

## Register NOW for the 2026 Edgar® Week Symposium!

**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2026

**Location:** Marriott Marquis Times Square – Sky Lobby – 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1535 Broadway (between 45<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> Streets)

**8:30 - 8:50:**

**Registration**

**8:55 – 9:00:**

**Welcome – MWA's Executive Vice President – James L'Etoile**

**9:00 – 9:50**

**Murder by Death: Where crime, art and literature intersect**

**Moderator:**

**Alison Gaylin** (Alison Gaylin is the Edgar and Shamus-award winning author of 15 books, including the three latest installments in Robert B. Parker's Sunny Randall series.)

**Panelists:**

**Amanda Chapman** (2026 Lilian Jackson Braun Nominee – *Mrs. Christie at the Mystery Guild Library*, Penguin Random House - Berkley)

**Allison Epstein** (2026 Best Novel Nominee -*Fagin the Thief*, Penguin Random House - Doubleday)

**Andrew Klavan** (2026 Best Critical/Bio Nominee – *The Kingdom of Cain: Finding God in the Literature of Darkness*, HarperCollins Christian Publishing – Zondervan)

**Richard Kopley** (2026 Best Critical/Bio Nominee – *Edgar Allan Poe – A Life*, University of Virginia Press)

**C.M. Kushins** (2026 Best Critical/Bio Nominee – *Cooler than Cool – The Life and Work of Elmore Leonard*, HarperCollins Publishers – Mariner Books)

**Abbi Waxman** (2026 Best PBO Nominee – *One Death at a Time*, Penguin Random House - Berkley)

**10:00 – 10:50**

**Composite Sketch: Creating unforgettable characters**

**Moderator:**

**S.J. Rozan** (New Yorker SJ Rozan is the multi-award-winning author of 20 novels and 100+ short stories)

**Panelists:**

**Gwen Florio** (2026 Lilian Jackson Braun Nominee – *A Senior Citizen's Guide to Life on the Run*, Severn House)

**Tiffany D. Jackson** (2026 Juvenile & Young Adult Nominee – *Blood in the Water*, (Scholastic Press) & *The Scammer*, (HarperCollins Children's Books – Quill Tree Books)

**Judith Rossell** (2026 Juvenile Nominee – *The Midwatch Institute for Wayward Girls*, Penguin Young Readers - Dial)

**Chuck Storla** (2026 Lilian Jackson Braun Nominee - *Murder Two Doors Down*, Crooked Lane Books)

**Dave Zeltserman** (2026 Best Short Story Nominee – "Julius Katz Draws a Straight Flush," *AHMM*. Sept-Oct 2025)

**11:00 – 11:50**

**Feds and 5-0: Writing about law enforcement**

**Moderator:**

**James L'Etoile** (James L'Etoile, MWA Executive Vice President, worked in the toughest prisons for 29 years, drawing inspiration for his award-winning crime fiction)

**Panelists:**

**Lee Goldberg** (2026 Sue Grafton Nominee – *Fallen Start*, Amazon Publishing – Thomas & Mercer)

**Adam Plantinga** (2026 Best Novel Nominee – *Hard Town*, Hachette Book Group – Grand Central Publishing)

**Joanna Schaffhausen** (2026 Sue Grafton Nominee – *Gone in the Night*, Minotaur Books)

**Matthew Spencer** (2026 Best PBO Nominee – *Broke Road*, Amazon Publishing – Thomas & Mercer)

**Kevin Wade** (2026 Best First Novel Nominee – *Johnny Careless*, Macmillan Publishers – Celadon Books)

**John Wirth** (2026 Best TV Episode Teleplay Nominee) – "Ye'itsoh (Big Monster) - *Dark Winds*, AMC)

**12:00 – 1:00**

**Lunch Break (On Your Own)**

**1:00 – 1:50**

**Breaking News and Hot Takes: Addressing difficult questions and social issues in fiction**

**Moderator:**

**Terry Shames** (Terry Shames is the award-winning author of twelve books in the Samuel Craddock police procedural series and two in the Jessie Madison thriller series.)

**Panelists:**

**Cindy R.X. He** (2026 Best Young Adult Nominee – *This is Where We Die*, Sourcebooks Fire)

**Gregg Hurwitz** (2026 Best Short Story Nominee – *Orphan X: A Mysterious Profile*, Mysterious Bookshop)

**Sandra Jackson-Opoku** (2026 Mary Higgins Clark Nominee – *Savvy Summers and the Sweet Potato Crimes*, Minotaur Books)

**Jakob Kerr** (2026 Best First Novel Nominee – *Dead Money*, {Penguin Random House – Bantam Books)

**Daniel G. Miller** (2026 Sue Grafton Nominee – *The Red Letter*, Sourcebooks – Poisoned Pen Press)

**Zoe B. Wallbrook** (2026 Best First Novel Nominee – *History Lessons*, Soho Press – Soho Crime)

2:00 – 2:50

**The Deep Dive: Research and real life (fiction/nonfiction)**

**Moderator:**

**Les Klinger** (Les Klinger is the editor of numerous annotated editions of crime fiction, including two Edgar winners, and is Chapter President of SoCalMWA)

**Panelists:**

**Mariah Blake** (2026 Best Fact Crime Nominee - *They Poisoned the World: Life and Death in the Age of Forever Chemicals*, Penguin Random House - Crown)

**Libba Bray** (2026 Best Young Adult Nominee – *Under the Same Stars*, Macmillan Publishers – Farrar, Straus and Giroux BFYR)

**Michael Cannell** (2026 Best Fact Crime Nominee – *Blood and the Badge: The Mafia, Two Killer Cops, and a Scandal That Shocked the Nation*, Minotaur Books)

**Gregg Olsen** (2026 Best Fact Crime Nominee - *Out of the Woods: A Girl, a Killer, and a Lifelong Struggle to Find the Way Home* – Amazon Publishing – Thomas & Mercer)

**Hallie Rubenhold** (2026 Best Fact Crime Nominee – *Story of a Murder: The Wives, the Mistress, and Dr. Crippen*, Penguin Random House – Dutton)

**Katharine Schellman** (2026 Mary Higgins Clark Nominee – *Last Dance Before Dawn*, Minotaur Books)

3:00 – 3:50

**A Dark and Stormy Night: Setting the scene and building suspense**

**Moderator:**

**Lee Matthew Goldberg** (Lee Matthew Goldberg is the author of 16 novels, follow him at [LeeMatthewGoldberg.com](http://LeeMatthewGoldberg.com))

**Panelists:**

**Hannah Deitch** (2026 Best First Novel Nominee – *Killer Potential*, HarperCollins – William Morrow)

**Erin Soderberg Downing** (2026 Best Juvenile Nominee – *What Happened Then*, Scholastic Press)

**Sulari Gentill** (2026 Mary Higgins Clark Nominee – *Five Found Dead*, Sourcebooks – Poisoned Pen Press)

**Hank Phillippi Ryan** (2026 Mary Higgins Clark Nominee – *All This Could Be Yours*, Minotaur Books)

**Trisha Sakhlecha** (2025 Best Novel Nominee – *The Inheritance*, Penguin Random House – Pamela Dorman Books)

**Lisa Unger** (2026 Best Short Story Nominee – “The Kill Clause,” – *Amazon Original Stories*)

4:00 – 5:00

**From the Writers Desk** (interviewed by **Oline Cogdill** (2013 Raven Award winner)  
Our 2026 Grand Masters – **Donna Andrews and Lee Child**

**Cost:** \$95 members, \$125 non-members.

You may also pay online via the MWA Store – [Members Rate](#) or [Non-Member Rate](#)

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**PLEASE** include the below information with your reservation and check or credit card information. We accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express. You may also make your reservation via our website by using the MWA store. Please note that the check is for the Symposium and make it payable to: **Mystery Writers of America, 1140 Broadway, Suite 907 New York, NY 10001**

**PLEASE PRINT:**

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**# of Reservations:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Names of Additional Registrants:** \_\_\_\_\_

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