a wonderful affair, and I sincerely apologize for this late withdrawal, and hope that this has not caused you any difficulties. Here's hoping for a successful and enjoyable conference.

Sincerely,

Anonymous



DEALER ROOM

DEALER ROOM



Dealer Information

Be sure to come and visit the Left Coast Crime Dealer Room during the conference. Browse the tables for some of those hard to find favorites, as well as books by all the attending authors. The Dealer Room is located in the Dell Mar Room, and will be open during the following hours:

Friday: 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Saturday: 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Sunday: 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Dealers attending Left Coast Crime 8:

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Bloody Dagger Books

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Marisa Wiggins
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Grave Matters

Alice Ann Carpenter
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Cincinnati, OH 45232
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Mary Mason

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mary_mason@hotmail.com

Mysterious Galaxy

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Second Story Mysteries

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Sleuth of Baker Street

J.D. Singh & Marian Misters
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416-483-3111
sleuth@inforamp.net

Thomas Books

Tom Miller
P.O. Box 14036
Phoenix, AZ 85063
602-247-9789



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Acknowledgments

Left Coast Crime 8 Committee

The LCC8 committee formed in the fall of 1996. This energetic and creative group were drawn to the challenge of orchestrating a conference focused entirely on having a criminally good time.

While this singularly focused group is comprised of successful business owners, published authors, and technical, logistical and statistical geniuses, their most outstanding common trait is their complete dedication to the mystery genre. Fans this loyal can not be stopped!

Together we planned, created, brainstormed, and focused, working diligently for 16 months to create LCC8 in San Diego. Synergy this good should be the plot of the next best selling mystery thriller!

The cast of characters who made LCC8 happen:

Elizabeth Baldwin, Dealer Room, Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore

Bill and Carol Galante, Volunteers, San Diego Mystery Club

Terry Gilman, Treasurer and Publications, Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore

Maryelizabeth Hart, Author Liaison, Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore

Miyoko Hensley, Guest Relations, Sisters in Crime, script writer for *Murder, She Wrote*

K.J. Koljonen, Hotel/Logistics, Meeting Planner

Ken Kuhlken, Entertainment, Author

Marlo Miller, Programming, Font of Knowledge Fan

Ron Miller, Transportation, Fan

Nick Pappas, Dealer Room, Bloody Dagger Books

Chris Peters, Registration, Fan

Alan Russell, Programming, Author

Shirley Truax, Registration, Sisters in Crime

Christine Wells, Publications and Advertising, Fan

Thank you Team! We worked hard, now let's go play. Enjoy LCC8, the original "Blast by the Bay"!

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LCC 9

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stolen enough graphics)



LCC8 Volunteers

Gracias, Merci, Dank, Grazie! and a big Thank You to all our wonderful volunteers who helped make this Left Coast Crime so successful and so much fun. These are the folks who donated their time to help sign you in, direct you and answer your questions.

Gary Berman
Gail Davis
Connie Hines
Cliff Kaspar
Catherine Kolonko
Janet Kunert
Judith Levine
Sharon Lewis
Tane Nutting
Milt Olsen
June Olsen
Cree O'Keefe
Sandy Pasqua
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SIGNINGS, WRITERS' GROUPS, READERS' GROUPS AND OTHER
MYSTERY EVENTS.**

**SISTERS IN CRIME MEET THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: (619) 736-1199.**

Sisters in Crime, San Diego

Thank you to the Sisters for hosting the LCC8 Hospitality Suite. They fed, talked and shared their favorite mystery authors. We couldn't have done it without them.

Kim Tucker
Jean Willsher
Nancy Drew
Jackie Allen
Carolyn Taylor
Jacque Bates
Johanna Sabella
Carol Rohe
Sally-Ann Palcovich
Linda DiMaria
Diana Medina
Janet Kunert
Carlene Dater
Berdene Collins
Dee Romero
Mary Stofflet
Barbara Hopfinger
Miyoko Hensley
Lynn Ford
Carolyn Wheat

Underwriting acknowledgments

Left Coast Crime would like to gratefully acknowledge the publishers who made special contributions to everyone's enjoyment of the convention.



Thanks to Harper Collins for helping with our breakfasts!

Thanks to Bantam for providing commemorative T-Shirts

Thanks to St. Martin's Press for sponsoring the Hospitality Suite.

Thanks to Little, Brown for their contribution to the Hasta la Vista Party!

Thanks to Intrigue Press for the copies of the books in every goodie bag.

Thanks to Avon Books, Berkley Books, and Little, Brown for the prizes at the Hasta la Vista Party.

Thanks to Ballantine Books for the coffee klatch and the *Magic Circle* samplers.

And, of course, thanks to all the publishers who advertised in the program.

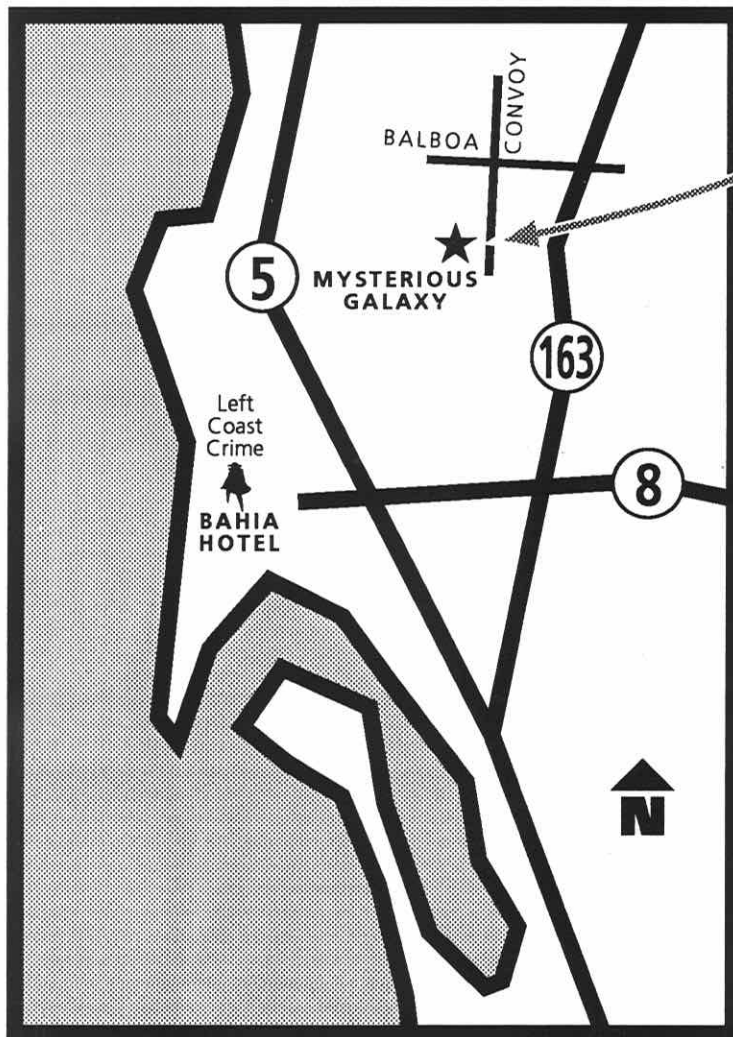


AUTOGRAPHS -AND- NOTES

AUTOGRAPHS
-AND-
NOTES



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