

An oval-shaped graphic containing a black and white line-art illustration of the Seattle skyline, featuring the Space Needle and other skyscrapers.

*Reading in the Rain*

**LEFT COAST CRIME**  
**2007**

**SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**  
**FEBRUARY 1-4, 2007**

**17TH ANNUAL WESTERN  
MYSTERY CONVENTION**





LCC 2007  
SEATTLE

**LEFTCOAST  
CRIME 17**

**SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
FEBRUARY 1-4, 2007**

# LEFT COAST CRIME 17



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## Members of LCC 2007,

**Welcome.** Welcome to Seattle and to Left Coast Crime 2007. Welcome to the Emerald City, also know as Jet City. We hope you enjoy the convention, our, er, unique weather (don't ask, it was a very weird 2006) our food, the art, the nice people and the convention.

It's trite to point out that conventions are a group effort, but it's very hard to convey how many people contributed to LCC 2007, without resorting to tried and true triteness. This convention owes thanks to Miles and Adrian and Jennifer who took on LCC 2006 and all their honored guests and attendees who gave people a hugely enjoyable time in Bristol, and to Suzanne and Christine and their great GoH. And just to give you an idea of the number of people who gave time, ideas, energy, effort, work, writing, creativity to making this weekend a good one, I offer thanks to the following:

Michael Connelly, John Morgan Wilson, John Daniel, Rob Kresge, Doris Ann Norris, Ken Bruen (you are so a doll, get used to it), David J Montgomery, M J Rose, David Morrell, Naomi Hirahara, Kevin Burton Smith, Jeremiah Healy and our own Gary Phillips.

To Donna Andrews, Barbara Franchi and Jeff Marks who did us favors, like bringing flyers to other conventions. To two "Melodies" - Melody Westerdal for her work on our restaurant/native guide and to Melodie Johnson Howe for our mantra. To Brian and Pat of MWA.

Thanks to the tireless Pat Canterbury and Leslie Budewitz. To all the folks who sent ideas along with apologies if they didn't get used this time. Thank you to Roberta Carlson for countless reasons, help before and during the convention, backing me up on all sorts of things and for having great taste...well, at least the same taste as I have. To the wonderful leaper and posturer par excellence Meg Chittenden, who doesn't think it odd to be a "pro" working on a "fan" convention, and who did a flawless job dealing with the Lefty Award. To Peggy Baker who did two jobs (RD says "thanks" too). And to Ann Romeo, (who knows everyone) for all her help with ads and for being our stealth book person. To dealer's room wrangler Bryan Barrett, one of my oldest friends. To Joan Huston, who was just GREAT. To Sandra Kisner for her eagle eye and ideas. To my long time friend Janet Rudolph, always helpful, always sane. To Sandra Ruttan for pep talks when I needed them most. Thanks to Marv Lachman, as always, for his work on behalf of the mystery community. Thank you all.

Thanks to the always unflappable and helpful Vallery Feldman and to Pam Dehnke and Vallery for the 2007 quilt/wall hanging.

To Gayle Lynds, who was so much fun to work with as a Guest of Honor that I kept trying to come up with questions just so we could talk. Thanks to my friend Gary Phillips, one of the reasons conventions are the great events they are. Thanks for making it so easy go to Kara L Robinson and Diane Kovacs, deserving fan guests of honor who have provided a home for so many mystery fans.

For various kindnesses and assistance in all manner of things, thank you to Lee Child and Sarie Morrell, Kevin Burton Smith, Jay Margulies, Jane Davis, Kate Buker and Jodi Bollendorf, Keith Kahla, Harley Jane Kozak and Barry Eisler. For courtesy and effort above and beyond, thanks to Karyn Tanaka and Aimee Nelson and Barbara Dickenson of the Renaissance Hotel. To Jan Burke and her work with the forensic folk and the Crime Lab Project and for arranging for one of my real

life heroes to attend LCC. To Jonna Ward of the Seattle Public Library Foundation who came up with the right idea. Thanks (and “plock-plock”) to Pickwick, our friend and supporter Kate Derie. Kate, we wish you were here.

Thanks to those of you who simply knew what to say, when to make it worth doing, and to remind me why. To Margery and Shira and to my awesome band, the Sad Anoraks, Sharon and Louise and Cornelia.

The most effusive and sincerest of thank yous go to a couple of people who have been the backbone of LCC 2007. They are Cathy Gallagher and Helen Keiser. Without these two people, none of you would be here this weekend. The convention would have sunk under the weight of all sorts of crises without the two of them. Helen and Cathy, everyone owes you a myriad of thanks for all you did often under very tough circumstances.

Of course, all thanks to the wonderful terrific and great Stu Shiffman, who really tried really hard not to get roped in but who not only provided and recruited artwork but who did huge work on the pocket program. And who, without a doubt, kept me from going bonkers, time and time again.

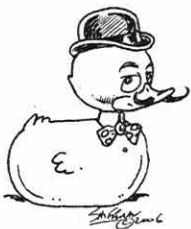
I hope that you all know or will learn this weekend the thanks we owe to “Den”, to Dennis Lynds/ Michael Collins, our other guest of honor. It’s just so hard knowing that he’s not here to enjoy this.

And to you [your name here]. I’m so sorry. I can’t believe I left your name off this list.

—Andi

## Left Coast Crime 17 Seattle Committee

Andi Shechter, Chair  
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Joan Huston  
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## GUEST OF HONOR – DENNIS LYNDS

From his website [www.DennisLynds.com](http://www.DennisLynds.com)



Welcome to the large and exciting literary world of Dennis Lynds. Over some five decades, he's published more than 80 novels and won many mystery and literary awards, both nationally and internationally, including the Edgar, awarded by the Mystery Writers of America, the Marlowe Lifetime Achievement Award from MWA, SoCal Chapter, and the Eye Lifetime Achievement Award of the Private Eye Writers of America.

Under the pen name Michael Collins, his Dan Fortune stories constitute one of the longest-running private detective series ever written, covering nearly four decades beginning in 1967 with *Act of Fear* and continuing on with publishing contracts into the year 2005.

To learn more about his work and where it fits into the panoply of books published each year, let's start with his most popular pseudonym, Michael Collins, and the detective that "Collins" created — Dan Fortune.

Collins is largely credited with being the writer who brought the detective novel into the modern age: "Many critics believe Dan Fortune to be the culmination of a maturing process that transformed the private eye from the naturalistic Spade (Dashiell Hammett) through the romantic Marlowe (Raymond Chandler) and the psychological Archer (Ross Macdonald) to the sociological Fortune (Michael Collins)," according to *Private Eyes: 101 Knights* by Robert Baker and Michael Nietzel.

Baker and Nietzel point out a popular phenomenon that began with Collins's first book: the by-now monotonous chant by critics about each new hard-boiled author being 'the successor to Hammett,' 'the new Chandler,' and 'the heir to Ross Macdonald.'" John Conquest, in *Trouble Is Their Business*, says of this critical mantra, "But the only realistic way to look at this is to identify those writers who have clearly redefined the genre as Hammett, Chandler and Macdonald did. To the qualities of naturalism, romanticism and psychology with which, respectively, they moved the genre forward . . . can be added at least two other major contributions; Michael Collins (Dennis Lynds) made his books vehicles for sociological observation, while James Crumley introduced empathy and poetry."

"After naming Lynds the Best Suspense writer of the 1970s," Baker and Nietzel continue, "the Crime Literature Association of West Germany praised him as follows: 'The break in private eye novels started with Michael Collins. At the end of the 1960s, he gave it something new, a human touch needed for years. The novels are much more than entertainment. There is a philosophy behind the detective, and in each book we take a look at a special section of American society.'"

Explaining that he had more ideas than he knew what to do with, and stories that did not fit Dan Fortune, he created additional series under the pseudonyms Mark Sadler, John Crowe, William Arden, and Carl Dekker, all of which you can read about on this website. For a few years, he published under three of these pseudonyms at the same time at three different publishing houses — Dodd-Mead, Random House, and Bobbs-Merrill. For many years, the *New York Times* listed his books annually as among the nation's top mysteries. One year, two appeared, listed under two of his pseudonyms.

As he was writing detective novels, he also published literary books and short stories. Four of his short stories were honored in *Best American Short Stories*. He was twice short-listed for the *Drue Heinz Literature Prize* for short stories. Altogether, he's written more than 200 short stories, and his mystery and detective short stories have appeared in *Best Crime & Mystery Stories of the Year* many times. Twice he's been the guest of honor at literary festivals in France honoring the American detective novel.

Among his other contributions to the suspense field that show his wide and interesting creative range are thirteen juvenile mysteries under the name William Arden as well as eight "The Shadow" novels.



(continued page 6)



In the late 1980s and into the 1990s, Lynds's work took another turn. He began lacing his detective novels with short stories, biographies, and symbolic vignettes expanding the theme and characters of each novel, a technique that recent mystery writers have copied.

Critic Richard C. Carpenter discussed these literary innovations in *Twentieth Century Crime and Mystery Writers*: "The style is more varied, more often breathless and jagged, using italic passages to change tone.... Powerful and memorable, [these new techniques] indicate that Collins has embarked on a new course after some 80 books. Truly he is a writer to be reckoned with."

There are now 20 Dan Fortune books, the most recent being *FORTUNE'S WORLD*, published in August 2000. Since then he has published eight short stories in *EQMM* and various anthologies, the most recent appearing in the anthology *MURDER IN VEGAS* in March 2005. Also in 2002, a collection of non-Fortune short stories — "Spies and Thieves", "Cops and Killers", Etc. — was published.

Readers can look forward to other new works: Lynds's latest literary novel, *PICTURES ON A BEDROOM WALL*, is with his agent now, he has completed a thriller, *THE CEO*, and he is writing his nineteenth Dan Fortune novel as well as a new literary novel. A collection of short stories featuring Slot-Machine Kelly, the precursor to Dan Fortune, is scheduled to be published in June.

In *Ellery Queen* magazine, critic Jon Breen has written that Lynds is "a master of crime fiction." In the *Los Angeles Times*, when critic Dick Lochte reviewed the recent *Fortune's World*, he commented:

**"To spin tales as intriguing and thought provoking as these for three decades is a remarkable enough achievement. Even more remarkable is the sustained quality.... In 'Family Values' . . . Fortune not only uncovers a tricky murder motive while calling attention to a heinous criminal practice, but he also manages to offend both sides in one of today's most controversial topics. It takes style to bring that off. Bravery, too, of course."**



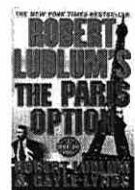
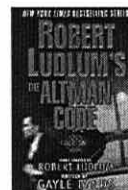
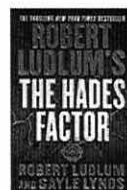
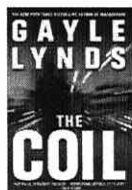
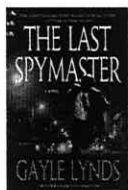
## GUEST OF HONOR – GAYLE LYNDS

From her website [www.GayleLynds.com](http://www.GayleLynds.com)

New York Times bestseller Gayle Lynds is the award-winning author of eight international espionage novels, including *THE LAST SPYMASTER*, *THE COIL*, *MASQUERADE*, and *MESMERIZED*, which are published in some 20 countries. Her books have won such awards as "Novel of the Year" (*THE LAST SPYMASTER*) given by the Military Writers Society of America, and have been *People* magazine *Page-Turner of the Week* and *Beach Read of the Week*.

*Publishers Weekly* lists her work among the top ten spy novels of all time. *BookPage* concurs: "Gayle Lynds has joined the deified ranks of spy thriller authors like Robert Ludlum and John le Carre." With Ludlum, she created the Covert-One series and wrote three of the novels. One of them, *THE HADES FACTOR*, was a CBS miniseries in April 2006.

A member of the Association for Intelligence Operatives, she is co-founder and co-president (with David Morrell) of International Thriller Writers, Inc., and is listed in *Who's Who in the World*. Born in Nebraska, raised in Iowa, she now lives in Southern California. You can visit her at [www.GayleLynds.com](http://www.GayleLynds.com).





## GUEST OF HONOR APPRECIATIONS

### Dennis Lynds

"I got the opportunity to work with Dennis briefly when he submitted a story to the IACW (International Association of Crime Writers) anthology MURDER IN VEGAS. Though I had known Dennis for a long time, it was the first and only time we worked together. Supposedly. The reality was that we really didn't work together because Dennis' story needed no editing or help from me. He submitted a story that was good to go. He was the classic professional all the way. What's more is that he was so selfless. From the early stages of my career we crossed paths in Southern California on numerous occasions and Dennis, the familiar figure in the cowboy hat, was always quick with the supportive word, the feedback on the latest book or the suggestion born of his long experience. No doubt that as a writer Dennis Lynds gave much more than he ever took. And that makes him an example for all of us to follow."

- Michael Connelly

*Michael Connelly has received countless honors including the Edgar, Anthony, Macavity, Shamus, Dilys, Nero, Barry, Audie, Ridley, Maltese Falcon (Japan), and more. His books have been translated into 31 languages. Connelly has served as President of MWA. His most recent Harry Bosch novel, ECHO PARK, was released in October, 2006.*



### Remembering Dennis Lynds by Gary Phillips

I write this on a day when after returning from a memorial for two fallen young people. One was the daughter of a friend I've known for some decades, connected as we are by our politics and community activist experiences. These days she's an assemblywoman in the California state legislature, taking the struggle to make change into that arena. Her 23-year-old daughter and son-in-law were unexpectedly taken from this world in a car accident. At the service were a lot of old comrades and a few foes.

This sense of loss provides a frame of reference to record this remembrance of Dennis Lynds. I first met Dennis, as many of us did, through his writing. He was, as they say, prolific. He ghosted Mike Shayne mysteries, Nick Carters, Charlie Chans, Mack Bolan the Executioner (with Gayle as co-writer on some of them I believe) installments, wrote as a homage to his friend Ross Macdonald, a series dealing with class and race issues set in a Santa Barbara stand-in called Buena Costa County as John Crowe, and even a few Shadow revival novels under the house name of Maxwell Grant. In particular it was THE SHADOW: DESTINATION MOON, that introduced us.

Set in the then Cold War era of the late '60s, the Shadow with his agents Margo Lane and Harry Vincent, investigate whose been sabotaging NASA rocket launches. It could be the Soviets, the Red Chinese, but no, it was the organization of mercenary fascist nihilists, CYPHER, out to own the moon for themselves. Perfect. The Shadow as the people's avenger. Dennis even had a villain in the book named Max Ernest, a riff on Max Ernst, the surrealist artist influenced by the turmoil of '30s Germany. That was Dennis.

(Continued on page 8)

## GUEST OF HONOR APPRECIATIONS

### Dennis Lynds

Continued from page 7

His best-known creation is Dan Fortune, a one-armed private eye who many feel opened the door to the modern introspective investigator involved in cases that dealt with social and political themes. It couldn't be otherwise given that the name he wrote the Fortune books under was Michael Collins, taken from the Irish revolutionary leader.

"You think because you have one arm I won't fight you?"

"You wouldn't like my way of fighting."

"What the shit does that mean?"

"It means no rules, no sporting chances. Only a damn fool puts the fight above what he fights for."

If he would see that as a challenge, confession or threat, I never found out.

This passage is from CASTRATO, a Fortune story about personal destruction and sexual politics, with a subtext that deconstructs the western myth. The book at times shifts from first to third person to biographical asides in the course of the story. This experimentation in style and structure, as Richard Carpenter observed in an essay about Michael Collins' work, had Dennis bringing something new to the hardboiled school.

And who but Dennis could be awarded the Bronze Star among other medals for bravery in World War II and years later receive an Edgar as well? His novel COMBAT SOLDIER demonstrated the worlds he straddled as infantryman and writer.

"His rifle lay in the snow at his feet. There was blood on the bayonet. He did not remember using the bayonet, not since early yesterday. Yesterday that seemed as far away and as distant from him as the bleak fields themselves, silent under the darkening sky. It had been yesterday, and he had wiped the bayonet clean."

What emerges for me about Dennis, besides "being smart, funny and insightful, and our connection through our politics, is that he got the job done. The craftsman who didn't half-ass the work, be it an escapist Nick Carter or his more personal and developed Fortune books that still resonate. I sure miss him, even though he took my money at the poker table. But we have his books, and that's no small thing.

- Gary Phillips

*Gary Phillips is Toastmaster for Left Coast Crime 2007. He's known for his hard-hitting, articulate writing and wide-ranging knowledge of the genre. Gary, yes, a native of Los Angeles, writes novels, short stories, graphic novels and comics all come under his purview and he writes for Mystery Scene magazine – and having the best laugh in the mystery community. Word is that Phillips also indulges on occasion in playing basketball with other mystery writers but we're sure that's just a rumor.*



## GUEST OF HONOR APPRECIATIONS

### Dennis Lynds & Gayle Lynds

#### Present at the Creation?

I first met Gayle and Dennis Lynds at the 2002 Edgars, when I was privileged, as an unpublished author, to sit on a panel on spy thrillers with Gayle, Francine Mathews, and the late Walter Wager. I'd read at least one espionage novel by each of these masters in order to prepare. Since it was my first panel, and in New York, and, my God, the Edgars, I was understandably nervous. I needn't have worried. Gayle put me at ease and made me look good. Afterwards, she and I, Dennis and my wife Julie walked the few blocks to the traditional agents and editors reception. During the walk and at the reception, I spoke with Gayle and Dennis about their idea that while thrillers were honored along with mysteries at the Edgars and in other award foray, the genre deserved to have its own annual awards. I was writing historical mysteries and had no intention of writing spy thrillers myself, despite my 30 years at the CIA. Two years after that conversation, Gayle found a kindred spirit and a tireless, dedicated compatriot in David Morrell at the 2004 Bouchercon. She and David went on to form the International Thriller Writers and not only found a way to make annual awards in that category, but have set in motion what will be a series of conferences to bring those writers and readers together, first in Phoenix, and in 2007 in New York City.

On that cool April evening walk in New York, I heard at least as much passion for the genre from Dennis as I did from Gayle. His own body of work contained the mysteries he's best known for, but also many thrillers of which he was very proud. All I did was provide a sounding board for their ideas. But since then, I've vetted a couple of manuscripts for Gayle and a handful of other spy thriller writers and she became my mentor when I attempted a Civil War spy novel. I've kept every page she marked and may some day speak on the writing and revision process. Gayle and Dennis gave generously of their time to an entire generation of writers and deserve the admiration and respect of authors and readers in every genre.

- Rob Kresge, Albuquerque, New Mexico



#### **Gayle Lynds is, in a word, a force.**

I met Gayle in Toronto at Bouchercon in 2004, hours before what turned out to be the first International Thriller Writers meeting and have had the pleasure of working alongside her as this organization has grown. There are few authors I knew who have her class, her smarts, her sensitivity, her generosity, her grasp of the genre and her talent. Not to mention her ability to soldier on no matter what obstacles are thrown in her way.

I always thought I was lucky that every year or so there was a Gayle Lynds book published that I could read.

Now I'm also blessed to know her and count this amazing author among my friends.

- M. J. Rose

*M.J. Rose's most recent works are LYING IN BED and THE VENUS FIX. She can be found at [www.mjrose.com](http://www.mjrose.com), and is also a fixture on her two valuable blogs which offer an ongoing internet discussion of publishing, writing and how writers do what they do – "Backstory.com" and "Buzz, Balls & Hype". You can find links on her website.*

## GUEST OF HONOR APPRECIATIONS

### Gayle Lynds

This year, Left Coast Crime is proud to have internationally best-selling author Gayle Lynds as an honored guest. She is the award-winning author of numerous espionage novels. Two of the many elements that set her spy novels apart are the experience she gained from having a security clearance at a national affairs “think tank” and the passion with which she researches every detail of her novels. Her depictions of tradecraft and the mindset of an operative are impeccably accurate.

Gayle’s high standards recently prompted *Publishers Weekly* to put her ground-breaking 1996 novel MASQUERADE on a list of the top fifteen spy novels of all time, a list that includes John le Carre’s THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD and Frederick Forsyth’s THE DAY OF THE JACKAL. Gayle’s other novels include MESMERIZED, THE COIL, and THE LAST SPYMASTER, an aptly titled dramatization of how espionage agencies have changed and sometimes gone into crisis since the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.

Gayle’s suspenseful novels feature strong female characters in a type of novel typically dominated by male characters. These days, it’s not unusual for women to write about spies, or for male spy authors to write leading female characters, but when Gayle wrote MASQUERADE, she was truly a pioneer in what might be called an old boy’s network.

She is an example for other female spy authors and indeed prepared the way for many of them. In that context, it is particularly significant that the Military Society Writers of America gave THE LAST SPYMASTER its award for the 2006 Novel of the Year. To quote Booklist, “Gayle Lynds has joined the deified ranks of spy thriller authors like Robert Ludlum and John le Carre.”

At the same time, while other spy novelists were still writing about the Cold War, she was among the first to write about the contemporary world and keep the form alive until 9/11 reawakened the country’s interest in global affairs and intelligence.

Besides her own books, Gayle co-created the Covert One series with Robert Ludlum and authored three of its novels: THE PARIS OPTION, THE ALTMAN CODE, and THE HADES FACTOR. The latter was filmed as an exciting CBS miniseries in 2006.

Gayle has also contributed to thriller writing in yet another way. In 2004, she co-founded the International Thriller Writers organization, which is dedicated to raising reader awareness about thrillers and helping its members achieve the recognition they deserve. In a few short years, it has grown to include over 500 thriller authors whose worldwide book sales total nearly two billion copies.

I too was a co-founder of ITW, and I couldn’t have asked for a wiser, more enthusiastic and knowledgeable partner. Gayle is a joy to work with—a teacher and a diplomat as well as a novelist. Generous with her talent, her time, and her counsel, she has made a difference for many people.

- David Morrell

*Canadian-born author David Morrell has a PhD in American Literature and for a number of years taught English at the University of Iowa. He retired from teaching to write full-time. There are (at last count) at least 18 million copies of his books in print.*



## GUEST OF HONOR APPRECIATIONS

## Gayle Lynds

Gayle Lynds was my first friend in the mystery/thriller genre. We met (via email) back in July 2000, shortly after I started writing book reviews. This was years before I ever dreamed of being a newspaper critic. At that point, I was only posting my reviews on Amazon. One of the books I wrote about was Gayle Lynds' *THE HADES FACTOR*, the first Covert-One novel she co-wrote with Robert Ludlum.

I enjoyed the book a lot and said so in my review. To my surprise and delight, a week or so later I received an email from Gayle, thanking me for the kind words I'd written. I didn't really know who Gayle Lynds was – I had read the book because it had Ludlum's name on it – but I was blown away that an actual author had taken the time to write to me. It was the first time that had ever happened.

We started a correspondence then, exchanging emails back and forth, and eventually Gayle was the subject of the first author interview I ever did. We finally met in person in 2003 at Bouchercon in Las Vegas. Sitting by the pool, she gave me a master class in thriller novels and

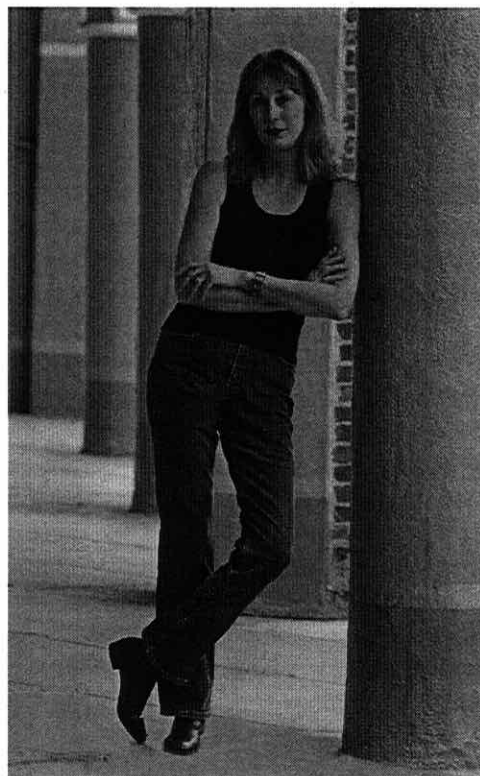
thriller writing that not only helped improve my abilities as a critic, but helped to inspire my own novel.


The contributions that Gayle Lynds has made to the thriller genre are huge. Not only has she written best-selling novels that have delighted millions of readers, she helped to co-found International Thriller Writers (along with David Morrell), an organization dedicated to bringing well-deserved attention and respect to the genre.

But Gayle Lynds has also had a very personal impact on both the genre and its writers. By teaching courses on writing, offering blurbs, reading manuscripts, and mentoring up-and-coming authors, she has played a key role in making the world of thrillers as rich and vibrant as it is today.

We all know what a fine writer Gayle Lynds is. The books she's written and the success she has earned are more than enough to win her every accolade in the business. But it is for her kindness and generosity of spirit, her dedication to improving the state of the genre and the writing in it, that Gayle most merits acknowledgment. I can't think of anyone who deserves being a Guest of Honor more.

- David J. Montgomery writes about authors and books for several of the country's largest newspapers.



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## FAN GUEST OF HONORS —

### DIANE KOVACS & KARA ROBINSON Co-owners of the award-winning discussion list DOROTHY-L



#### THEY MAKE THIS BUCKEYE PROUD

Two Ohio librarians have enhanced this Ohio librarian's life in ways I would have thought impossible a mere decade ago.

Diane, with other librarians, decided in 1991 that it would be great to have a listserve for mystery fans. Diane quickly recruited another Kent State librarian as co-owner and moderator of the list named in honor of Dorothy L. Sayers. Kara has become a wife, mother and lawyer. Diane has her own consulting and training business and writes books and presents programs for researchers and others on using the Internet to find reliable information.

DorothyL averages about 3000 members, but with new people coming and others dropping out there seems little doubt that thousands of mystery fans have at one time or another been members of DorothyL. There are other Internet groups that discuss and love mysteries, but it seems that DorothyL is the best known and longest-lived of such cyberspace gatherings. But few of us really know Diane and Kara. I have met Diane twice at library events and am looking forward to meeting Kara in Seattle.

My tribute, therefore, must consist of praising the fruits of Diane's and Kara's efforts. I'm sure my story is not much different from the many other fans who have been a part of DorothyL.

Which one of us doesn't remember getting our first e-mail from an author about a review we did a book we reviewed on DL? "OMG, I got an email from 'famous mystery author' and really can't believe it." And how many of us would never have gone to a mystery convention without the encouragement and glowing reports of such events on DorothyL?

Since I joined DL, about 1996, I have heard the term "mystery community" many times. I think within this community, DorothyL is more of a "family" albeit often a dysfunctional one.

(Continued on page 13)

We have our clowns and our bullies. Those who want constant attention and those who sit quietly in a corner until they have something to say. We have those whose feelings are easily hurt and those who seem to be completely insensitive to the feelings of others. There are those “cousins” whose address in a post make us smile in happy anticipation and those whose name seems to automatically make us find the delete key. Which poster hasn’t been flamed both on and off list? But we are all bound together in our love for the mystery novel in all its many permutations and its sub-genres and cross-oversee. We often have the same conversations over and over again as new people join the family.

We are a benign “gang” who look for identification with the group. Hence, over the years we’ve had DorothyL mugs, pins, and shirts. This includes suggestions that at a certain day at various conventions all DorothyLers wear the same color shirt.

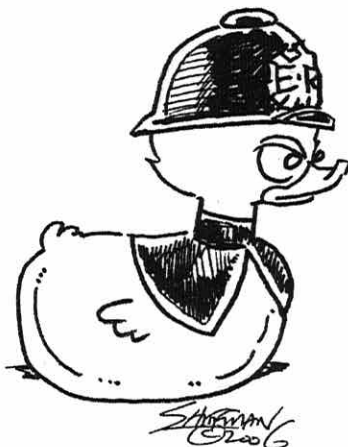
We have celebrated together the triumph of DorothyL members as they win awards or hit various bestseller lists. There have also been periods of shared mourning as members have left this mortal plain. This includes not only favorite authors, but also members of the publishing community as well as fellow fans.

Sometimes we have even griped about “the parents”, i.e. is the moderator including present moderator Michael Kovacs (“the Saint”) for not stopping a thread quickly enough or stepping in too soon. Yep, just like all kids, we think we know best.

Without DorothyL, I never would have started neither attending conferences, driving for hours to signings of favorite authors, or have become a member of the Sisters in Crime Board. The best thing, however, is the friends I’ve made and the fact that there are people with whom to share my love for mysteries. On the other hand, I’d have much more money if I weren’t going to three or four conventions a year and buying all those books. A small price to pay for the joy given by the mystery community.

Thanks Diane and Kara, life wouldn’t be as sweet and a full without DorothyL.

- Doris Ann Norris, *the 2000 year old librarian*



## TOASTMASTER FOR LEFTCOAST CRIME 17 – GARY PHILLIPS



Gary Phillips is a Los Angeles native. His first series features Ivan Monk who appeared in VIOLENT SPRING, PERDITION USA, BAD NIGHT IS FALLING and ONLY THE WICKED and the short story anthology MONKOLOGY. Phillips also writes books featuring Martha Chainey who has appeared in HIGH HAND and SHOOTER'S POINT. He's written several non-series work and has contributed short stories to a wealth of anthologies. Phillips is also into writing graphic novels and STILL lives in LA.



### GUEST OF HONOR APPRECIATIONS

#### Gary Phillips

Gary and I are great friends.

In 2006, at Bouchercon, we went to the Shamus awards together, this skinny mick, (me) and Gary, mega-built, we approached the bar and the girl, seeing us, looked scared. We ordered two brews and she froze, so Gary said

'Me and my bro, we have the same mom, so don't you go giving us no grief about it, hear, mom has suffered enough. Ain't that right bro?'

And here he puts his huge arms around me as I look like the mention of mom is too much for me.

Needless to say, we got the brews.....fast.

At Crimescene in the UK a few years back, Gary and I hung together, the mick and the black guy, the two biggest fears of the Brits and we decided to re-write Mannix.....don't ask.

Richard Widmark was Crimescene's Guest of Honour, but we outsiders stole the show with our rap on how hard it is to get folks to accept we have the same mom.

(Continued on page 15)



Gary is the brother I feel closest to and he has the best laugh I've ever experienced.

He is truly.....the man.

- Ken Bruen

*Ken Bruen has garnered nominations, awards and well-deserved attention in the relatively short time he's been writing. He won the Shamus for his 2003 book *The Guards* and his work has consistently dazzled readers both in the US and across the water. Bruen lives in Galway, Ireland and we'd like him to come visit the US more.*



## HOMAGE TO GARY

I completed the early drafts of my first mystery novel while I was working as a newspaperwoman at a small Japanese American community daily located next to Los Angeles' Skid Row. Was it possible for someone like me to get a mystery book published? And not any kind of mystery, but a mystery that dealt intimately with issues of class and race, taking place in Southern California neighborhoods called Crenshaw, Gardena and Altadena.

Well, Gary Phillips told me it could get done. Not personally at first, but through his debut mystery, *VIOLENT SPRING*. The original book jacket is as powerful and raw as the story, which takes place during the aftermath of the Los Angeles riots. In it, Gary wrote about what he knew and what he didn't know but could imagine. He was a risk taker and continues to be a risk taker.

We all know of the Bouchercon and other convention stories, of Gary's booming laugh, imposing figure (although it's been whittled down a bit) and basketball skills (or should I say non-skills). I myself was a victim of Gary's roundball prowess when he knocked me down but I safely landed on his belly.

We know of his willingness to jump into different forms -- comic books, graphic novels, short stories - and different POVs. We know of his razor-sharp dialogue, popping and energetic, unforgettable characters and his fast-moving plot lines.

But in this small town called Los Angeles, I've also witnessed different sides of Gary, who is also a comic-book geek and organizational genius. Like his firecracker wife, Gilda Haas, he has fought for fair housing for the poor and working class. But the thing about Gary is that his style is not didactic or strident. But almost deceptively easy going, sly and may I say good-humored. All people deserve a place to live, yeah, it's a given. So how do we make this happen?

In the same way, Gary has entered the ring of the mystery world. He has sustained some hard punches in his career, like most of us writers have. But he gets up and thinks of new ways to keep fighting. Because there's no other choice.

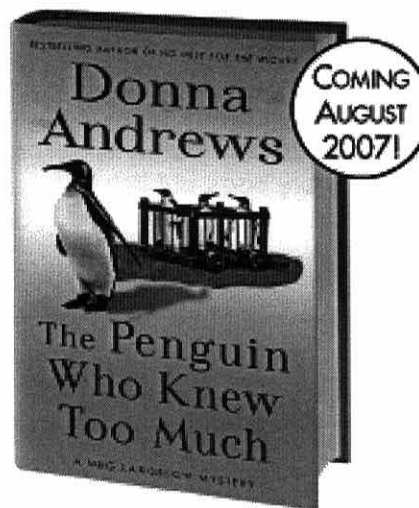
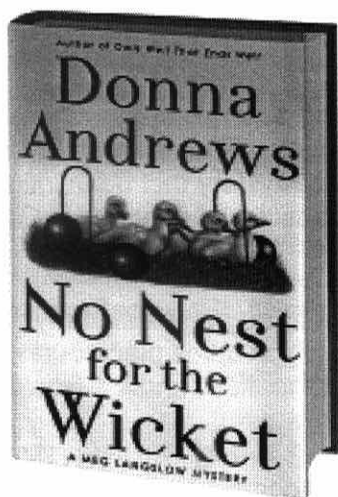
Some writers will remain perpetual observers, almost afraid to get involved in politics or social causes because it might tarnish their outsider's point of view. In the minority are authors like Gary who are unafraid of getting dirty in the muck of life, yet still able to retain their creative minds and hearts and also have some fun in the process. Thank God for the minority.

- Naomi Hirahara

*Naomi Hirahara's first Mas Arai novel, *SUMMER OF THE BIG BACHI*, published in 2004, received starred reviews and was nominated for a Macavity for "best first mystery". Her most recent in the series *SNAKESKIN SHAMISEN* came out in 2006. Hirahara's incredible schedule has her writing numerous other books, including oral histories and serving on advisory boards (including that of the inaugural Asian Pacific American Book Festival, planned for Los Angeles this year.)*

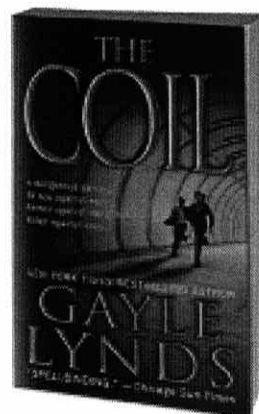
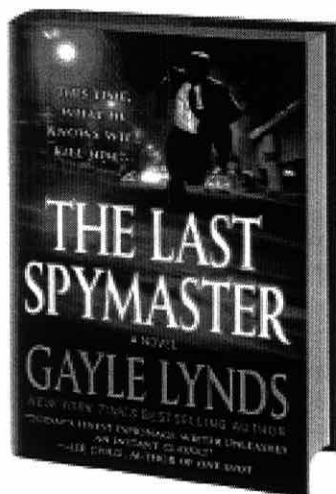
## Minotaur Congratulates DONNA ANDREWS

The 2007 Left Coast Crime Nominee for  
Best Humorous Mystery (*No Nest for the Wicket*)



## St. Martin's Press Congratulates GAYLE LYNDS

The 2007 Left Coast Crime Guest of Honor



## PROGRAM

## Thursday Afternoon

## Track A

## Track B

## Track C

1 p.m.	<p align="center"><b>CROSSING OVER</b></p> <p>Mystery readers are broadminded and will try anything. Or will they? Do they read mysteries with other-worldly themes – the “woo-woo” elements or do we really need to steal those readers from the sf/fantasy and other fields.  M –Elizabeth Ann Scarborough  Jana Oliver, Alexandra Sokoloff,  Kat Richardson, Linda Joy Singleton</p>		
2 p.m.	<p align="center"><b>WHEN DO MYSTERIES BECOME THRILLERS?</b></p> <p>Without trying for definitions (we don't have time) can we agree that while all thrillers are mysteries, not all mysteries are thrillers? So what's the turning point? What sets them apart specifically? Is it plot elements? Is it the global nature of the thriller? Is it the breakneck pacing and the tension that all good thrillers have?  M - Dawn Kravagna  Simon Wood, Fleur Bradley,  Lewis Perdue, Ron Lovell</p>		
3 p.m.	<p align="center"><b>GOING OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE</b></p> <p>How do we find new mysteries, especially when we've been reading for a while and we know who we like? When was the last time you took a risk? When and how do you take a risk with a new author? How do you find one and how do you decide it's worth it?  M - Gwen Shuster-Haynes  Don Bruns, Jane Cleland,  Toni McGee Causey,  Linda L. Richards</p>		

## PROGRAM

### Friday Morning

#### Track A

#### Track B

#### Track C

<b>9 a.m.</b>	<b>LCC 101</b> Janet Rudolph/Jan Burke		
<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>INTERVIEW WITH TOASTMASTER GARY PHILLIPS</b> Gary Phillips and J Kingston Pierce	<b>THE AMATEUR SLEUTH EXAMINED REALISTICALLY</b> Do any of us really think we could solve a mystery? We know what not to do, certainly but really, could we leave our business for a few weeks, go ask rude questions, charm the police and figure it out? M - Fred Ramsey Barbara Workinger, Leslie Adkins, Mark Richard Zubro, Brian Wiprud	
<b>11 a.m.</b>	<b>DO WE CARE ABOUT THE VICTIM?</b> Should we? It seems that in many stories, the least important main character is the dead guy; we focus of course on the crime-solver and often on the villain. Does the victim matter? Do we want to get to know the victim? M – Louise Ure Naomi Hirahara, Barbara Seranella, Janet LaPierre, Rob Weibezahl	<b>FIRST BOOK/STANDALONE OR SERIES</b> What are the creative pitfalls/good things about writing a non-series book? Is it freeing not to have to remember series' back story, <i>where</i> your protagonist went to school and <i>what</i> the name of that lover was? Is it harder to have to establish so many things in a short period of time without boring the reader? M – Tim Maleeny Cara Black, Nancy Bush, Lisa Jackson, Kit Ehrman, Anne (AM) Byron	
<b>12 p.m.</b>	<b>LIKE WATCHING GRASS GROW: MYSTERY IMPROV WHILE YOU WAIT</b> The creative process (in many art forms) consists of sitting and thinking, visualizing, pondering until the artist suddenly erupts. We're asking our intrepid panelists to create in front of us; they'll be given a character, or a plot idea, or a situation and we'll get to watch them deal with it using their own stuff or any idea they want to use. M – Dana Stabenow Christine Kling, Deni Dietz, Lee Goldberg, Larry Karp	<b>LET'S GET DOWN TO BASICS</b> The question that's never resolved: Why do we read the stuff? Do we all agree it's because crime fiction usually ends with the good guys winning so we have closure and perfection when it so seldom exists in the real world? M – Rob Lopresti Priscilla Royal, Pat Harrington, Stephen Booth, Michael Donnelly	<b>CS I DON'T THINK SO: Forensic experts and detectives speak out.</b> What really happens in murder and other criminal investigations? What's the Crime Lab Project and what's its connection with crime fiction? M - Jan Burke Lee Lofland, Doug Lyle, Eileen Dreyer.



## PROGRAM

## Friday Afternoon

	Track A	Track B	Track C
1 p.m.	<p><b>SERIES GOOD/SERIES BAD</b> As time goes on, what gets easier about writing a series? What gets harder? Are readers easier/harder to please? Do we want more engaging plots? Do we want to know about the people more? Is this why all those series writers are doing stand-alones and thrillers – because we are so hard to please? M – Anthony Bidulka Pamela Samuels-Young, Jo Dereske, Peter May, Jon Talton</p>	<p><b>KEEPING IT POLITICAL</b> Let's work from the assumption that politics in mystery is a welcome thing and let's discuss what skills are required to a) keep it political and not polemical and b) how to involve the politics. Is it more welcome in the narrative or should the characters show their politics. Or both? M – Gay Toltl Kinman Gary Phillips, Aileen Baron, Bruce Cook, David Skibbins</p>	CRIME LAB PROJECT*
2 p.m.	<p><b>THE RISE OF THRILLERS</b> They've always been with us and often a very popular form of literature (just check those best seller lists) but now, gosh, it seems like everyone's writing one. Is it that they make good movies? Is it our way of dealing with world events? M – William Seil Gayle Lynds, Raelynn J Hillhouse, Mike Lawson, Rick Mofina</p>	<p><b>HANDS UP! HOW MANY OF YOU DON'T CARE WHAT THE PROTAGONIST'S LOVE LIFE IS LIKE?</b> Talking about the "good old days" when private eyes left the pages of the book when they went home. Is it better to involve personal stuff – does that appeal to different (read "female" readers) more? M – Janet LaPierre Alex Matthews, Gabriella Herkert, Michael Castleman, Pari Noskin Taichert</p>	CRIME LAB PROJECT*
3 p.m.	<p><b>HEROES STAY THE SAME, VILLAINS CHANGE</b> It's been suggested that the hero, the protagonist has stayed the same, mostly throughout the decades; whether she's paid or he's seeking justice for a friend, his/her reasons are pretty familiar. Villains, however, have changed a lot. Their motivations, their behavior, even their psychology has changed. Is it because we're learning more about evil or abnormal psychology and behavior? Is it because bad guys are more interesting? M – Robert Weibezahl Dana Stabenow, Peter Spiegelman, Philip Hawley, Jr., Joan Del Monte</p>	<p><b>HANDS UP! HOW MANY OF YOU KNOW THE NAME OF THE PROTAGONIST'S THIRD GRADE TEACHER?</b> Does it inform a book, help an author, offer something richer when the writer creates a history for a character, even if no one ever sees 90 percent of it? Is it necessary? M – Lauren Haney Debra Purdy Kong, Anthony Bidulka, Karen Swee, Hope Mcintyre</p>	CRIME LAB PROJECT*
4 p.m.	<p><b>USING THE LAW REALISTICALLY</b> If you watch too much TV, you'll believe DNA results can be gotten in hours, from arrest to trial takes a matter of days, weeks at most, cops never abuse their power, and all labs are shiny and bright (or moody and blue) and run perfectly. Okay, then there's the real world. Experts in forensic science and law talk about what it's really like. M – Leslie Budewitz Aaron Elkins, Twist Phelan, Cathy Pickens, Claire Maturro</p>	<p><b>TECHNOLOGY AND MYSTERY FICTION</b> How technology has changed mystery fiction: from detectives using databases to cell phones and issues of privacy. M – Donna Andrews Nicola Griffith, Keith Raffel, Murdoch Hughes, Mark Coggins</p>	



## PROGRAM

## Saturday Morning

	Track A	Track B	Track C
9 a.m.	<p><b>AND THEN THERE'S CHICK LIT:</b>            "Hip, modern, stylish women's Mystery" or whatever It's being called Why do so many of us identify with it? Is it the way to reach the younger reader? Do younger women find Vi, Carlotta, and Kinsey boring and want women with job and footwear challenges?            M – Claire Maturro            Leann Sweeney, Hailey Lind,            Deborah Donnelly, Susan Slater</p>	<p><b>MILES TO GO</b>            Is it fair to say we read mysteries set in foreign lands to learn or is that just an excuse to make us sound more intellectual to the person who asks "What are you reading?" We talk about books set in Iceland, Cambodia, Japan – all the places we've been and what we get out of it.            M – Charles Benoit            Diana Chambers, Rick Blechta,            Lauren Haney, Elle Lothlorien</p>	
10 a.m.	<p><b>NOIR. IT'S THE NEW BLACK</b>            The return of noir – has it always been there or is there a reason it's reemerging in a new form. Or is it a new form? Does it indicate despair and darkness – a depressing time in our lives or is it just an art form, a kind of writing?            M – Tim Wohlforth            Con Lehane, Megan Abbott,            Cornelia Read, Edward Wright</p>	<p><b>DO WE READ THRILLERS BECAUSE WE WANT HEROES?</b>            So often, the protagonists in a thriller – maybe a political thriller, not always – is up against a conspiracy or an establishment and is all alone. Do we want him to succeed because of that – because we all want, or maybe even need heroes?            M- Sandra Ruttan            Maris Soule, Sam Reaves. Robert Fate,            Bette Golden Lamb</p>	SMALL ROOM
11 a.m.	<p><b>DENNIS LYNDS TRIBUTE</b>            Gayle Lynds, Ken Kuhlken,            John Daniel, Gary Phillips,            Deirdre Lynds</p>	<p><b>WHAT MAKES SETTING WORK</b>            Who brings it? Who are the writers who've made us fall in love with their city, who bring a place to life? Who's made us go back to that place we never knew about. Do you love New Orleans, or Paris, or that little town in the Southwest because you know it, because it's written so perfectly?            M – Aileen Baron            Mary Saums, John Maddox Roberts,            David Hewson, Rob Kresge</p>	SMALL ROOM
12 p.m.	<p><b>DO WE STILL CARE WHODUNNIT?</b>            With the growth in popularity of forensic books/tv shows, thriller/suspense books where it's not whodunnit but how he's caught, and howdunnit, is there still a place for the plain old fashioned whodunnit?            M – Martin Edwards            Camille Minichino, Harley Jane Kozak,            Claudia Bishop, Brian Thornton</p>	<p><b>WHAT'S BETTER, A FICTIONAL CITY OR A REAL ONE?</b>            We all know the pitfalls of using a real setting when picky readers are more inclined to point out the mistakes. But using real settings is often fun for the reader – and saves some work for the writer. So what do we prefer and why? We discuss the advantages/ disadvantages of real setting over fictional setting.            M- Christine Goff            Michael Siverling, Marilyn Meredith,            Ann Parker, Vinnie Hansen</p>	SMALL ROOM

## PROGRAM

## Saturday Afternoon

## Track A

## Track B

## Track C

	Track A	Track B	Track C
1 p.m.	<p><b>IN THE WRITER'S STUDIO</b> An Interview with Gayle Lynds Gayle Lynds, Andi Shechter</p>	<p><b>THE OTHER SIDE OF "THE GOOD OLD DAYS"</b> We value, even venerate, the golden age writers but...what's better now? We talk about "diversity", we talk about how protagonists have changed for the better, how stuff that was hidden (wife beating? child abuse?) is now out in the pages of books as well as society. Can we argue it's easier to deal with in fiction than in life? M - Rhys Bowen Craig Johnson, Donna Anders, Sean Chercover, Anne Jayne</p>	<p><b>SMALL ROOM</b></p>
2 p.m.	<p><b>AVOIDING JESSICA FLETCHER SYNDROME</b> We all take a vow to suspend our disbelief when the amateur sleuth finds her second or third body. But truly, can a series which features a non-professional sleuth avoid this issue? How can writers explain why someone who's not a professional keeps finding murder victims? M – Susan Cummins Miller Jane Isenberg, Carola Dunn, Sheila Lowe, Michael Sherer</p>	<p><b>DOROTHYL: 15 YEARS OF MYSTERIOUS FUN</b> A look at one of the internet's oldest, busiest, wisest, silliest, most popular mystery mailing lists hosted by DorothyL's moderators and LCC fan guests of honor. Kara L. Robinson, Diane K. Kovacs</p>	<p><b>SMALL ROOM</b></p>
3 p.m.	<p><b>THE "LIARS PANEL"</b> The audience is only allowed to ask the most trite, overworked, boring questions (Where do you get your ideas? Is the main character really you? Do you write what you know? Do you outline?), and the authors are not allowed to give the usual stock replies. They are encouraged to let their imaginations run wild, and get as silly as they like. M – Alex Brett SJ Rozan, Meg Chittenden, Barry Eisler, Hakan Nesser</p>	<p><b>WHY AUDIO BOOKS MATTER:</b> What you need to know about audio books. Audio books are increasingly popular. Why? What makes a good audio book, who's the audience and why will they continue to be a part of mystery in the future? (a panel in honor of Kate Fleming/Anna Fields) M – Judy Watford Kathleen Hagen, Chris Aldrich</p>	<p><b>SMALL ROOM</b></p>
4 p.m.	<p><b>IS REAL LIFE EVER AS INTERESTING AS FICTIONAL CRIME?</b> ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN, MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL—these were about real events. True crime, "fictionalized" accounts of true crimes are popular and often compelling reads. Did you find them, do you find them as captivating as the fiction we read? M – David Corbett Eric Stone, Troy Cook, Colin Campbell, Kate Flora</p>	<p><b>TECHNOLOGY AND MYSTERY FANDOM</b> How technology (especially the internet) has changed mystery fandom. (from author web pages, blogs and the accessibility of authors, to the change in how publicity is done to fan bases, mailing lists, on-line groups). How fast it's changing – the good and the bad. M –Chris Aldrich Gregg Olsen, Jo-Ann Power, Andi Shechter</p>	

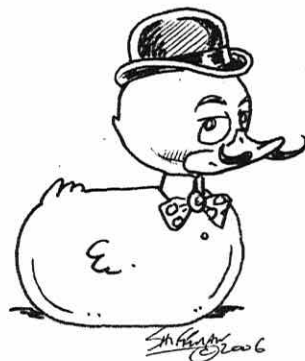
# PROGRAM

## Sunday Morning

	Track A	Track B	Track C
<b>10 A.M.</b>	<p><b>GAMES WRITERS PLAY/ FICTIONARY</b></p> <p>Panelists write opening lines of books, and then the moderator reads theirs plus the actual opening line, and the audience votes for which one they think is real.</p> <p>M – Rhys Bowen Harley Jane Kozak, John Billheimer, Alan Gold, Rita Lakin</p>	<p><b>CLASSIC FORMS of mystery - the legacy of Miss Marple</b></p> <p>M – Cathy Pickens Gillian Roberts, Maggie Sefton, Parnell Hall</p>	

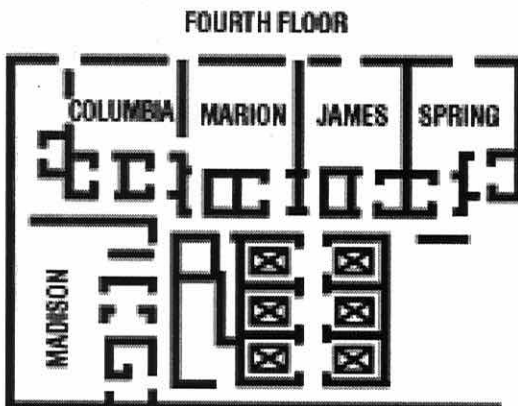
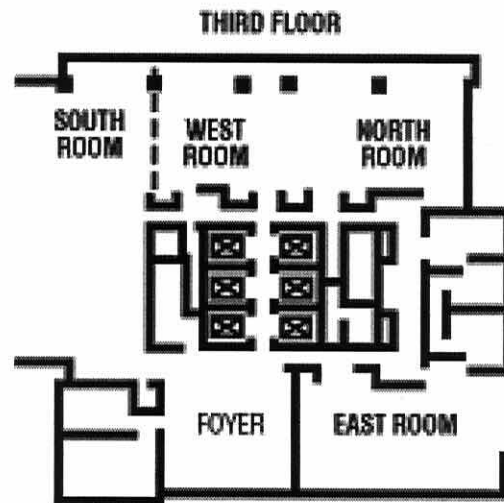
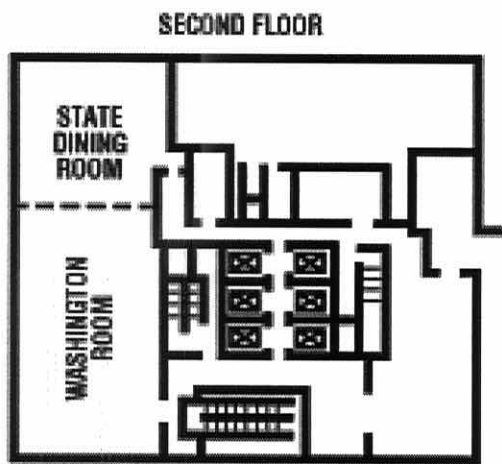
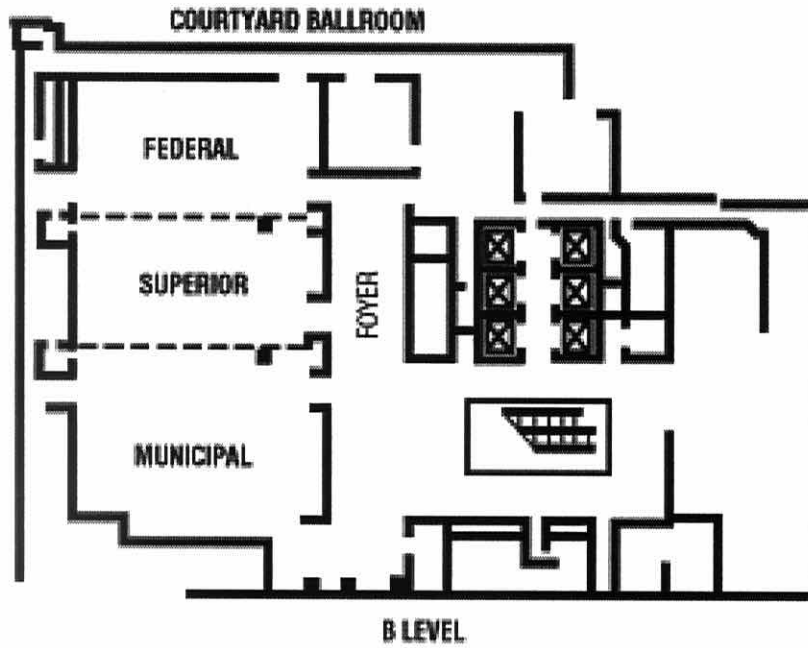
\*Through the efforts of Jan Burke, author and founder of the Crime Lab Project, LCC 2007 is pleased to be offering a special track of forensic-related programming during the convention. On Friday afternoon, we'll be offering a great program with presentations from some of our own experts/authors. We also will be hosting presentations by the manager of the Washington State Crime Lab System, Larry Hebert. Also appearing will be Jean Johnston, the manager of the State of Washington's DNA database.

LCC is also incredibly honored that during this time we will have a presentation by Dr. William Haglund. Dr. Haglund worked as the chief medical investigator the King County Medical Examiner's Office. During his 16 years there, he did extensive work on the investigation of the Green River serial killings. In December, 1995, Dr. Haglund left the ME's office to take the position of Senior Forensic Advisor for the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. He served for many years as the Director of the International Forensic Program for the Physicians for Human Rights, and is now the senior forensic consultant to the program. He has been at the forefront of investigations into genocide and war crimes which span the globe. He co-authored a training text for professional death investigators, and has written an essential forensic anthropology text. We're very excited that Bill Haglund is coming to talk at Left Coast Crime and we thank Jan for all her work to provide special track of program for the many LCC members with an interest in forensics and the work that goes on in crime labs and forensic labs.





# HOTEL MAP/LAYOUT





## Panelists



mystery novels and sharing her passion for writing with others.

**LESLIE ADKINS** is a well-received writing instructor at numerous locations around the Northwest. She has written seven novels, five of them mysteries. Her non-fiction has appeared in many local and national publications. She serves on several writing conference committees and is the co-leader of the Northwest Writing Retreat at the South 47 Farm in Redmond. Leslie continues working on writing



Aldrich wrote an essay published in the award-winning book *THEY DIED IN VAIN* and she has contributed pieces to the Bouchercon 2003 program book and to the 2006 Edgar annual in addition to the interviews, reviews and articles she has written for *Mystery News*.

**CHRIS ALDRICH** is a lifelong mystery reader and fan who with Lynn Kaczmarek owns Black Raven Press, the publisher of *Mystery News* - the most complete, up-to-date and entertaining guide to the latest mystery books, writers and events. *Mystery News* was nominated for an Anthony Award three times and won in 2001.



*FLOWER MAN* were also lead titles from Pocket Books. Donna has published almost 400 shorter works, including stories, novellas, serials, articles, poems and plays to national publications. Her next suspense thriller from Pocket Books will be published in the fall of 2007.

**DONNA ANDERS** is the author of fourteen novels, including her current Oct. 2006 lead title thriller, *DEATH WAITS FOR YOU*. *AFRAID OF THE DARK*, her former psychological suspense novel from Pocket Books, was published in December 2004 and *ANOTHER LIFE* was republished in December 2005. *NIGHT STALKER*, *IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES*, *DEAD SILENCE* and *THE*



### DONNA ANDREWS

Like Meg Langslow, the blacksmith heroine of her series from St. Martin's Press, Donna Andrews was born and raised in Yorktown, Virginia. Now she spends almost as much time in cyberspace as Turing Hopper, the artificial intelligence from her technocozy series (Berkley). *NO NEST FOR THE WICKET* is her eleventh book. After graduating from University of

Virginia, Andrews moved to Washington, D.C., and joined the communications staff of a large corporation, where for two decades she honed her writing skills on nonfiction and developed a profound understanding of the criminal mind through her observation of interdepartmental politics. For information: [www.donnaandrews.com](http://www.donnaandrews.com)



**AILEEN BARON** has a Ph.D. in archaeology. Her career includes twenty years teaching archaeology at California State University, Fullerton; numerous seasons of archaeological fieldwork in the Middle East; a year at the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem as NEH scholar; and director of the overseas campus of California State Universities

at the Hebrew University. *THE TORCH OF TANGIER* is the second mystery in the Lily Sampson series, featuring an American archaeologist working in the Middle East in the 1930's and 40's.



**BRETT BATTLES** lives and writes in Los Angeles. His first novel, *THE CLEANER*, is due out July 2007 from Delacorte. An international spy thriller featuring professional cleaner Jonathan Quinn, *THE CLEANER* weaves a twisted tale of suspense as it moves from the snows of Colorado to the heat of Southeast Asia and finally to the frigid winter of Berlin, Germany.



what's with with them.'

A bear walks into a bar and says, 'Have you seen **CHARLES BENOIT**, the guy that wrote *Relative Danger?*' The bartender says, 'The one that was nominated for the Edgar?' The bear says 'Yeah, and he also wrote *OUT OF ORDER*. Ever hear of it?' The bartender says, 'Sure, it's a great read. So what do you want with Benoit?' The bear says, 'I want to buy him a gin and...tonic.' The bartender says, 'Okay, but the pause?' The bear shrugs and says, 'I was born



Lit Award and Saskatchewan Book Award.

After many other occupations, **ANTHONY BIDULKA**, BA, BEd, BComm, CA left a decade long career as a Chartered Accountant to pursue writing. Bidulka's mystery series tells the story of a gay, novice private detective living a big life in a small, Canadian, prairie city. The Russell Quant series won the 2004 Lambda Literary Award for Best Men's Mystery and has been nominated for a Crime Writers of Canada Award, Re-



explore various Mountain State scams and scandals. The most recent is *STONEWALL JACKSON'S ELBOW*, published in Fall 2006.

**JOHN BILLHEIMER**, a native West Virginian, lives in Portola Valley, California. He holds an engineering Ph. D. from Stanford University and is the author of the "funny, sometimes touching," Owen Allison mystery series set in Appalachia's coalfields. The *Drood Review* voted his first book, *THE CONTRARY BLUES*, one of the ten best mysteries of 1998. Four subsequent novels



author of fourteen other novels.

**CLAUDIA BISHOP (Mary Stanton)** is the author of fifteen Hemlock Falls mysteries. She is at work on the third novel in *THE CASEBOOKS OF DR. MCKENZIE*. Claudia is also the senior editor of three mystery short story anthologies. The latest, *A MERRY BAND OF MURDERERS* with Don Bruns, features both original songs and original stories. As Mary Stanton, she is the

(Continued page 25)

## Panelists



**CARA BLACK** lives in San Francisco with her husband, a bookseller and son. **MURDER IN THE MARAIS**, her first novel was nominated for an Anthony and Macavity award. **MURDER IN THE SENTIER**, her third Aimée Leduc Investigation received a starred PW review and *The New York Times* said of it "...Black inhales its (Paris) essence as if it were some musky perfume." Her sixth in the series, **MURDER IN MONTMARTRE**, was an *LA Times* bestseller. **MURDER ON ILE SAINT-LOUIS**, the 7th Aimée Leduc investigation, will be published March 2007. Visit [www.carablack.com](http://www.carablack.com)



**RICK BLECHTA** is a musician who writes crime fiction, or if you prefer, a crime writer who plays music. His fifth novel, **WHEN HELL FREEZES OVER**, has just been released. As always, the main character is a musician, and this time he's a former rock star who tries to walk away from his past. The story is set in Toronto and Scotland. Currently, Rick is also the president of Crime Writers of Canada. He resides in Toronto and is married to, who else? A musician.



**STEPHEN BOOTH** was born in Burnley and brought up in Blackpool, Lancashire. After graduating from Birmingham Polytechnic, he became a newspaper and magazine journalist. His first novel to be published was **BLACK DOG** (2000), **DANCING WITH THE VIRGINS** (2001) followed, and was shortlisted for the 2001 Crime Writers' Association Macallan Gold Dagger for Fiction Award. These were followed by two equally popular novels - **BLOOD ON THE TONGUE** (2002) and **BLIND TO THE BONES** (2003). All his novels are set in the Derbyshire Peak District and feature two young detectives, DC Ben Cooper, and DS Diane Fry. His most recent novel is **ONE LAST BREATH** (2006).



**RHYS BOWEN** has been nominated for every major mystery award, including the Edgar and has won seven of them. She currently writes two series: the Molly Murphy Mysteries, featuring feisty Irish immigrant sleuth in turn-of-the-century New York City, and the Constable Evans Mysteries, featuring a policeman in Wales. This summer she embarks on a new adventure with the release of her new funny, sexy spoof on British upper class life called **HER ROYAL SPYNESS**. Rhys has also written award-winning short stories and actually sings with the Merry Band of Murderers. A transplanted Brit, Rhys now lives in Northern California.



**ALEX BRETT** writes about the crime of research fraud. Is it revenge for all those years spent in and around labs? Possibly. Her second book, **COLD DARK MATTER**, was short-listed for a 2005 Crime Writers of Canada Arthur Ellis Award. She is currently at work on a new series. The first book, **THE LIARS LAB**, is set, quite literally, in the world decep-



tion: the labs where researchers study the nuanced behavior of lying and liars.

**ROBERT GREGORY BROWNE**

After years riding the Hollywood roller coaster, former screenwriter Robert Gregory Browne turned to his first love, fiction, and wrote **KISS HER GOODBYE**, the first of a two-book deal with St. Martin's Press. Gayle Lynds calls **KISS HER GOODBYE** "a first-rate novel that will glue you to your chair until you finish the last satisfying word." Tess Gerritsen says it's "a smashing good read," while Carla Neggers proclaims it a "taut, absorbing page-turner." You can find out more about Robert and his work at [www.robertgregorybrowne.com](http://www.robertgregorybrowne.com).



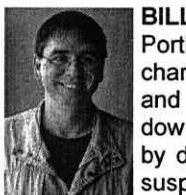
**DON BRUNS** is the author of three Mick Sever mystery novels. Sever, an entertainment journalist, uncovers the seamy underbelly of the music industry, and ends up putting his own life in danger in Bruns' newest book, **SOUTH BEACH SHAKEDOWN**. *BookPage* says "With the relentless action of **SOUTH BEACH SHAKEDOWN**, Bruns may have crafted this season's quintessential suspense read." Don Bruns is also co-editor of **A MERRY BAND OF MURDERERS** a 2006 release. A musician, painter, cook, and writer, he owns an advertising agency and travels to the Caribbean whenever he has the time.



**JAN BURKE** is the author the Irene Kelly series, including **KIDNAPPED**, **BLOODLINES**, and **BONES**. She has received the Edgar for Best Novel, and her short stories have won the Agatha, Macavity, and other awards. Her work has been published internationally and optioned for film. She is the founder and president of the Crime Lab Project and serves on the board of the California Forensic Science Institute. Learn more about her at [www.janburke.com](http://www.janburke.com)



**NANCY BUSH** began writing in 1981 and published her first novel, a young adult romance, in November 1982. Since then she's written over forty novels in various genres. In 2002 she moved to New York to work as one of six writers on the head writing team for ABC-TV's Daytime Drama *All My Children*. Now, back home in the Northwest, she's thrilled to be "living her dream" -- writing mysteries. **CANDY APPLE RED**, the first book in the Jane Kelly Mystery Series, debuted in 2005 and **ELECTRIC BLUE** arrived October 2006. Nancy is currently fast at work on the third installment, **ULTRAVIOLET**.



**BILL CAMERON** lives with his wife and poodle in Portland, Oregon, where he also serves as staff to a charming, yet imperious cat. He is an eager traveler and avid bird-watcher, and likes to write near a window so he can meditate on whatever happens to fly by during intractable passages. **LOST DOG**, his first suspense novel, will be available from Midnight Ink Books in April 2007. He is currently at work on his second novel.

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## Panelists



**COLIN CAMPBELL** writes crime/horror/and children's fiction. Author of ten novels and a novella he has also written numerous short stories and is a retired police officer in West Yorkshire, having tackled crime on the streets of one of the UK's busiest cities for 30 years. All are available for US publication. [www.campbellfiction.com](http://www.campbellfiction.com) Published Works: DARKWATER TOWERS Blackie & Co Publishers. THROUGH THE RUINS OF MIDNIGHT, BALLAD OF THE ONE LEGGED MAN, & GARGOYLES – SKYLIGHTS AND ROOFSCAPES. Pen Press.



Mysteries are **MICHAEL CASTLEMAN'S** second writing career. For 25 years, he's been a prominent medical journalist, author of 12 consumer health guides. But as a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday present to himself, he finally wrote the novel that had been rattling around his head for 15 years—THE LOST GOLD OF SAN FRANCISCO (2003). The second book in his series, DEATH CAPS, will be released in April. Both books feature newspaper columnist and amateur sleuth Ed Rosenberg, and combine compelling plots, memorable characters, and an intimate feel for San Francisco and its history.



**TONI MCGEE CAUSEY** lives in Baton Rouge with her husband and two sons; a Louisiana native (and Cajun), she has nearly completed a double masters at LSU. She's placed in top tier screenwriting contests, published many non-fiction articles and edited a popular regional magazine. To support her writing addiction, she and her husband Carl run their own civil construction company.

**BOBBIE FAYE** is the first in a three-book deal with St. Martin's Press on a pre-empt; the chaotic, rollercoaster thriller world of BOBBIE FAYE owes much to Toni having way more experience than she'd like to own up to in the world of trouble-shooting, disaster-prevention and survival.



**DIANA R. CHAMBERS** is the author of the topical thriller, STINGER, involving a CIA officer, a daring journalist and an elusive Afghan chief. In THE COMPANY SHE KEEPS, the CIA officer and his new agent follow a mysterious trail that ends in Iran. Diana has been praised for her unusual characters, riveting plots and deep sense of place. A member for the Writers Guild of America, PEN, Sisters in Crime and the

Women's National Book Association, Diana lives in the SF-Bay Area with her family. She is currently at work on BEYOND THE BORDER, a romantic thriller set in Russia.



**SEAN CHERCOVER** Formerly a private investigator in Chicago and New Orleans, Sean Chercover has since written for film, television and print. He's also worked as a film and video editor, scuba diver, car-jockey, waiter, truck driver, encyclopedia salesman, and in other, less glamorous positions. He lives in Chicago and generally stays out of trouble. BIG CITY, BAD BLOOD is his first novel.



**MEG CHITTENDEN** has published short stories, articles and 38 books in the last 36 years. Most of her novels feature mystery and/or sex. Her most recent publications are: MORE THAN YOU KNOW, and SNAP SHOT, and "The Frog That Croaked in the Night," (*Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*.) Her article, "Ten Wise Thoughts about Characters," will appear in *The Writer* in May.



**JANE CLELAND DEADLY APPRAISAL** (St. Martin's Minotaur), features antiques appraiser, Josie Prescott. CONSIGNED TO DEATH, the first in the traditional series, received outstanding critical and fan praise and has been called an *Antiques Roadshow* for mystery fans. The series is set on the rugged seacoast of New Hampshire where Jane owned an antiques business for many years. Jane is the Chair of the Wolfe Pack's literary awards, including the Nero and the new Black Orchid Novella Award (in partnership with *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*) and is President of the MWA/NY Chapter. She and her husband live in New York City. [www.janecleland.net](http://www.janecleland.net)



**MARK COGGINS** writes the August Riordan series, featuring jazz bass-playing PI Riordan. His books have been nominated for the Shamus and Barry awards and selected for four best of the year lists, including those put together by the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *Detroit Free Press*. Of his new novel, Michael Connelly has said, "I've been waiting a long time for someone to take a fresh look at the private eye novel. Mark Coggins has delivered it here in CANDY FROM STRANGERS. It's original, it's smart and it was good to the last page."



**TROY COOK** worked on over 80 feature films, writing and directing his first at age 24. Shooting films in exotic locations led to brushes with the Russian Mafia, money launderers, and murderers. After surviving an attempted coup, riots, and violent demonstrations, he's decided it's safer to write novels. His debut, 47 RULES OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE BANK ROBBERS, was a "Killer Pick" by the Ind. Mystery Booksellers Assoc. and won the Silver Evvy for Best Novel. *Library Journal* called it "A literary jewel. Don't miss it." and Ken Bruen called it "A hell of a book!" Visit [www.troycook.net](http://www.troycook.net) for more information.



**BRUCE COOK** has earned credits as writer, producer, or director on eleven independent feature films. He has written more than twenty screenplays, including the films *The Census Taker*, *Line of Fire*, and *Nightwish*. Dr. Cook holds degrees in Physics, Mathematics, and Communications. His first job was as a laser physicist on the Apollo Project. Bruce Cook is the author of PHILIPPINE FEVER. He and his wife live in Castaic, California. Visit him at [www.brucecookonline.com](http://www.brucecookonline.com)

## Panelists



**DAVID CORBETT'S** first novel, *THE DEVIL'S RED-HEAD*, was nominated for the Anthony and Barry Awards for Best First Novel of 2002. His second, *DONE FOR A DIME*, was named a *New York Times* Notable Book and was nominated for the Macavity Award for Best Novel of 2003. His latest novel, *BLOOD OF PARADISE*, has been described as "a Quiet American for the new century," and will appear in March, 2007. He resides in northern California. To learn more, go to [www.davidcorbett.com](http://www.davidcorbett.com).



Seattle native **MARY RICHARDSON DAHEIM** majored in journalism at the University of Washington and was the first female editor of *The Daily*. After getting her B.A., she worked in newspapers and public relations. In 1983, Daheim's first historical romance was published, followed by a half-dozen more before she switched genres to her original fictional love, mysteries. Almost fifty books have been published in her B&B and Emma Lord series. Married to professor emeritus and playwright David Daheim, the couple lives in Seattle and has three grown daughters



**JOHN M. DANIEL** is the author of the Guy Mallon mystery series published by Poisoned Pen Press: *THE POET'S FUNERAL* (2005) and *VANITY FIRE* (2006). These novels are set in the world of small press publishing, a world John knows well, and they're set in Santa Barbara, where he was a publisher for 20 years. He now lives in McKinleyville, California, where he and his wife, Susan, stay in the publishing game, partnering with Perseverance Press to publish fine mystery fiction.



**JOAN DEL MONTE** taught a course at Santa Monica College called "Writing the Mystery, A Guide To The Pitfalls From Someone Who Has Fallen Into Most Of Them." She has published two mysteries: *PLOK GOES THE WEASEL*, a revenge novel set in Humboldt County, California, and *DEATH HAD A YELLOW THUMB*, set in San Pedro, California, about the counterfeiting of the expensive spice, saffron. She has just completed her third mystery, *MUD BLOOD*, set in the Sacramento Delta. Joan wrote a bibliography on antiques for the Los Angeles Public Library and has written articles on antiques for national newspapers. She is a frequent public speaker about the writers life and her books.



**JO DERESKE** is originally from western Michigan but has lived in Washington state since 1978. Her first book, *GLOM GLOOM*, was a fantasy for young people. Her 16th, *CATALOGUE OF DEATH* (Avon, May, 2007) is the tenth entry in the Miss Zukas mystery series. Website: [www.jodereske.com](http://www.jodereske.com)



**DENISE DIETZ** met her husband, novelist Gordon Aalborg, on the internet. They wed at a writers conference and live on Vancouver Island. The author of 14 novels, Deni's latest mysteries are *EYE OF NEWT*, starring reluctant witch Sydney St. Charles, and *CHAIN A LAMB CHOP TO THE BED*, third in the Ellie Bernstein/ Lt. Peter Miller "diet club" series. Deni's alter-ego, Mary Ellen Dennis, is the author of *THE LANDLORD'S BLACK-EYED DAUGHTER*, a paranormal history-mystery-romance, due out this August.



**DEBORAH DONNELLY** writes the witty and romantic Wedding Planner Mysteries from Bantam Dell. The series stars Seattle houseboater Carnegie Kincaid, who combines a flair for gowns and flowers with a knack for finding corpses. *Publishers Weekly* describes the latest, *BRIDE AND DOOM*, as "stuffed with charm and zany characters." Deborah is a former university librarian, executive speechwriter and improbable nanny, as well as a grateful breast cancer survivor. She lives physically in Portland, Oregon, and electronically at [www.deborahdonnelly.org](http://www.deborahdonnelly.org).



**MICHAEL DONNELLY** I served as head of labor relations at the Bangor Submarine Base before embarking on my career as a novelist. I may stir up mayhem in my plots, but remain committed to resolving conflict as a community mediator. I grow rare plants, entertain seagulls with my guitar, and kayak to islands few people have heard of. I'm a longtime practitioner of raja yoga and have a keen interest in ancient history, which will be apparent in my next Egret VanGerpin mystery. More on my website: [www.donnellybooks.com](http://www.donnellybooks.com)



**EILEEN DREYER** is actually evil twins. As herself, she has published ten short stories and eight best-selling suspense novels, including her latest from St. Martin's Press, *SINNERS AND SAINTS*, in which St. Louis forensic nurse liaison Chastity Byrnes has to search New Orleans for her missing sister. As Kathleen Korb, she has written twenty-three novels for Silhouette books. A veteran trauma nurse, Eileen is trained in forensics, death investigation, and tactical medicine. She lives in her native St. Louis with husband and children. She has animals but refuses to subject them to the glare of the lime-light.



**SUSAN DUNLAP'S** latest book is *A SINGLE EYE*, in which stunt double Darcy Lott faces her greatest fear while at a Zen retreat in northern California. Dunlap's other series characters are: Berkeley Police Officer Jill Smith, Forensic pathologist-cum-private investigator Kiernan O'Shaughnessy and utility meter reader Vejay Haskell. She has taught hatha yoga, worked as a paralegal and been part of the private investigative defense team in a capital murder case. She is very happy to be back here among serious mystery readers and coffee drinkers.



## Panelists



**CAROLA DUNN** is the author of the Daisy Dalrymple mystery series, set in England in the 1920s, several of which have been IMBA bestsellers. The series was nominated for a RT lifetime achievement award. A reviewer said of the first title: "Heaven for those who miss Allingham and Sayers...cries out for the BBC to film it...Perfect hammock reading that never insults your intelligence...A portrait under glass of another era." The most recent Daisy title, fifteenth in the series, is *GUNPOWDER PLOT*, and *THE BLOODY TOWER* is due out Summer 2007. *FALL OF A PHILANDERER* is the latest paperback. [www.geocities.com/CarolaDunn/](http://www.geocities.com/CarolaDunn/)



**MARTIN EDWARDS'** Lake District Mysteries published by Poisoned Pen Press include *THE COFFIN TRAIL* (short-listed for the Theakston's prize for best British crime novel of 2006) and *THE CIPHER GARDEN*. *THE ARSENIC LABYRINTH* is published in February 2007. Twice short-listed for CWA Daggers, he has written seven novels about lawyer Harry Devlin, plus a stand-alone, *TAKE MY BREATH AWAY*.

He completed Bill Knox's last book, *THE LAZARUS WIDOW* and wrote a study of homicide investigation, *URGE TO KILL*. A well-known critic and commentator on crime fiction, he has edited 15 anthologies and published seven non-fiction books. Website - [www.martinedwardsbooks.com](http://www.martinedwardsbooks.com)



**KIT EHRMAN** pens the equine-oriented Steve Cline Mystery Series published by Poisoned Pen Press. Her series has received outstanding reviews in *The New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Denver Post*, and *Kirkus*, among others. Ehrman attended Wilson College and later worked as a groom, veterinary assistant, and barn manager at numerous horse facilities in Maryland and Pennsylvania. She is a member of Mystery Writers of America, International Thriller Writers, Inc., and Sisters in Crime. To learn more, visit [www.kitehrman.com](http://www.kitehrman.com).



**BARRY EISLER** worked in the CIA's Directorate of Operations, then lived in Japan, where he earned his black belt at the Kodokan International Judo Center. The Rain books, featuring half-Japanese, half-American assassin John Rain, have won the Barry and Gumshoe Awards; have been included in numerous "Best Of" lists; have been translated into twenty languages; and have been optioned for film by Barrie Osborne, Oscar-winning producer of the Lord of the Rings trilogy. [www.barryeisler.com](http://www.barryeisler.com)



Former anthropologist **AARON ELKINS** has been writing mysteries since 1982, having won an Edgar for *OLD BONES* in 1988, as well as an Agatha (with his wife Charlotte), and a Nero Wolfe Award. His major continuing series features forensic anthropologist-detective Gideon Oliver, "the skeleton detective." A second series features art curator-sleuth Chris Norgren, and he

and Charlotte have collaborated on several mysteries with female golfer Lee Ofsted. His books have been selections of the major book clubs, have been published in a dozen languages, and have been made into an ABC television series. He and Charlotte live on Washington's Olympic Peninsula.



**MARY ANNA EVANS** has degrees in chemical engineering and physics, but her heart is in the past. Her series character, Faye Longchamp, lives the exciting life of an archaeologist, and Mary Anna envies her a little. Her books, *ARTIFACTS* and *RELICS*, earned a Benjamin Franklin Award, a Patrick D. Smith Florida Literature Award, a SIBA Book Award nomination, and a spot on the IMBA bestseller list. *EFFIGIES*,

third in the series, is out just in time for LCC. Mary Anna lives in Florida with her husband, three children, about 20 musical instruments, and a cat. Learn more about her work at [www.maryannaevans.com](http://www.maryannaevans.com)



**ROBERT FATE** has written for network TV and feature films. As a Hollywood F/X technician, he's won an Academy Award for Technical Achievement. He's a Marine Corps veteran who studied at the Sorbonne, roughnecked in the oilfields of Oklahoma, fashion-modeled in NYC, and been a chef at a chi-chi LA eatery. He lives in LA and *BABY SHARK* and *BABY SHARK'S BEAUMONT BLUES* are the first two novels in his crime series. [www.robertfate.com](http://www.robertfate.com).



**TED FITZGERALD** is particularly pleased that one of his short stories shared space with one of Michael Collins' Dan Fortune tales in the Spillane/Collins *PRIVATE EYES* anthology. Fitzgerald has also reviewed crime fiction in *The Droid Review of Mystery* and other publications, received the 2004 Don Sandstrom Memorial Award and twice been a finalist for the Ellen Nehr Award. He currently serves as chair of the Private Eye Writers of America's Shamus Awards.



**KATE FLORA:** A research trip to a police department led Kate Flora to co-write the inside story of a murder investigation with Portland, Maine Deputy Chief Joseph Loughlin. The result is *FINDING AMY: A TRUE STORY OF MURDER IN MAINE*. She's recently published her first Joe Burgess police procedural, *PLAYING GOD*, and her 7<sup>th</sup> Thea Kozak mystery, *STALKING DEATH*. She's writing

another Joe Burgess, *THE ANGEL OF KNOWLTON PARK*, a screenplay, *Girls Night Out*, and working on her MFA in creative writing. Flora is a partner in Level Best Books, a cooperative publishing anthologies of crime stories by New England writers. She is a former Maine Assistant Attorney General and former president of Sisters in Crime. See [kateflora.com](http://kateflora.com).

## Panelists



**SUNNY FRAZIER** worked with an undercover narcotics team in Fresno County before publishing mysteries. She has 30 awards for her short mystery fiction, published in *Murderous Intent Mystery Magazine*; *Crime and Suspense*; *Blue Murder*; *Writer's Journal*; *NEWN*; and read on National Public Radio. Stories appear in three anthologies: *VALLEY FEVER: WHERE MURDER IS CONTAGIOUS*; *SEVEN BY SEVEN: THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS ANTHOLOGY*; and *GONE COASTAL*. Her novel, *FOOLS RUSH IN* is published by Wolfmont Publishing. Frazier is acquisitions editor of Wolfmont Press, and a member of both the San Joaquin Chapter and Central Coast Chapter of Sisters in Crime.



**GWEN FREEMAN** is a partner in an LA law firm, and represents death row inmates in their final appeals. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia, College and Law School, and she interned at the CIA, and clerked for the Dade County Attorney and the Court of Common Pleas in Lancaster PA. She is also an artist whose work is shown at galleries nationwide.



**LEE GOLDBERG** is a two-time Edgar Award nominee whose many TV writing and/or producing credits include *Martial Law*, *SeaQuest*, *Diagnosis Murder*, *Hunter*, *Spenser: For Hire*, *Nero Wolfe*, *Missing* and *Monk*. He's also the author of *MY GUN HAS BULLETS*, *BEYOND THE BEYOND*, *SUCCESSFUL TELEVISION WRITING*, the Shamus-nominated *THE MAN WITH THE IRON-ON BADGE* and the *DIAGNOSIS MURDER* and *MONK* series of paperback originals.



**THOMAS H. GRIFFITH** is a clergyman by occupation, but writes mystery novels as vehicles to make socio-theological points about life, in contemporary terms. In his first novel, *THE BURGER BARN ON SUNSET*, he deals with the question of "What Constitutes 'Justice'?" He is working on his second novel, *THE CONVALESCENT HOME ON CAHUENGA*, which will deal with the concept of "commitment" as it looks at two murders, over 60 years apart—where the only link between the two is the love interest's father, who is in a rest home with Alzheimer's Disease. Tom lives and works as a pastor in Los Angeles, CA.



**NICOLA GRIFFITH** ([nicolagriffith.com](http://nicolagriffith.com)) was born in England but lives in Seattle with her partner, writer Kelley Eskridge. In the UK she taught women's self-defense for five years, until a diagnosis of MS slowed her down a bit and she turned her attention to writing. She's the author of four novels, most recently *STAY* (Nan A. Talese/Vintage Black Lizard). With her fifth novel, *ALWAYS* (forthcoming in April, from Riverhead), she has

finally (yay!) found a way to combine her two areas of expertise.



**KATHLEEN HAGEN** is a lawyer who has been employed with Minneapolis Legal Aid for the past 13 years working to get civil rights for, and to protect the benefits of, people with disabilities. Kathy has read mysteries since junior high when she started with Agatha Christie and Mary Roberts Rinehart and the Mr. and Mrs. North books by the Lockridges. Kathy is blind, so many of the books she reads are audio books on tapes, CD's and, most recently, MP-3's. She looks forward to more recognition by mystery fans of the joy of reading/listening to audio books so that even more publishers make books available on audio.



**PARNELL HALL** is the author of the Puzzle Lady crossword puzzle mysteries, the Stanley Hastings private eye novels, and the Steve Winslow courtroom dramas. The Puzzle Lady is currently under arrest for murder in *YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN PUZZLED*. Stanley Hastings will be back next summer as the unlikely bodyguard of a mob hitman. Steve Winslow is resting. [www.parnellhall.com](http://www.parnellhall.com) or [www.puzzlelady.com](http://www.puzzlelady.com)



**LAUREN HANEY**, a former technical editor in the aerospace and international construction industries, is the author of the ancient Egyptian mystery series featuring Lieutenant Bak. Set during the reign of Queen Hatshepsut, the series includes *THE RIGHT HAND OF AMON* and, most recently, *FLESH OF THE GOD* and *A PATH OF SHADOWS*. She lives in Northern California and travels to Egypt at every

opportunity.



**VINNIE HANSEN** writes the Carol Sabala murder mystery series set in a "faithfully rendered" Santa Cruz, California. Ms. Hansen's short stories and articles have appeared in numerous magazines and newspapers. An English teacher for the past 23 years, Vinnie Hansen lives in Santa Cruz with her husband, artist

Daniel S. Friedman, and their spoiled cat, Lola. For more information, visit her website at [www.vinniehansen.com](http://www.vinniehansen.com)



**PATRICIA HARRINGTON** is a Northwest writer with a savvy sleuth named Bridget O'Hern. Bridget lives in St. Mary's Corner, which is an actual historic location in Western Washington. The latest Bridget O'Hern mystery, *DEATH COMES TOO SOON*, is set on the Oregon coast. Patricia is a 2006 Derringer recipient, and her short fiction has appeared in

anthologies that include *MURDER BY SIX*, *MYSTERY IN MIND* and the *EX-FACTOR*. She also has a trio of fifth-grade sleuths, *THE STANLEY STREET IRREGULARS*, and a beginning reader Series featuring Fat Cat and Gray Mouse. [www.patriciaharrington.com](http://www.patriciaharrington.com)

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## Panelists



**GABRIELLA HERKERT** has been practicing law for twenty years and plotting against people even longer. She was a Debut Dagger Finalist and a Rupert Hughes Prose Award recipient. Her debut mystery, *CATNAPPED*, part of the Animal Instinct Mysteries will be published in September 2007 by NAL.



**DAVID HEWSON'S** series featuring the young Roman detective Nic Costa has been translated into many languages around the world, including Chinese, Russian and Japanese and Italian. A former journalist with the *London Times* and *Sunday Times* he now writes full time. Marilyn Stasio in the New York Times said of fourth Costa novel *THE LIZARD'S BITE*, "Told with dashing style, in atmospheric set pieces that capture the theatrical grandeur of Venice and the pockets of miserable squalor behind its splendid facade."



**R J HILLHOUSE** has slipped across closed borders, smuggled jewels and has been solicited for recruitment as a spy by foreign governments, among others. (They failed.) A former professor and Fulbright fellow, Hillhouse is an expert in international affairs and national security.



**NAOMI HIRAHARA**, born and raised in Southern California, is the author of a mystery series (Bantam Dell) featuring Mas Arai, a Japanese American gardener and atomic-bomb survivor living in Los Angeles, a protagonist inspired by her father. The first, *SUMMER OF THE BIG BACHI*, was nominated for a Macavity mystery award and was featured in the *Publishers Weekly's* list of best books of 2004. Her latest novel in the series is *SNAKESKIN SHAMISEN*, which was released in May 2006. Her short story, "Number 19," will be featured in Akashic's LOS ANGELES NOIR this spring. Her web site is [www.naomihirahara.com](http://www.naomihirahara.com)



In a past life, **MURDOCH HUGHES** lived a short but beautiful life as a Chinese Ring-necked Pheasant living in a wheat field near Waterville, Washington. There he was flushed from cover by a mixed-breed beagle, and shot. This was a grievous typo in the reincarnation transmission code by the eight-armed secretary of the Elephant God, Ganesh, so Murdoch was granted release from the cycle, and now

lives in Seattle as the author of two mysteries, *MURDER IN LA PAZ* and *DEATH MASK OF THE JAGUAR*. A third mystery, *THE SEATTLE BARISTA KILLER*, is scheduled for release in March, 2007, by Mundania Press



**JANE ISENBERG** is the author of *HOT WIRED*, the 8<sup>th</sup> book in the Bel Barrett Mystery Series. Bel is a menopausal community college English prof, a career from which Jane retired in 2000. Like Bel, Jane lived in Hoboken, New Jersey for many years, but in 2003 she and her husband followed their succulent grandchildren to Issaquah, Washington. Inspired by this move, she is working on a stand-alone mystery set partly in Seattle's Jewish community during the Gold Rush.



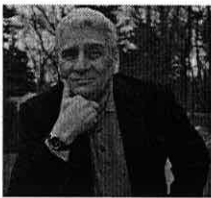
**LISA JACKSON** was born and raised in a small town in Oregon. She has been writing books since the early eighties along with sister Nancy Bush. Lisa lives in the Pacific Northwest and enjoys outdoor activities with family and friends. Lisa has just finished writing *ABSOLUTE FEAR*, the sequel to last spring's *SHIVER*.



**ANNE JAYNE** is a lawyer by trade, with a focus on research and education. Her areas of particular interest have included civil liberties, human rights, refugees, and survivors of torture. Anne has long been a fan of the mystery genre, and she is now writing a mystery as well as reading them. She is the president of Mystery Writers Ink, a Calgary-based writers' group ([www.mysterywritersink.com](http://www.mysterywritersink.com)). Anne lives in Calgary, Alberta.



**CRAIG JOHNSON** has received high praise for his novels *THE COLD DISH* (Viking/Penguin) and *DEATH WITHOUT COMPANY* (Viking) with starred reviews in *Kirkus* and *Booklist* and with *Booksense* and *Killer* picks. *THE COLD DISH* was a DILYS award finalist and *DEATH WITHOUT COMPANY* won the 2006 Wyoming Historical Society's Best Fiction Award and is short-listed for the Mountain & Plains Book of the Year. The short story, "Old Indian Trick", won the Hillerman Award, and *KINDNESS GOES UNPUNISHED* (Viking), the third in the Walt Longmire series, will be published in March. An ex-police officer, Craig lives in Ucross, Wyoming, population 25. [www.craigallenjohnson.com](http://www.craigallenjohnson.com)



**MARSHALL KARP** *The New York Times Book Review* says Karp "brings to mind Robert B. Parker, Janet Evanovich, Dean Koontz, Stuart Woods and a lot of other fast-paced authors." Maybe that's because before he began murdering people in Hollywood, Karp wrote fast-paced sitcoms for George Clooney, Jason Alexander, and many other stars. James Patterson says, "Karp could well be the Carl Hiaasen of Los Angeles -- only I think he's even funnier." He's also a produced playwright (*Squabbles*) and screenwriter (*Just Looking*). *THE RABBIT FACTORY*, his first novel, introduced Detectives Lomax and Biggs, who will return in *BLOODTHIRSTY*, (May 2007). [www.LomaxAndBiggs.com](http://www.LomaxAndBiggs.com).





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**LARRY KARP** built upon his many years of collecting and restoring antique music boxes to turn out the well-received Music Box Mystery Series (THE MUSIC BOX MURDERS, SCAMMING THE BIRDMAN, THE MIDNIGHT SPECIAL), set in New York City and featuring amateur sleuth Dr. Thomas Purdue; then he applied his medical background to write the partially-historical **FIRST,**

**DO NO HARM.** Now, Larry, a ragtime music buff, has taken the plunge into the deep end of the history pool to explore a strange occurrence from more than a hundred years ago involving composer Scott Joplin. Larry and his wife Myra live in Seattle.



Born in Glendale, CA, **EVAN KILGORE** grew up in Tacoma, WA, and has been writing since before he could hold a pen. In college, he studied film at the University of Southern California. His first novel, **WHO IS SHAYLA HACKER,** will be released by Bleak House Books in June, 2007. In addition to his books, Evan is working on a number of motion picture screenplays and television pilots. He currently

lives in Los Angeles.



**CHRISTINE KLING** has spent over twenty years living on boats and cruising the Caribbean and the Pacific working as a charter boat cook and deckhand. This experience led to her first suspense novel, **SURFACE TENSION** (2002), which introduced Florida female tugboat captain, Seychelle Sullivan. **CROSS CURRENT** (2004) and **BITTER END** (2005) continued the series. Christine completed her MFA in creative writing at Florida International University, and today, she lives aboard her 33-foot sailboat *Talespinner* in Fort Lauderdale. The fourth novel in her series, **WRECKERS KEY,** will go on sale February 27, 2007.



**DEBRA PURDY KONG** has had more than eighty short stories, essays, and articles written for publications in North America and England. She's also published **TAXED TO DEATH,** an amateur sleuth novel featuring junior tax auditor, Alex Bellamy. She lives in Port Moody with her family. More information about Debra and her work can be found at [www.debrapurdykong.com](http://www.debrapurdykong.com).



**HARLEY JANE KOZAK,** a sometimes actress, lives in Topanga Canyon with her trial lawyer husband, two big dogs, and three small children. Her debut novel, **DATING DEAD MEN,** won the Agatha, Anthony, and Macavity awards. Its sequel was **DATING IS MURDER,** and **DEAD EX** arrives in August 2007. Her short fiction

has appeared in *Ms. Magazine, Soap Opera Digest, The Sun, The Santa Monica Review,* and the anthology **THIS IS CHICK LIT.**



**ROB KRESGE** spent 30 years in the CIA, 10 of them in the Counterterrorist Center, of which he was a founding member. On 9/11/2001, he was the senior analyst responsible for warning of terrorist attacks on US interests. He has written three historical mysteries, the first of which (**MURDER FOR GREENHORNS**) is under final consideration by a major publisher at this time. He has also written a Civil War spy novel, **FIRE FROM THE ASHES,** based on a true story, that reads like **COLD MOUNTAIN** meets **EYE OF THE NEEDLE.** He has lived in Albuquerque, NM since 2002.



**KEN KUHLEN'S** stories have appeared in *Esquire* and numerous other magazines, been honorably mentioned in Best American Short Stories, and earned a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. With Alan Russell, in the novella **NO CATS, NO CHOCOLATE,** Ken has chronicled the madness of book promotion tours. His novels are **MIDHEAVEN** (finalist for the Ernest Hemingway

Award for best first fiction book, 1980), and the Hickey family mysteries **THE LOUD ADIOS** (St. Martin's/PWA Press Best First PI Novel, 1989), **THE VENUS DEAL,** **THE ANGEL GANG,** and **THE DO-RE-MI.** [www.kenkuhlen.net](http://www.kenkuhlen.net)



Fate took **RITA LAKIN** from New York to Los Angeles where she was seduced by palm trees and movie studios. The next twenty years she wrote for television and had every possible job from free-lance writer to story editor to staff then finally producing. She worked on shows such as *Dr. Kildare, Peyton Place, Mod Squad & Dynasty.* She created her own shows: *The Rookies, Flamingo Road* and *Nightingales.* She

wrote many **MOW's** (Movies of the Week) and mini-series such as *Death takes A Holiday, Women In Chains, Strong Medicine & Voices of the Heart.* She has also written two original theatrical plays, *No Language But a Cry* and *Saturday Night at Grossinger's* (co-authored) which are still being produced. Her many awards include Writers Guild of America, Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Allen Poe and the coveted Avery Hopwood Award from the University of Michigan.



**BETTE GOLDEN LAMB** is the co-author, with husband, J.J. Lamb, of two crime novels: **HEIR TO-DAY...**, an adventure thriller, and **BONE DRY,** a medical thriller, both from Five Star Mysteries. Unmistakably from the Bronx, she also is a professional ceramicist and artist, practicing RN, and devoted gardener. Her artistic works have appeared in juried

national and regional shows, and have sold through galleries, associations, and stores (including Kris & Joe Neri's *The Well Red Coyote* in Sedona). The latest Lamb cooperative effort is with their agent. They live in Marin County, California.

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**J. J. LAMB** is the co-author, with wife Bette Golden Lamb, of two recent crime novels: *HEIR TODAY...*, an adventure thriller, and *BONE DRY*, a medical thriller, both from Five Star Mysteries. A former journalist and a forever freelance writer, he is a reluctant but competent jack-of-all-trades, typical of a born-and-raised Hoosier. He also is the author of a Las-Vegas-based PI series featuring Zachariah Tobias Rolfe III, who may resurface in the not-too-distant future. The latest Lamb joint venture is currently with their agent.



**JANET LAPIERRE** is author of the nine Port Silva Mysteries. Set in California in the small Mendocino Coast town of Port Silva (a fictionalized Fort Bragg), the novels deal with murder, mayhem, and civil unrest on the watch of Police Chief Vince Gutierrez, his officers, and other citizens. *FAMILY BUSINESS*, the most recent of the series, is the third to feature Patience and Verity Mackellar, a mother-daughter team of private eyes. LaPierre's novels have been nominated for Macavity, Anthony, and Shamus awards.



**MIKE LAWSON'S** first thriller, *THE INSIDE RING*, about an assassination attempt on the President in which the Secret Service may have been involved, was nominated for the 2006 Barry Award in the Best Thriller category and per *The Seattle Times* was one of the Ten Top Thrillers of 2005. His next book, *THE SECOND PERIMETER*, a novel of espionage and revenge, was released in July 2006. Mike worked for the United States Navy's nuclear power program before turning full time to writing in 2003 and lives in the Pacific Northwest.



**CON LEHANE'S** first Brian McNulty mystery, *BEWARE THE SOLITARY DRINKER*, was a 2002 Publisher's Weekly Best Mystery Novel. The second in the series, *WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND*, was likened to Lawrence Sanders' early Matt Scudder mysteries. *DEATH AT THE OLD HOTEL*, the third bartender Brian McNulty mystery will be out in June 2007. Visit his Web page at

[www.conlehane.com](http://www.conlehane.com)



**HAILEY LIND** is an IMBA bestselling author of the Art Lover's Mystery Series, is a muralist and portrait painter with her own faux-finishing and design business in the San Francisco Bay Area. Before pursuing art and writing full-time, she spent many years in graduate school, waited tables, taught ESL and anthropology, and worked as a school social worker. Though she is a skilled copyist, she stays away from anything that could be considered a forgery...especially now that she knows about the FBI Art Squad.



**LEE LOFLAND** is a retired police detective and has solved cases in areas including homicide, murder for hire, rape, robbery, ritualistic and occult crimes, and narcotics. He is the recipient of both the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police Award for Valor and the General Nathaniel Greene Medal for courageous conduct against an armed robber. Lee was a witness to the execution of the first person in the U.S. sentenced to death based upon DNA evidence, the case which Patricia Cornwell based her first book, *POST-MORTEM*. Lee and his wife, Dr. Denene Lofland currently live in the Boston area where he divides his time between speaking, consulting, and writing. His book *THE BOOK OF POLICE PROCEDURE AND INVESTIGATION*, part of the new Howdunit series is scheduled for release by Writers Digest Books Division in 2007. [www.leelofland.com](http://www.leelofland.com)



**ELLE LOTHLORIEN'S** fascination with the duality of science and religion culminated in her religious thriller, *VIRGIN*, in which a religious historian and a DNA tech uncover evidence of virgin births that have continued since the time of the Virgin Mary. The novel is currently out on submission at six major publishers. When she isn't gnawing at her various appendages while waiting for *The Call*, Elle works in clinical research at The Children's Hospital in Denver, Colorado and sits on the board of Colorado Citizens for Science.



**ROBERT LOPRESTI** supports his writing and song-writing habits by making big bucks as a librarian. He is writing a sequel to his first novel, *SUCH A KILLING CRIME*, which set a murder in Greenwich Village during the folk music revival. He has had more than thirty short stories published, a third of them in *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*. He has won the Derringer Award and been nominated for the Anthony. He lives where it rains a lot.



**RON LOVELL** was a journalism professor at Oregon State University for 24 years. Before that, he worked for McGraw-Hill in Los Angeles and Houston, *Business Week* in Denver, and *Medical World News* in New York. He combined this experience to start his third career as a mystery writer. The protagonist in his Thomas Martindale series is a university journalism professor who used to be a magazine investigative reporter. The books in order are: *MURDER AT YAQUINA HEAD* (Sunstone Press, 2002), *DEAD WHALES TELL NO TALES* (published by Sunstone in 2003), *LIGHTS, CAMERA...MURDER* (2004), *MURDER BELOW ZERO* (Penman Productions, 2005), *SEARCHING FOR MURDER* (Penman, 2006). Lovell is the author or co-author of fourteen textbooks on journalism and photography and hundreds of magazine articles.

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**SHEILA LOWE** is a court-qualified handwriting expert who often appears in the media when there are high-profile cases involving handwriting. A native of Great Britain, she has lived in Southern California for most of her life, developing her handwriting analysis practice and raising three unruly (but wonderful!) kids. Although *POISON PEN* is her first mystery novel, it's not her first published book.

She's the author of two best-selling handwriting analysis books and the award-winning Handwriting Analyzer software.



**D. P. LYLE, MD** is the Macavity winning and Edgar nominated author of the non-fiction books, *MURDER AND MAYHEM: A DOCTOR ANSWERS MEDICAL AND FORENSIC QUESTIONS FOR MYSTERY WRITERS* and *FORENSICS FOR DUMMIES*, and the thrillers, *DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND* and *DOUBLE BLIND*. He has worked with many novelists and with the writers of popular television shows such as *Law & Order*, *CSI: Miami*, *Diagnosis Murder*, *Monk*, *Judging Amy*, *Peacemakers*, *Cold Case*, *House*, *Medium*, and *1-800-Missing*.

Visit The Writers' Medical and Forensics Lab [www.dplylend.com](http://www.dplylend.com).



**TIM MALEENY** is the author of *STEALING THE DRAGON*, the first novel in an ongoing detective series coming February 07 from Midnight Ink, an imprint of Llewellyn Publications. The second book in the series, *BEATING THE BABUSHKA*, will be available October 2007. Tim also wrote the title story for *DEATH DO US PART*, the recent anthology from Mystery Writers of America edited by Harlan Coben.

A graduate of Dartmouth College and Columbia University, Tim currently lives in San Francisco.



**MAGGIE nee MARY MASON** has been a mystery reader since childhood. She has been a bookseller since 1982, specializing in mysteries. Maggie reviews mystery fiction for the Anthony Award winning *Deadly Pleasures Magazine*. She has contributed to the *St. James Guide To Mystery And Detective Fiction*, *THEY DIED IN VAIN*, & *THE 100 FAVORITE MYSTERIES OF THE*

*TWENTIETH CENTURY*. Maggie was the first ever LCC fan guest of honor at Boulder CO, was fan guest of honor at Milwaukee Bouchercon. Maggie is a member of IMBA, Dapa-em, and 4MA. Maggie is on the Barry award committee, and as an IMBA member is involved in Killer Books and the Dilys award. Look for Maggie in the Book Room of most mystery conventions hanging out, or in signing lines.



**ALEX MATTHEWS'** recently published book, *BLOOD'S BURDEN*, is the eighth in her mystery series featuring Cassidy McCabe, a psychotherapist-sleuth who sees clients and solves mysteries out of her Oak Park, Illinois, home. Matthews, a psychotherapist in private practice with her husband, writes mysteries that reflect her interest in feminism, relationships, and cats. Matthews has received the

Readers' Choice Best Series Character Award, the Cat Writers' Muse Medallion, and the Wordweaving Award for Excellence.



**CLAIRE MATTURRO** authors legal thrillers with a sense of humor, including *SKINNY-DIPPING* (Morrow 2004), *WILDCAT WINE* (Morrow 2005) and *BONE VALLEY* (Morrow 2006). *SKINNY-DIPPING* won Romantic Times' Best First Mystery Award, was nominated for a Barry Award, and was a *BookSense* 2004 Pick. Maturro formerly practiced law and taught at Florida State University College of Law. She and her husband usually live at their organic blueberry farm in Georgia, but this winter, she is a visiting professor at the University of Oregon School of Law. See [www.clairematurro.com](http://www.clairematurro.com).



**PETER MAY**, Scottish Young Journalist of the Year at 21, had his first novel published at 26 and quit journalism. In the following 15 years, he created three major TV series for British Television and gathered 1000 writing credits becoming one of Scotland's most successful and prolific television dramatists. Returning to books, he gained unprecedented access to Beijing and Shanghai's homicide and forensic science units to research his "China Thrillers". As a mark of their respect, The Chinese Crime Writers' Association made him an honorary member of their Beijing chapter. His latest book, *EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE* begins a new series set in France.



**HOPE MCINTYRE** is the author of *HOW TO SEDUCE A GHOST* and *HOW TO MARRY A GHOST*, a crime series featuring ghostwriter Lee Bartholomew. Born in London, she spent her childhood in Africa and Paris and now lives at the beach on Long Island, New York. Under her real name, Caroline Upcher, she is the author of ten novels. An Editorial Director for fiction in London publishing for 22 years, She now runs First Base, an online editorial service for first time authors. She is currently writing the third book in the Ghost series, *HOW TO COOK FOR A GHOST*.



**MARILYN MEREDITH** is the author of award winning Deputy Tempe Crabtree mystery series, the latest, *CALLING THE DEAD*, from Mundania Press, as well as the *WISHING MAKES IT SO*, psychological thriller awarded best thriller of '06 by the American Author Association. She is a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, EPIC and Public Safety Writers of America. She makes her home in a small

foothill community much like Bear Creek where Deputy Tempe Crabtree lives.



Recovering field geologist and Tucson writer **SUSAN CUMMINS MILLER** holds degrees in history, anthropology and geology. In a past life she worked for the USGS, the Minerals Management Service and the BLM, and taught geology and oceanography. Susan's novels feature Frankie MacFarlane, a field geologist and professor who lives and works in the West. Each mystery

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(DEATH ASSEMBLAGE, DETACHMENT FAULT and QUARRY) is set in a unique geographic and geologic locale and includes archaeological, historical and pre-historical elements.



**CAMILLE MINICHINO** is the author of eight books in the periodic table mystery series. Each one features a controversial (murderous!) aspect of an element, with her physicist sleuth Gloria Lamerino. Gloria lives above her friends' funeral home and helps the Revere MA police solve crimes. Camille is Nor-Cal President of Sisters in Crime. Visit her at [www.minichino.com](http://www.minichino.com).



**JAMES C. MITCHELL** received Shamus Award nominations for his first two novels, *LOVERS CROSSING* and *CHOKO POINT*. He is finishing his third book featuring the Tucson private eye Brinker. A former journalist, attorney, and professor at the University of Arizona, Jim now divides his time between Arizona and Colorado.



**RICK MOFINA** is a former crime reporter. His book *BLOOD OF OTHERS* won the Arthur Ellis Award for Best Novel. His newest book, *EVERY FEAR*, featuring Seattle rookie reporter Jason Wade, follows, *THE DYING HOUR*, which the International Thriller Writers selected as finalist for a Thriller Award. *Penthouse* calls Mofina, "One of the leading thriller writers of the day." His next Jason Wade book is *A*

*PERFECT GRAVE* and is to be released later this year. He lives in Ottawa, Canada where he is a communications advisor. Visit [www.rickmofina.com](http://www.rickmofina.com)



**ROBERT S. "CAP'N BOB" NAPIER** edited and published *Mystery & Detective Monthly* for almost 20 years. He also contributed to *The Poisoned Pen*, *The Mystery FANcier*, *Mystery Scene*, *The Crime File*, and other fanzines as well as *The Art of Murder* and *The Oxford Companion to Crime and Detection* (still waiting to get paid for that last one, by the way). He has been a member of Dapa-Em since 1979 and ramrods *Owlhoot*, an apa for fans of westerns. He lives in Tacoma and works for the US Air Force. *LOVE, DEATH, AND THE TOYMAN* is his first published novel.



**HÅKAN NESSER** was awarded the Swedish Crime Writers' Academy Prize for new authors for his novel *THE WIDE-MESHED NET*; he received the best novel award for *BORKMANN'S POINT* and *WOMAN WITH A BIRTHMARK*. He was awarded the Crime Writers of Scandinavia's Glass Key Award for the best crime novel of the year for *CARAMBOLE*. *THE RETURN* is his second novel to be translated into English (*BORKMANN'S POINT* was published in 2006). Photo credit: © Cato Lein



**SHARAN NEWMAN** is the author of the award-winning Catherine Levendeur mystery series, set in medieval France. The latest of these is *THE WITCH IN THE WELL* for which she received the Bruce Alexander award for best historical mystery. As a medieval historian and frequent traveler to France, she has also written the *REAL HISTORY BEHIND THE DA VINCI*

*CODE*, an illustrated companion book to the best-selling novel and has just finished *THE REAL HISTORY BEHIND THE TEMPLARS*, out in summer of 2007.



**JANA OLIVER** loves to haunt the back alleys of history. Her latest endeavor, *SOJOURN* (Dragon Moon Press) mixes time travel with shape-shifters in Late Victorian London during the time of the Ripper murders. *SOJOURN* has been dubbed a "rousing mystery-adventure" by *Baryon Magazine* and a "...rare, well-researched and entertaining tale of time travel" by *Casebook: Jack the Ripper*. *VIR-*

*TUAL EVIL*, the second book in the *Time Rover Series*, will be published in late 2007. Jana lives in Atlanta with her husband and two cats, Midnight and Odds-Bobkin. Visitors are always welcome at her website: [www.janaoliver.com](http://www.janaoliver.com).



**STEVE OLIVER** is the author of three novels featuring ex-mental patient detective Scott Moody. These include *MOODY GETS THE BLUES*, *MOODY FOREVER* and *MOODY IN WINTER*. He lives in Spokane.



**ANN PARKER** is a science writer by day and an historical mystery writer by night. Her critically acclaimed Silver Rush mystery series is set in the silver boomtown of Leadville, Colorado, in the early 1880s. *IRON TIES* is the latest in the series. Ann, her husband, and their two children reside in the San Francisco Bay Area, whence she has observed numerous high tech boom-and-bust cycles. Web-

site: [www.annparker.net](http://www.annparker.net)



**LEWIS PERDUE** has written 20 published books. His latest is *PERFECT KILLER*, a partly autobiographical thriller set in the Mississippi Delta which grapples with free will, the origins of consciousness and the true story of a secret military program to use psycho-pharmaceuticals to turn soldiers into perfect killers. Lew has served on the faculties at UCLA and Cornell, founded a wine company, a magazine and two technology firms and worked as a Washington correspondent (Ottawa/Dow-Jones), a columnist for *The Wall Street Journal Online*, *CBS Marketwatch* and *TheStreet.Com*.



**MEREDITH PHILLIPS** is an editor and partner in the independent publishing firm of Perseverance Press/John Daniel & Co. Perseverance publishes established mystery writers who wish to continue a series or begin a new one. Their Left Coast authors include Janet LaPierre, Shelley Singer, Taffy Cannon,

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Rebecca Rothenberg, Penny Warner, Hal Glatzer, Nancy Baker Jacobs, Lora Roberts, Carolyn Wheat, Patricia Guiver, Laura Crum, and Jon L. Breen. These "Mysteries for the New Golden Age" have garnered seven prestigious nominations and awards. Previously, Phillips worked as a freelance editor specializing in mysteries for several NYC houses. Website: [www.danielpublishing.com/perseverance](http://www.danielpublishing.com/perseverance)



**DR. FREDERICK RAMSAY** was born in Baltimore, graduated from Washington and Lee University and received his doctorate from the University of Illinois. After a stint in the Army, he joined the University of Maryland, School of Medicine faculty. In 1971 was ordained an Episcopal priest. In 1991 he accepted a full time position as a clergyman, and served in that capacity for a decade and retired in 2000. ARTSCAPE, was launched in July, 2004. Its sequel, SECRETS, the following year. *Publishers Weekly* named his latest, IMPULSE, as one of the 100 Best Books of the year.



**CATHY PICKENS'** background as a lawyer and business professor lend both grit and fun to her portrayal of a small-town lawyer. SOUTHERN FRIED (St. Martin's 2003 Malice Domestic Award for Best Traditional Mystery) was called an "assured debut, a cozy with some sharp edges" (*Publishers Weekly*) and named a 2004 best new mystery finalist by *RT Book-Club*. DONE GONE WRONG "offers a compelling

glimpse into [the pharmaceutical research] industry, [and] the author's dry sense of humor shades her colorful observations on Charleston and South Carolinians in general" (*The State*). HOG WILD (March 2007) features ghost hunters and two unsolved murders decades apart.



**SAM REAVES** is responsible for two Chicago-based crime series: the four Cooper MacLeish books and the current police series featuring the Dooley family. As Dominic Martell he has penned a European-based intrigue trilogy featuring the dubious Pascual March. Reaves has traveled widely in Europe and the Middle East but has lived in the Chicago area most of his life. He has worked as a teacher and a translator. [www.samreaves.com](http://www.samreaves.com) [www.dominicmartell.com](http://www.dominicmartell.com)



**J. KINGSTON PIERCE** is the editor of The Rap Sheet (<http://therapsheet.blogspot.com/>), a crime-fiction blog, and the senior editor of *January Magazine* ([www.januarymagazine.com](http://www.januarymagazine.com)), an online literary journal. He's also the author of ECCENTRIC SEATTLE (2003) and five previous non-fiction books. Pierce is currently working on his first novel, a crime story set in early 20th-century Los Angeles.



**LINDA L. RICHARDS** is the author of the Madeline Carter novels, the most recent of which is CALCULATED LOSS. Though she spent many years in Los Angeles, Richards was born in Vancouver and now lives in the Gulf Islands. In 1997 she co-founded *JanuaryMagazine.com*, one of the most respected book-related sites on the Internet, a publication she continues to edit.



### JO-ANN POWER

Take a lifelong Washingtonian, drop her deep in the heart of Texas, and you get a gal with a yen to spin a yarn about the two places she knows best. Jo-Ann Power, who used to work in the nation's capital, began to write MISSING MEMBER after she moved to San Antonio. Creating a spunky Texas congress-

woman in a heap of trouble, Power realized she could tell a tale—with a tall, dark, handsome hunk—and chuckle as she wrote. MISSING MEMBER is her first novel in the Me & Mr. Jones series; the second will be coming soon from Thomas Dunne Books. Jo-Ann is the author of 16 popular romance and suspense novels, including NEVER SAY NEVER and ALLURE.



**KAT RICHARDSON'S** first novel, GREYWALKER, is a paranormal detective novel from Roc that became a ridiculously unexpected success. Kat is still completely gobsmacked by it. But she hasn't let it go to her head and is beaver away on books 2 and 3 of the series while still living on a small sailboat in Seattle with her husband, two ferrets, and the world's crabbiest cat. Pity the poor cat.



**KEITH RAFFEL** appears to be suffering from career ADD. He has been a construction worker, historian, Senate staffer, candidate for elective office, professional horseplayer, marketing executive, and founder of an Internet software company. With the 2006 publication of DOT DEAD: A SILICON VALLEY MYSTERY, he embarked on another career — as an author — where he finds the psychic (if

not the monetary) rewards high. *Bookreporter.com* deemed DOT DEAD "without question the most impressive mystery debut of the year," while *The San Jose Mercury* called it a "pleasure" and *Library Journal* called it a "well-plotted mystery" where "you can't go wrong."



### GILLIAN ROBERTS

Beginning with Anthony winner, CAUGHT DEAD IN PHILADELPHIA, Gillian Roberts' schoolteacher, Amanda Pepper, has been at the center of fourteen City of Brotherly Love crimes for two decades, most recently, the final installment, ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS. Roberts is also the author of two books featuring Northern California P.I.'s Emma Howe and Billie August, and one that advises others on how to enjoy a life of crime: YOU CAN WRITE A MYSTERY.



**JOHN MADDOX ROBERTS** is the author of more than 50 books in the mystery, SF and historical genres. His novel SPQR was nominated for the Edgar Award and the series is now up to 13 volumes and 13 languages. He also writes the contemporary Gabe Treloar private eye novels. He lives in Estancia, New Mexico with his wife, Beth, and an indeterminate number of cats.

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**PRISCILLA ROYAL** writes the 13th century mystery series featuring Prioress Eleanor and Brother Thomas of Tyndal Priory in East Anglia. The fourth book, *JUSTICE FOR THE DAMNED*, will be published by Poisoned Pen Press in June 2007. Priscilla grew up in British Columbia but received a degree in world literature from San Francisco State University. Until 2000, she worked for the Federal Government where she received an invaluable education in the complexity of human motivation and experience. She can be reached through her website: [www.priscillaroyal.com](http://www.priscillaroyal.com).



**SJ ROZAN**, a life-long New Yorker, is the author of ten crime novels. Her work has won every major American crime-writing award, including the Edgar, Shamus, Anthony, Nero and Macavity. Booklist called her *ABSENT FRIENDS* "one of the best crime novels of 2004." She's a Sisters in Crime National Board member, a former MWA National Board member, and Private Eye Writers of America ex-President. Her most recent novel is *IN THIS RAIN*. Website: [www.sjrozan.com](http://www.sjrozan.com)



Cornelia Read, author of *A FIELD OF DARKNESS*, has described **SANDRA RUTTAN'S** debut novel as "crime fiction with booster jets—a white-hot blazing ride sure to slam you down some of the darkest, twistiest back alleys that ever corrupted a small city's secret heart." Ruttan's debut, *SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES*, was released in hardcover in January 2007. Sandra Ruttan is the co-founder and editor of *Spinetingler Magazine*, and co-founder of *Killer Year*. Her work has appeared in *Crimespree Magazine*, *The Cynic*, *Demolition* and *Out of the Gutter*. For more information visit [www.sandraruttan.com](http://www.sandraruttan.com), [www.spinetinglermag.com](http://www.spinetinglermag.com) and [www.killeryear.com](http://www.killeryear.com)



Attorney **PAMELA SAMUELS-YOUNG** is the author of the legal thrillers *IN FIRM PURSUIT*, a Romantic Times magazine "Top Pick," and *EVERY REASONABLE DOUBT*, a USA Book News Best Books of 2006 finalist in the mystery, suspense, thriller category. A former journalist, Pamela works as an employment attorney for Toyota, teaches ethics at the University of Redlands and writes a legal column for *Global Woman* magazine. She is a graduate of USC, Northwestern University and UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law. Visit Pamela's website at [www.pamelasamuels-young.com](http://www.pamelasamuels-young.com).



**MARY SAUMS** was a recording engineer in her youth in Muscle Shoals, and was lucky enough to work on albums by Bob Dylan, Roy Orbison, Jimmy Buffet and many other fine artists. She used the music business as backdrop for her first series about Willi Taft, a singer and fledgling PI. Mary's new book, *THISTLE AND TWIGG*, is something like Miss Marple only with assault rifles. It comes out in April 2007 from St. Martin's Minotaur.



**MAGGIE SEFTON** is author of the Berkley Prime Crime Knitting Mystery Series as well as a real estate agent sleuth mystery, *DYING TO SELL* (Five Star), set in Colorado. Agatha Award nominee, *KNIT ONE, KILL TWO*, made four national bestseller lists in June 2005. The second, *NEEDED TO DEATH*, was Barnes & Nobles #1 Bestselling Mass Market Mystery after its December 2005 release. A *DEADLY YARN*, was a Berkley Prime Crime Featured Release for August 2006. The fourth in the series, *A KILLER STITCH*, will be out in hardcover May 2007. Website: [www.maggiesefton.com](http://www.maggiesefton.com)



**WILLIAM SEIL** has worked as a writer for more than 30 years -- first in journalism and then in public relations. After graduating from the University of Illinois with a journalism degree, he went to work as a newspaper reporter. Bill currently works as a corporate business writer in the Seattle area. Seil's first mystery novel, *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TITANIC TRAGEDY*, drew acclaim from reviewers. Seil has completed work on a non-Sherlockian sequel to *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TITANIC TRAGEDY*. The mystery/espionage novel is set prior to the outbreak of World War I.



**BARBARA SERANELLA**, a former auto mechanic with a past, is the nationally best-selling author of crime novels featuring Munch Mancini, a lady mechanic with a past. Seranella's books have been hailed for their "gritty realism, smart plotting, taut suspense, and [their] highly original heroine." St. Martin's press published the eighth novel in the series *AN UNACCEPTABLE DEATH*. She was also nominated for an Edgar Award for her short story "Misdirection". She came in second on the Edgar, but took home an Anthony for the same story. She is seen clutching it furiously close to her body here. Next year (April 2007) St. Martin's will publish the first of a new series called *DEAD MAN'S SWITCH*. Mrs. Seranella lives in La Quinta, California, where she is able to imagine all sorts of crimes and murders.



**ANDI SHECHTER** was Fan Guest of Honor at Left Coast Crime in Anchorage in 2001. She's interviewed mystery authors for *Library Journal*, written reviews for several websites. She maintains the database for Mysterious Home Page (<http://clueclass.com/MystHome/index.html>). She's a blond runway model (see *MANDARIN PLAID* by SJ Rozan, a vampire gamer (see *VAMPIRE BYTES* by Linda Grant), has had a psych unit named for her (see *EVERY SECRET THING* by Laura Lippman). Andi has a serious thing for all things cute, especially gorillas, hedgehogs and for her partner, that nice Stu Shiffman. She is chair of Left Coast Crime 2007.



### MICHAEL W. SHERER

After stints as a manual laborer, dishwasher, bartender, restaurant manager, commercial photographer, magazine editor and public relations executive, Michael W. Sherer decided life should imitate art. He now is a freelance writer and marketing communications consultant. He has published five novels in the



## Panelists

Emerson Ward series (AN OPTION ON DEATH, LITTLE USE FOR DEATH, DEATH CAME DRESSED IN WHITE, A FOREVER DEATH, and DEATH IS NO BARGAIN), and expects a stand-alone novel, ISLAND LIFE, to be published soon. Please visit his Web site at [www.emersonwardmysteries.com](http://www.emersonwardmysteries.com).



**GWEN SHUSTER-HAYNES** manages four lively children, adores her husband, and is working on a mystery series featuring a Harvard MBA amateur sleuth who discovers business can be murder. Before dedicating her life to writing and children, she used her MBA as a consultant and presented workshops on business topics nationally and internationally. In

March 2007 she'll teach her flagship on-line course for writers: "Introverts & Extroverts: Create A Career Plan Built On Your Strengths" for [www.writeruniv.com/](http://www.writeruniv.com/). In October she unveils a Business 101 primer for writers at [www.writersonlineclasses.com/](http://www.writersonlineclasses.com/) called: "The Writing Life: Do You Have What It Takes?"



With series about twins, aliens, ghosts, psychics and clones, **LINDA JOY SINGLETON** has published over 30 midgrade and YA books. Her Regeneration series (Berkley) was chosen by the ALA as a 2001 Quick Pick Choice and THE SEER: WITCH BALL was nominated in 2006. THE SEER series stars Teen Psychic Sabine who tries to fit in at school while hiding premonitions of murder. She also has a

4-5,000 girl series book collection. For writing tips and publishing news check her website: [www.LindaJoySingleton.com](http://www.LindaJoySingleton.com).



**MICHAEL SILVERLING** is the author of THE STERLING INHERITANCE, the St. Martins Press / Private Eye Writers Association best first novel award winner. His second novel featuring the Midnight Investigations Agency, THE SORCERER'S CIRCLE, was published by St. Martins in December of 2006. Michael is also a Supervising Criminal Investigator in Sacramento, California

and works on cases of homicide and other major crimes. He has also qualified as a firearms and weaponless defense instructor.



**DAVID SKIBBINS'** first mystery EIGHT OF SWORDS won the St. Martin's Mystery Contest. His next in the series, HIGH PRIESTESS is out now. His third THE STAR comes out in February of 2007.

They feature Warren Ritter, an ex-radical Tarot card reader, Sally McLaughlin a paraplegic hacker / basketball player, and Rose Janeworth, a psychotherapist with a questionable past. David does life coaching on the

Northern California coast with his brilliant wife and his frisky Portuguese Water Dog. Go to [www.davidskibbins.com](http://www.davidskibbins.com) for a free Tarot reading.



**SUSAN SLATER** has lived in the southwest for 34 years. The enchantment of New Mexico comes alive in her Ben Pecos series--PUMPKIN SEED MASSACRE, YELLOW LIES, THUNDERBIRD, A WAY TO THE MANGER and stand-alones, FLASH FLOOD and

FIVE O'CLOCK SHADOW. A coming of age novel for "older women" titled 0 TO 60 is currently making the rounds in NY.



**ALEXANDRA SOKOLOFF** has sold suspense scripts and adapted novels for numerous Hollywood studios, including Sabine Deitmer's thriller COLD KISSES, which was filmed in Germany. Alex is the author of two supernatural thrillers: THE HARROWING, a ghost story just out from St. Martin's Press, and THE PRICE, coming from St. Martin's in 2007; and a story in THE

DARKER MASK, out from Tor in 2008. She is a former Director of the Board of the WGAW; is the founder of [WriterAction.com](http://WriterAction.com), an online community of professional screenwriters; blogs at [Murderati.com](http://Murderati.com); and sings as a Killerette in the ITW's Killer Thriller Band. [www.alexandrasokoloff.com](http://www.alexandrasokoloff.com)



**PETER SPIEGELMAN** is the Shamus Award-winning author of BLACK MAPS, DEATH'S LITTLE HELPERS, and the upcoming RED CAT (Knopf, 2007), all of which feature private detective and Wall St. refugee John March (called "one of the most intriguing new PIs to come along in quite some time" by *Publishers Weekly*). Mr. Spiegelman's short stories have appeared in the DUBLIN

NOIR (Akashic, 2006) and HARDBOILED BROOKLYN (Bleak House, 2006) collections, and he is the editor of the upcoming WALL ST. NOIR (Akashic, 2007), a collection of short fiction set at the darkest end of The Street. He lives in Connecticut. [www.peterspiegelman.com](http://www.peterspiegelman.com)



**DANA STABENOW** was raised on a 75-foot fish tender in the Gulf of Alaska. She celebrated her 1973 graduation from the University of Alaska with four months in Europe, where she discovered English pubs, German beer and Irish men. Home again, she went to work for British Petroleum at Prudhoe Bay, made an obscene amount of money and went to Hawaii a lot. In 1985 in an act of sheer insanity she quit

to write novels. Her first science fiction novel, SECOND STAR (1991) sank without a trace, her first crime fiction novel, A COLD DAY FOR MURDER (1993) won an Edgar award, her first thriller, BLINDFOLD GAME (2006) hit the NYT bestseller list, and her 23<sup>rd</sup> novel, A DEEPER SLEEP, comes out in January 2007.



**ERIC STONE'S** books include WRONG SIDE OF THE WALL - a true crime / sports biography; THE LIVING ROOM OF THE DEAD - a detective thriller set in Asia, based on a true story of the Russian trade in prostitutes; and the upcoming GRAVE IMPORTS (Bleak House, Fall 2007), based on the facts of the trade in looted Cambodian antiquities.

Eric worked for many years as a journalist in the U.S. and Asia, covering everything from economics to crime; politics to sex. He currently lives in Los Angeles.

## Panelists



**KAREN SWEE** admits to being seduced at an early age by the mysteries of Nancy Drew and the Little House books by Laura Ingalls Wilder. After years of losing herself in the worlds of wonderful mysteries, particularly historical mysteries, Karen wanted to see if she could give something back to the mystery community. Following writing classes; assembling a collection of books on the American Revolution to rival that in the Library of Congress; and learning the joys of re-writing; Karen's first mystery, *LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF MURDER* is set in a New Jersey tavern in 1777 against a backdrop of the British occupation of New Brunswick.



**LEANN SWEENEY** writes the Yellow Rose Mystery Series (Signet) featuring adoption PI Abby Rose. These soft boiled mysteries are set in and around Houston. Her grown children, Shawn and Jillian, are both married and live far, far away—Seattle and NYC. She lives in Friendswood with her husband Mike, their three cats and the ADHD labradoodle Rosie. Her fourth Yellow Rose Mystery, *SHOOT FROM THE LIP* was released in January.



**PARI NOSKIN TAICHERT'S** novels feature fast-living and witty Sasha Solomon, a public relations consultant, who specializes in small-town tourism. *THE CLOVIS INCIDENT* and *THE BELEN HITCH* garnered two consecutive nominations for the Agatha Award and were regional bestsellers. *THE SO-CORRO BLAST*, a gentle and wry look at how we treat each other differently since 9/11, is due out later this year. Never a slouch, Pari is now working on *THE LAS CRUCES HEAT* -- set in New Mexico's chile pepper growing region. In addition, she's plotting a new mystery series based in Takoma Park, MD.



**JON TALTON** is a fourth-generation Arizonan and the author of the David Mapstone mysteries, *CONCRETE DESERT*, *CACTUS HEART*, *CAMELBACK FALLS*, *DRY HEAT* and *ARIZONA DREAMS*. *DRY HEAT* won the *Arizona Highways* magazine Fiction Award in 2005. *ARIZONA DREAMS* was a 2006 BookSense Pick, based on the recommendations of hundreds of independent bookstores. Jon's writing was developed over 20 years as a journalist, working for newspapers in San Diego, Denver, Dayton, Cincinnati and Charlotte. Jon's columns have appeared in newspapers throughout North America. In 2001, Jon returned to Phoenix as a columnist for the *Arizona Republic*. Before journalism, Jon worked as an ambulance medic in the inner city of Phoenix. He was also a teacher. He lives in Phoenix with his wife, Susan.



**BRIAN THORNTON'S** first paying gig was writing opinion columns for beer money back in college at Gonzaga University. His short fiction has appeared in *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, *Shred of Evidence*, and *Bullet UK*. He is also the author of several full-length works of non-fiction,

including *101 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT LINCOLN* (Adams Media 2005). His historical articles and book reviews have appeared in *Columbia: the Magazine of Northwest History*, and *The Pacific Northwest Forum*. Mr. Thornton makes his home in the Seattle area, and is Northwest Regional Chapter President for the Mystery Writers of America.



**LOUISE URE** spent a quarter of a century in advertising and marketing in the United States, Singapore and Australia before finding her true love: writing crime fiction. Her debut novel, *FORCING AMARYLLIS*, won the Shamus Award winner for Best First Novel. Her next book, *THE FAULT TREE*, will be published in early 2008 by St. Martin's Press. Ure currently lives in San Francisco. Please visit her website at: [www.louiseure.com](http://www.louiseure.com)



**Judy Watford** reads 150 audio books a year and has been reading audio since age four. She has a show on [www.acbradio.org](http://www.acbradio.org) called "BookTalk" where she interviews authors, narrators, and anyone else remotely connected with the world of books. She has been an adaptive technology specialist for 25 years. She's a geek who teaches people to use computers with speech, Braille, and optical character recognition. Her most important work involved teaching students to read printed books with scanners.



**ROBERT WEIBEZAHL'S** debut, *THE WICKED AND THE DEAD*, featuring screenwriter Billy Winnetka, has been called "a tightly-written mystery with captivating characters... that pulls you along for the ride of a lifetime" (*Midwest Book Review*). His mystery cookbooks, *A TASTE OF MURDER* and *A SECOND HELPING OF MURDER* were Agatha and Macavity Award finalists. He also writes the monthly "Well Read" column for *BookPage*. Weibezahl lives in southern California, where he is at work on Billy's next Hollywood crime adventure. Look for his short story, "Objet d'Art." in the March/April *Crimespree*. Visit his website at [www.RobertWeibezahl.com](http://www.RobertWeibezahl.com).



**BRIAN M. WIPRUD** lives in New York City and is the award-winning author of four novels: *PIPSQUEAK*, *STUFFED*, *CROOKED* and *SLEEP WITH THE FISHES*. His next novel *TAILED* will be out in May 2007. For information on his books, signings and appearances visit [www.wiprud.com](http://www.wiprud.com)



**TIM WOHLFORTH'S** story "Jesus Christ Is Dead!" made the "Distinguished Mystery Stories" list in Otto Penzler's 2005 BEST AMERICAN MYSTERY STORIES. A story of his is included in the Mystery Writers of America's *DEATH DO US PART*, edited by Harlan Coben. He is a 2003 Pushcart Prize Nominee. He has received a Certificate of Excellence from the Dana Literary Society. Wohlforth has had seventy-two short stories accepted for publication. A contemporary noir novel, *NO TIME TO MOURN*, was recently published. He co-authored the non-fiction book, *ON THE EDGE:*



## Panelists

POLITICAL CULTS RIGHT AND LEFT,  
[www.timwohlforth.com](http://www.timwohlforth.com) [tim@timwohlforth.com](mailto:tim@timwohlforth.com)



In writing her mysteries **BARBARA WORKINGER**, draws on a background of research journalist, antiques dealer, and quilting enthusiast. She lived in Pennsylvania for twenty years. Her Amish Country Mystery series features irrepressible Amish quilter and closet mystery-reader, Hannah Miller and her formerly Amish granddaughter, Caroline, a Lancaster attorney.

The books, *IN DUTCH AGAIN*, *SHOOFLY-PIE-TO-DIE*, and coming soon--- *SEVEN SWEETS AND SEVEN SOURS*, contain well researched details of Amish life woven into fast-paced mystery. Barbara, a finalist in the Malice Domestic Best Unpublished First Mystery Contest, lives in Oregon, and a member of MWA, Sisters-in-Crime and Northwest Writers. Website: [www.Barbaraworkinger.com](http://www.Barbaraworkinger.com)



**FRANK ZAFIRO** served in U.S. Army Intelligence during the end of the Cold War. He became a police officer in 1993. Most of his stories take place in the fictional setting of River City, a mid-sized city in Eastern Washington, with recurring characters and overlapping storylines. His first novel, *UNDER A RAGING MOON*, was published in 2006. Dozens of his short stories have been published in print and online maga-

zines, as well as several different anthologies. Besides writing, Frank enjoys good movies, his three children and hockey. You can keep up with him at <http://frankzafiro.com>.



**MARK RICHARD ZUBRO** is the author of nineteen mysteries novels and four short stories. His new book is *EVERYONE'S DEAD BUT US*. He writes two series. One features Tom Mason and Scott Carpenter as amateur sleuths. The other Paul Turner as a Chicago police detective. His book *A SIMPLE SUBURBAN MURDER* won the Lambda Literary Award for Best Gay Men's mystery. He recently retired after thirty-four years of teaching eighth graders reading and English. Mark lives in Mokena, Illinois, and when not busy writing, naps and eats chocolate.





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## LEFTY AWARD 2007

The Lefty Award goes to the funniest, most humorous, witty, amusing, jocular, comic, hilarious, (take your pick) book of 2006 (copyright date 2006).

### Nominations for the 2007 Lefty Award

MURDER UNLEASHED by Elaine Viets, NAL

GO TO HELENA HANDBASKET by Donna Moore, Point Blank

47 RULES OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE ROBBERS by Troy Cook, Capital Crimes Press

MONKEY MAN by Steve Brewer, Intrigue Press

NO NEST FOR THE WICKET by Donna Andrews, St. Martins



### Previous Lefty Winners:

2006 CAST ADRIFT by Peter Guttridge

2005 BLUE BLOOD by Susan McBride tied with  
WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE PARROTS by Donna Andrews

2004 MUMBO GUMBO by Jerrilyn Farmer

2003 PIPSQUEAK by Brian Wiprud

2002 REVENGE OF THE WROUGHT IRON FLAMINGOS by Donna Andrews tied with  
FENDER BENDERS by Bill Fitzhugh

2001 no award given

2000 MURDER WITH PEACOCKS by Donna Andrews

1999 FOUR TO SCORE by Janet Evanovich

1998 THREE TO GET DEADLY by Janet Evanovich

1997 no award given

1996 THE FAT INNKEEPER by Alan Russell

## Dilys Award

The Dilys Award is named in honor of Dilys Winn, founder of the first bookshop devoted to mysteries. The Independent Mystery Booksellers Association, a trade association devoted to selling mysteries, has presented this award each year since 1993. The award recognizes the books chosen by the members as the ones they most enjoyed selling throughout the year.

### Nominations for the 2007 Dilys Award are:

BILLY BOYLE, James R. Benn (Soho Crime)

HOLMES ON THE RANGE, Steve Hockensmith (St. Martin's Minotaur)

THE MOURNFUL TEDDY, John J. Lamb (Berkley Prime Crime)

STILL LIFE, Louise Penny (St. Martin's Minotaur)

THE VIRGIN OF SMALL PLAINS, Nancy Pickard (Ballantine)

THE THIRTEENTH TALE, Diane Setterfield (Atria Books)

### Previous Winners of the Dilys

**2006 THIRTY-THREE TEETH**  
by Colin Cotterill

**2005 DARKLY DREAMING DEXTER**  
by Jeffery Lindsay

**2004 LOST IN A GOOD BOOK**  
by Jasper Fforde

**2003 IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER**  
by Julia Spencer-Fleming

**2002 MYSTIC RIVER**  
by Dennis Lehane

**2001 A PLACE OF EXECUTION**  
by Val McDermid

**2000 L. A. REQUIEM**  
by Robert Crais

**1999 GONE, BABY GONE**  
by Dennis Lehane

**1998 THREE TO GET DEADLY**  
by Janet Evanovich

**1997 THE POET**  
by Michael Connelly

**1996 THE LAST COYOTE**  
by Michael Connelly

**1995 ONE FOR THE MONEY**  
by Janet Evanovich

**1994 SMILLA'S SENSE OF SNOW**  
by Peter Hoeg

**1993 BOOKED TO DIE**  
by John Dunning

**1992 NATIVE TONGUE**  
by Carl Hiaasen

## AUCTION

We will be hosting a short (90 minutes long), snappy and fabulous LIVE auction -- complete with celebrity auctioneers, **Harley Jane Kozak & Barry Eisler** -- at LCC 2007, on Friday evening.

**Authors! Editors! Generous souls!** Please donate to the LCC auction. if you are an author with a book or story you're working on, please contribute:

- Typically, "Tuckerizations" are the Big Money Items (the use of your name—or that of your loved one—as a character's name in an upcoming mystery novel.
- Writers -- does your character have a special taste for something? Could you bring a sample, with a book to go with it, or cool case for it or a mug to drink it in?
- How about those rare back issues?

If you're an editor of a magazine or publication, would you consider donating a year's subscription to your wonderful work?

- If you're an editor of a magazine or publication, would you consider donating a year's subscription to your wonderful work?
- If you set your work in a very cool place, could you bring a souvenir that is unlikely to be found anywhere else?
- How about a signed set of your first three books, now out of print?
- Or an anthology you had a story in back when, before you were so famous?

We will have a table at the registration area for you to drop off items; if you need to ship an item ahead of time, please do NOT do so without talking with us first.

Keep in mind that we have to deal with airline rules, alas, so perhaps a huge basket of goodies isn't a great idea. If you donate a name, and you wish to have a "release" signed, please provide it yourself; LCC doesn't want to get between you and your characters.

Those who've been at past conventions also may know the stunning work of Vallery Feldman and Pam Dehnke who have made and donated wall hangings since 1997. Their work usually reflects the region. This year's donation --their 11th -- will be on display at registration. Raffle tickets for the piece will be available at the auction table and the winner's name will be chosen at the banquet (winner need not be present to win.)

### **Funds raised at the LCC 2007 auction will benefit the following:**

**The Dennis Lynds Special Collection**, Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara. This fund, in honor and memory of our guest of honor, is a work in progress that was started during Dennis' lifetime. Some of the work done to date includes taping of interviews done with Dennis and the library's oral historian, as well as technical assistance involving work left on Dennis' computer.

**The Seattle Public Library Foundation:** Our second fund, arranged with the support of the Seattle Public Library Foundation, will benefit thousands of library patrons. Monies raised will be used specifically and solely to purchase mysteries for the library. Mysteries circulate very quickly through the main library, its 24 branches, mobile services unit and the talking book and Braille library.

## DEALERS

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### **The Fantasy Connection**

1100 NW Warrenton Drive, #338

Warrington, Oregon 97146

### **Hypothetical Software / Sleuth Noir**

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Seattle, Washington 98112

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### **Metheglin Press**

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### **Perserverance Press / John Daniel & Co.**

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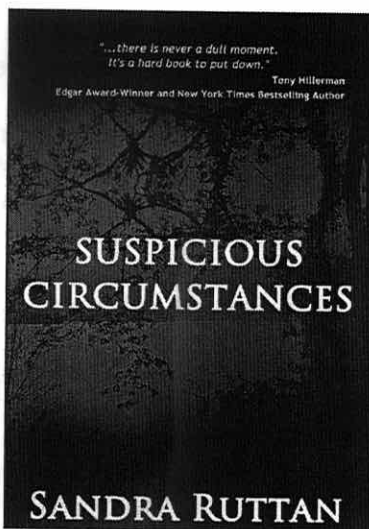


**S**USPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES HAS TO BE ONE OF THE MOST SATISFYING MYSTERIES GOING THAT GRIPS THE READER FROM BEGINNING TO END. -CLIVE CUSSLER

**T**HERE IS NEVER A DULL MOMENT. IT'S A HARD BOOK TO PUT DOWN. -TONY HILLERMAN

## SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

### By Sandra Ruttan



Meet Sandra at  
*Left Coast Crime 2007*

Saturday, Feb 3, 2007  
Track B - 10:00 a.m.

*"Do We Read Thrillers  
Because We Want Heroes?"*



A SUSPICIOUS DEATH.

A MISSING BABY.

A CORRUPT POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WHEN A MAN SHOWS UP IN REPORTER LARA KELLY'S OFFICE WITH A VIDEO THAT APPEARS TO SHOW A WOMAN FALLING TO HER DEATH, LARA IS INTRIGUED BUT SUSPICIOUS. THE MAN CLAIMS HE WENT TO THE POLICE, BUT THAT THEY REFUSED TO INVESTIGATE.

UNDER PRESSURE FROM HER EDITOR TO USE THE VIDEO TO BUILD A STORY ABOUT THE INCOMPETENCE OF THE LOCAL POLICE CAPTAIN, LARA GATHERS ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO PRINT A STORY ABOUT A SUSPECTED SUICIDE.

DETECTIVE TYMEN FARRADAY, THE NEWEST COP IN A PRECINCT PLAGUED BY SCANDAL, IS ORDERED TO INVESTIGATE AND DISCREDIT THE REPORTER IF NECESSARY. WHEN POTENTIAL EVIDENCE IS STOLEN AND LARA IS ATTACKED, FARRADAY IS FORCED TO PUT HIS GRUDGE AGAINST REPORTERS ASIDE AND WORK WITH THE JOURNALIST TO SOLVE THE MURDER WHILE TRYING TO PROTECT HER FROM THE KILLER.

JUST WHEN THEY THINK THEY HAVE THE EVIDENCE TO ARREST A SUSPECT, TWO MORE MURDERS TURN THE INVESTIGATION IN AN UNEXPECTED DIRECTION.

THE GUILTY HAVE ALREADY SHOWN THAT THEY'LL STOP AT NOTHING TO PROTECT THEIR SECRETS.

IN A TOWN WHERE ONE PERSON HOLDS ALL THE POWER, NOT EVEN THE POLICE CAN BE TRUSTED.

AND THE PRIME SUSPECT ISN'T THE ONLY PERSON LARA AND FARRADAY NEED TO WORRY ABOUT.

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## Gone, But Not Forgotten

by Marvin Lachman

As mystery's unofficial "obituarian," I take this opportunity to help Left Coast Crime attendees remember people important to the mystery genre who died in 2006.

**M(ARY) J(O) ADAMSON** at age 71, in October 2006. She wrote two detective series, one about Balthazar Marten and Sixto Cardenas and the other about an 1840s Boston reporter Michael Merrick.

**ROBERT ALTMAN** at age 81, on November 20, 2006. The innovative film director of *M\*A\*S\*H* fame directed two episodes of *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* in 1957-1958.

**PETER BENCHLEY** at age 65, on February 12, 2006. The author of *JAWS* (1974), enormously popular as a book and a movie, he also wrote several crime novels.

**HERBERT BURKHOLTZ** at age 73, on April 30, 2006. He wrote spy novels and thrillers, including three with the literary hoaxer Clifford Irving.

**ALAN CAILLOU** at age c.92, on October 1, 2006. The prolific author of thrillers wrote many books, including the "Assault" series featuring series character Cabot Cain.

**PETER CHAMBERS** at age 81, on July 17, 2006. He wrote under the pseudonyms "Simon Challis," "Peter Chester," and "Philip Daniels," and as Chambers was author of the Mark Preston, private eye, series.

**ANTHEA COHEN** at age c.92, in January 2006. The British novelist was author of at least nine mysteries about series character Nurse Agnes Carmichael.

**MAUREEN DALY** at age 85, on September 25, 2006. Author of the best selling YA novel *SEVENTEETHH SUMMER*, she edited two mystery anthologies. She was the widow of William P. McGivern.

**WILLIAM DIEHL** at age 81, on November 24, 2006. He was a best-selling crime novelist whose books *SHARKY'S MACHINE* and *PRIMAL FEAR* were filmed.

**ERNEST DUDLEY** at age 97, on February 1, 2006. He was a leading writer for British radio in the 1940s, creating the popular Mr. Morelle, a psychoanalyst-detective.

**HENRY FARRELL** at age 85, on March 29, 2006. He wrote seven novels, the most famous of which, *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?* (1960), became a cult classic as a movie with Bette Davis and Joan Crawford.

**KATE FLEMING**, at age 41, in December 2006. A producer of audio books, she recorded over 200 of these as "Anna Fields" and won many awards for her work. Among the mystery authors whose work she narrated were Kate Wilhelm and Donna Leon.

**COLIN FORBES** at age 83, on August 23, 2006. The British author of such successful thrillers as *AVANLANCHE EXPRESS* (1977) also wrote crime novels under his own name, Raymond Harold Dawkins, and as "Jay Bernard" and "Richard Raine."

**GLENN FORD** at age 90, on August 30, 2006. Long a Hollywood leading man, he played in many crime films including *The Big Heat* (1953) and *Experiment in Terror* (1962), in which he played the Gordons' series character, FBI agent John Ripley.

(continued page 47)



**ANTHONY FRANCIOSA** at age 77, on January 19, 2006. He played Donald Hamilton's Matt Helm in a 1975 TV series.

**MICHAEL GILBERT** at age 93, on February 8, 2006. He was one of the best and most prolific of British mystery writers, creator of several series characters including Inspector Patrick Petrella. He was also an attorney, whose clients included Raymond Chandler.

**JOHN GODEY** at age 93, on April 16, 2006. Of his many novels the best known was *THE TAKING OF PELHAM ONE TWO THREE* (1973), which became a successful movie.

**PATRICIA GUIVER** at age 76, on June 13, 2006. A longtime animal welfare advocate, she used her love of animals in a series of books about a detective whose specialty is locating pets.

**JOSEPH HAYES** at age 88, on September 11, 2006. He wrote the novel *THE DESPERATE HOURS* (1954), which he later converted into a Tony-Award winning play. It was also filmed twice.

**PHYLLIS KIRK** at age 79, on October 19, 2006. She played in the most popular 3-D movie, *House of Wax* (1953), and was Nora Charles on the TV series *The Thin Man* (1957-1959).

**CHARLES LARSON** at age c.84, on September 21, 2006. The novelist and TV writer wrote a series about Nils-Frederik Blixen, beginning with *SOMEONE'S DEATH* (1973).

**JAMES McCLURE** at age 66, on June 17, 2006. A South African who went to England to escape apartheid, he is known for his series about Afrikaner Lt. Tromp Kramer and Bantu Sgt. Mickey Zondi. The first in the series, *THE STEAM PIG* (1971), won CWA's Gold Dagger.

**DARREN McGAVIN** at age 83, on February 25, 2006. Among his TV roles were George Harmon Coxe's "Flash" Casey and Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer.

**ELISABETH OGILVIE** at age 89, on September 9, 2006. She was the author of 48 books, mostly about Maine, including seven crime novels.

**FRANK ORENSTEIN** at age 86, on March 19, 2006. His novels featuring Ev Franklin included several, such as *MURDER ON MADISON AVE* (1983), about the advertising industry.

**MARY ORR** at age 95, on September 22, 2006. Her short story "The Wisdom of Eve" was the basis for the film *All About Eve*. With her husband Reginald Denham, she wrote crime plays. She was also an actress and appeared on Broadway in *The Desperate Hours*.

**JACK PALANCE** at age 87, on November 10, 2006. Famous for his one-arm pushups when he won an Oscar, he was the villain in many films, notably *Sudden Fear* (1952) and *Shane* (1953).

**ARTHUR PORGES** at age 90, on May 12, 2006. In addition to science fiction and detective short stories, he wrote parodies of Sherlock Holmes and Ellery Queen.

**RINEHART S. POTTS** at age 79, on September 18, 2006. He was the leading expert on the work of Elizabeth Linington and for 20 years edited and published *The Linington Lineup*.

**LORD PETER RAWLINSON** at age 87, on June 28, 2006. Once Solicitor General and, later, Attorney General of England, he turned to writing legal thrillers after retirement.

**ROBERT ROSENBERG** at age 54, on October 25, 2006. He was a reporter based in Jerusalem who created a series about detective Avram Cohen of that city.

**MICKEY SPILLANE** at age 88, on July 17, 2006. He was the creator of private eye Mike Hammer, whose success in paperback reprints is said to have been responsible for publishers turning to paperback original novels. At one time Spillane's sales made him the best selling author in the world.

**JOSEPH STEFANO** at age 84, on August 25, 2006. He wrote scripts for television and movies and is best known for his screenplay for Hitchcock's *Psycho* (1960).

**FRANK ("FRANKIE") THOMAS** at age 85, on May 11, 2006. An actor who played Nancy Drew's boy friend on film, he wrote Sherlockian pastiche novels after leaving acting.

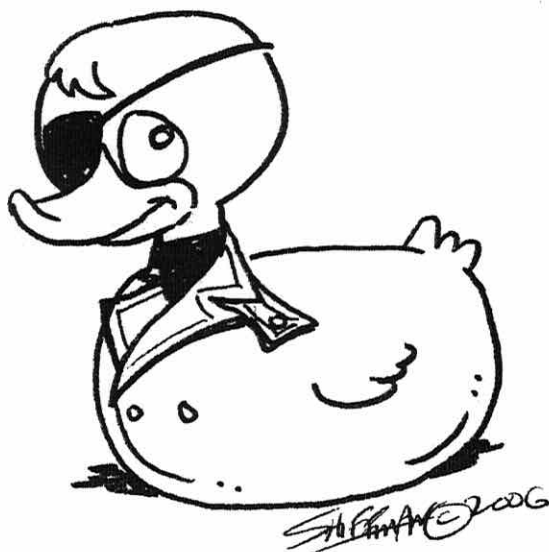
**WILSON "BOB" TUCKER** at age 91, on October 6, 2006. In addition to being a leading science fiction writer, he wrote five detective novels about Charles Horne. His habit of including real people as fictional characters in his books led to what is now known as "Tuckerization."

**DOROTHY UHNAK** at age 76, on July 8, 2006. A former NYC transit police officer, she used her experience in writing non-fiction and, later, a series of novels beginning with *THE BAIT* (1968), co-winner of an Edgar for Best First Novel.

**MARILYN WALLACE** at age 65, on July 29, 2006. In addition to writing novels, she edited the popular series of *Sisters in Crime* anthologies and *Deadly Partners*, a collaboration of *Private Eye Writers of America* and *Sisters in Crime*.

**DENNIS WEAVER** at age 81, on February 24, 2006. After playing the deputy Chester in *Gunsmoke*, he had the lead in *McCloud* (1970-1976) as a New Mexico lawman in New York City.

**JACK WILLIAMSON** at age 98, in November 2006. A leading science fiction writer, he also wrote mysteries, including *MAZEWAY* (1990), which is set in the future.





## Left Coast Crime Honorees Past and Present

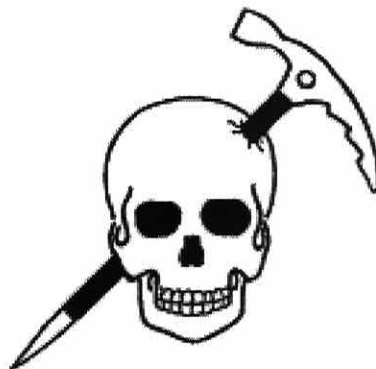
Place	Year	Guest(s) of Honor	Fan Guest(s) of Honor	Toastmaster(s)	Lifetime Achievement Award
San Francisco, CA	1991	Marcia Muller & Bill Pronzini			
San Francisco, CA	1992	J.A. Jance & Earl Emerson		James Lee Burke	
Anaheim, CA	1993	Susan Dunlap		Ann & Evan Maxwell	
Anaheim, CA	1994	Aaron Elkins		Carolyn Hart	
Scottsdale, AZ	1995	Tony Hillerman		Judith Van Gieson	
Boulder, CO	1996	Kinky Friedman	Maggie Mason	Nevada Barr	
Seattle, WA	1997	Faye & Jonathan Kellerman		Lia Matera	
San Diego, CA	1998	Elizabeth George	Willis Herr	Alan Russell	Bob Wade
Albuquerque, NM	1999	John Dunning	Tasha Mackler	Deborah Crombie	
Tucson, AZ	2000	Sue Grafton	George Easter	Harlan Coben	
Anchorage, AL	2001	Michael Connelly & Lindsay Davis	Andi Shechter		
Portland, OR	2002	Steven Saylor & Laurie R. King	Don Herron	G.M. Ford	
Pasadena, CA	2003	Robert Crais	Sue Feder	Jerrilyn Farmer	
Monterey, CA	2004	Sharan Newman & Walter Mosley	Bryan Barrett & Thom Walls	Gillian Roberts	Richard Lupoff
El Paso, TX	2005	Paco Ignacio Taibo II & S.J. Rozan	Ernie Bulow	Rick Riordan	
Bristol, UK	2006	Boris Akunin, Jeffery Deaver & Anne Perry	Bill & Toby Gottfried & Donna Moore	Lee Child	
Seattle, WA	2007	Dennis & Gayle Lynds	Diane Kovacs & Kara Robinson	Gary Phillips	
Denver, CO	2008	Stephen White	Michael Masliah	Elaine Viets	



# MURDER *on the rocks*

## **LEFT COAST CRIME**

**MARCH 6-9, 2008  
DENVER,  
COLORADO**



**Guest of Honor: Stephen White**

**Toastmaster: Elaine Viets**

**Fan Guest of Honor: Michael Masliah**

**Adams Mark Hotel, Denver, Colorado**

**Contact: Su Wright, Registrar**

**28439 County Road 7**

**Idalia, Colorado 80735**

**Phone: 303/ 670-3654 (voicemail only)**

**Email: [info@lcc2008.com](mailto:info@lcc2008.com)**

**[www.lcc2008.com](http://www.lcc2008.com)**



## LCC BYLAWS

The "Left Coast Crime Convention," the "Western Regional Mystery Conference" hereto referred to as "LCC," is an event sponsored by fans of Mystery Literature, for fans of Mystery Literature. LCC is an annual convention. The intent is to provide an event where fans of the Mystery genre can gather in convivial surroundings to pursue their interests in the genre.

LCC is a non-profit enterprise which must be incorporated locally by each LCC volunteer-based committee for the duration of the event. Sponsorship by existing non-profit organizations is encouraged as long as they adhere to LCC bylaws.

Past, present and future LCC are not responsible for the debts incurred by any previous or subsequent LCC events.

LCC will feature a Guest(s) of Honor (GoH), who is to be treated as a literary treasure. All expenses within reason incurred by the GoH will be the responsibility of that year's LCC. In the event that LCC has more than one GoH, at least one GoH must reside or have novels set in the Western Region.

Fan Guest(s) of Honor are to be treated in the same manner as author GoHs.

Any LCC may create any new guest designation other than Lifetime Achievement.

LCC will do its best to extend hospitality to its entire membership.

A standing committee shall be established to:

- Register and maintain the name Left Coast Crime and the Western Regional Mystery Conference with continuing trademark protection.
- Maintain the LCC mailing list.
- Maintain the continuity of LCC.
- To review and oversee the site selection for future LCC.
- To select the site for upcoming LCC conferences, based on bids from viable bidding committees.
- To act as executive committee to represent the membership should an emergency arise.
- To remove accreditation from any site committee that imperils the viability of future LCC. This includes failure to secure a venue one year in advance, violation of LCC bylaws or the appearance that the committee will be unable to properly stage the event.
- To review the financial report prepared by each LCC committee.

LCC is the "Western North American Regional Mystery Conference" as defined by the Mountain Time Zone and all time zones westward to Hawaii. The LCC rotates north to south on an annual basis. Conventions held in the Northern Region are held in even-numbered years, Southern Region in odd-numbered years.

**Regions defined as follows:**

### **Northern Region**

Canada: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon

United States: Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, California (north of Santa Clara County), Nevada (north of Las Vegas)

### **Southern Region**

United States: New Mexico, Arizona, Texas (El Paso only), Hawaii, Nevada (south of Lake Tahoe), California (Santa Clara county and southward), Mexico

LCC will held in the first quarter of the calendar year.

LCC will not be held for more than two consecutive years in the same region if at all possible.

### **Bidding For Future LCCs**

Bids for future LCC must be submitted to the standing committee no later than 45 days prior to the commencement of the current year's LCC.

Bidding committees must:

- Submit a resume of its committee members with its bid
- Submit a site for the event
- Submit a letter of intent from event site

Bids for future LCC maybe accepted up to 3 years in advance.

If no bid is received, the standing committee may solicit bids.

The awarding of LCC locations to a bidding committee shall be made by majority vote of the standing committee.

In case of a tie vote in the standing committee, the bids will be put to a vote of the general membership at the current LCC.

"None of the Above" will be an option placed on any such ballot. If "None of the Above" wins, all competing bids are excluded from consideration. The standing committee will solicit alternative bids, and from those choose the one they feel most qualified.

The current LCC committee will provide the LCC in the immediate year following the minimum by way of support:

- One page of advertising in program book
- A space to sell memberships at current event
- One free attending membership to current event
- 

Extending this support to other future LCC concerns would be commendable but is not mandatory.

#### **Name Badges**

It is the intention of LCC to be an egalitarian gathering of mystery fans that does not create a distinction between fans of the mystery genre professional and otherwise. Therefore:

- Names printed on badges should be readable at 5 feet.
- The only designations allowed on badges are - Dealer, Exhibitor, Staff/Committee and Program Participant. (This is done for security reasons only.)
- Ribbons or other items that differentiate participants are prohibited.

#### **Dealers and Exhibitors**

A space (bookroom) must be made available for the sale and display of goods of interest (books) to the membership of LCC.

Acceptance to the book room is based on seniority.

Acceptance of other dealers is at the discretion of current committee after obligations to Legacy Dealers have been taken care of. (A Legacy Dealer is someone who has done 7 of the last 10 LCCs.)

Hours: The dealers' room will open to the membership no earlier than 9 AM local time. The room will be open a minimum of twenty hours over the course of the event.

A dealers' room contains more than one bookseller or exhibitor.

Each exhibition space will include a membership to the event.

LCC must receive a hold harmless agreement from exhibitor in order to participate in LCC.

Tables for non-profit literary fan groups should be provided free of charge, if possible.

#### **Awards**

The Lefty, an award for the best humorous mystery, is to be awarded at each Left Coast Crime. Books eligible for the award must have been published for the first time in the United States in the calendar year preceding the convention. Books which appeared in other countries in earlier years are still eligible as long as they meet the American publication requirement. Nominations are to be solicited from registered members of the convention beginning on Jan. 1 of the year in which the convention is held. The short list shall consist of the five books receiving the most nominations. All registered members of the convention are eligible to vote. Final balloting and tabulation shall be conducted at Left Coast Crime with the winner announced during the convention, preferably at the banquet. The physical properties of the award are left to the discretion of the each host Left Coast Crime committee. Furthermore, up to three other awards may be awarded at the discretion of individual Left Coast Crime conventions in categories to be chosen by the current organizing committee. Subsequent committees may but are not required to continue any of these awards.

Membership on the Standing Committee shall include:

The immediate past year's chair, the current chair and accredited future chairs.

To maintain the continuity of LCC, the Standing Committee will contain a maximum of 5 permanent committee whose qualifications are:

- Having attended a minimum of 5 non-profit mystery conventions, of which at least 3 must be LCC;
- Worked on at least 3 previous non-profit literary events, and in a committee position on at least two of those events.

Permanent Membership on the standing committee is for the lifetime of LCC or until formal resignation.

It is the responsibility of the Permanent Standing Committee to deal with site selection of future LCCs.

The permanent members of the standing committee are the court of last resort in disputes arising from site selection.

The permanent committee members are the living memory of LCC. They provide a resource and recourse for future LCC committee. (The wheel need not be reinvented.)

Member at large:

Any person with interest in LCC may submit their name for consideration for membership on the standing committee to the standing committee.

If accepted by standing committee, the term is for 2 years.

The standing committee will approve new members by a majority vote.

The member(s) of at large will be full voting members of the standing committee.

#### **The Current LCC Committee:**

- 2005: El Paso, TX - Mary Sarber
- 2006: Bristol, UK - Myles Alfrey and Adrian Muller
- 2007: Seattle, WA - Andi Shechter
- 2008: Denver, CO -

#### **The Permanent Committee:**

- Tom Schantz
- Thom Walls
- Bryan Barrett



# Notes







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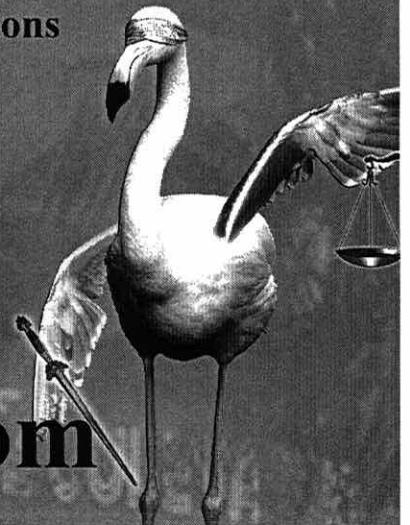
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