



The Great Cactus Caper News: December 2015

Attention Authors!

Register by December 31 to be eligible to be on a panel.

[Registration Information](#)

Important Note

If you share an email address with someone else, only one of you will receive this newsletter. This is beyond our control, so please share!



LCC 2016 Charity: KidsRead

Each Left Coast Crime Convention raises money to support a local literacy organization with funds raised through a silent and live auction, and the annual quilt raffle. Left Coast Crime 2016: The Great Cactus Caper supports KidsRead USA, a Phoenix-based organization whose mission is to promote early childhood literacy and inspire the joy of lifelong learning to impoverished children and their families by mentoring, advocacy, and giving children books of their own. Since its inception in 1996, KidsRead has given away more than 40,000 books to third grade kids in Phoenix, Arizona. The program primarily serves the Balsz and Osborn school districts, which are in a low-income area. For some kids, the books provided by KidsRead are the first they will ever own. KidsRead founder Eileen Bailey says her goal is simple, “I want them to fall in love with reading.”



LCC 2016 Quilt Raffle

Pam Dehnke and Vallery Feldman create a unique quilt to commemorate each Left Coast Crime Convention, signed by all the Guests of Honor. All raffle proceeds for the 2016 Quilt raffle will go to KidsRead. Raffle tickets will be available at the convention.

Reminder: Lefty Award Nomination Forms Coming Soon!

In Phoenix, Left Coast Crime folks will present four Lefty Awards in the following categories, for titles published in 2015:

- Best Humorous Mystery Novel
- Best Historical Mystery Novel (The Bruce Alexander Memorial), covering events before 1960
- Best Mystery Novel set in the Left Coast Crime Geographical Region (Mountain Time Zone and all North America time zones westward to Hawaii)
- Best Mystery Novel

Registrants at the 2015 Portland convention and 2016 Phoenix convention will be able to nominate up to three titles in each category. We will email nomination form to you the last week of December. Eligible books must have been published for the first time in the United States or Canada during 2015, in book or ebook format. (If published in other countries before 2015, a book is still eligible if it meets the US or Canadian publication requirement.) The nominated books will be announced around January 18. Final voting for the awards will be by paper ballot given to registrants at the Great Cactus Caper in Phoenix.

Questions? [Email Awards Co-Chairs Lucinda Surber & Stan Ulrich](#)

Award Season Etiquette for Writers

Authors often ask, “I have a book eligible for a Lefty Award. How can I get my book nominated? What’s your advice about etiquette for writers during the award season?” Our good friend Donna Andrews wrote a blog post about this tricky question back in January 2014 that every author should read. Read Donna Andrew’s post on [Etiquette for Writers: Award Season](#).



Place an Ad in the LCC Program

It’s time to get your reservation in for an advertisement in the LCC program. Check out the [LCC website](#) for sizes and rates, fill out the form and send it in with your payment. And

we'll see you in print!

Volunteering for LCC 2016

Volunteers are the backbone of Left Coast Crime. If you're looking for a way to have fun, meet fellow mystery lovers, and contribute to the Left Coast Crime convention — volunteer! Information about volunteer jobs will be posted on the website soon and will appear in the January newsletter.

Authors: Learn to Build Your Brand

It's the common writer's conundrum: writing is a solitary endeavor, marketing and selling your work is not. Chances are, like many authors, you're better at one than the other. Maybe you've got the writing part down. You've even gotten comfortable talking about yourself. But the idea of reaching out to people unsolicited, of pitching yourself, of selling, might just scare the pants off of you. Never fear! Left Coast Crime 2016 has teed up a marketing and communications expert to help us all. Whether you're a marketing expert or a newbie, Deborah Lacy can help improve your branding and social media efforts. Join us Thursday morning, February 25, just before LCC swings into action, to learn the ropes. [Get more details and sign up](#)

Questions about LCC 2016?

We welcome your interest in Left Coast Crime 2016, The Great Cactus Caper. [Contact LCC](#)

Left Coast Crime 2017: Honolulu Havoc

It's not too soon to think about escaping the cold March weather in 2017 — registration for Left Coast Crime in Hawaii is open!

March 16–19, 2017 in Honolulu, Hawaii

Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort

Located on Waikiki Beach on 22 beautiful waterfront acres, the legendary Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort features five pools, 20 restaurants and bars, and daily activities ranging from morning exercise classes to Hula lessons.

- *Lifetime Achievement*: Faye Kellerman & Jonathan Kellerman
- *Guest of Honor*: Dana Stabenow
- *Toastmaster*: Laurie R. King
- *Ghost of Honor*: Earl Derr Biggers, creator of Charlie Chan



[More information about LCC 2017 and registration](#)

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