Rocky Mountain Chapter
Mystery Writers of America
Making Crime Pay since 1945

MID-WINTER MINI-CON 2026

Saturday February 7, 2026

Registration is FREE to all and opens early January

10AM: FORENSIC SCIENCE

Assisting Law Enforcement with Locating Clandestine Graves

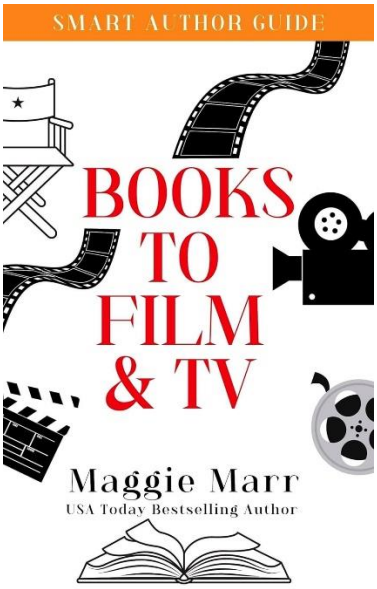
Presenter G. Clark Davenport

Geophysicist Clark Davenport, is a recognized expert in the utilization of remote sensing and geophysical techniques to locate clandestine graves and hidden evidence. He is a past instructor at the Colorado Law Enforcement Training Academy, the Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State College of Denver, Regis University, and for 10 years an invited Special Topics Instructor at the FBI Academy. He is a Co-founder of NecroSearch International, a multidisciplinary volunteer team of specialists dedicated to assisting law enforcement in the location of clandestine graves and the documentation and recovery of evidence including human remains. See more at www.necrosearrch.org.

11 AM: MEDIA

Books to Film and TV: How Can I Get My Book Made Into a Film or TV Show?

Presenter: Maggie Marr



Attorney Maggie Marr is a USA Today Bestselling Author of over 20 books, including the beloved and Hollywood Girls Club Series. She is the founder of Happily Ever After, Inc. a media company specializing in books and mobile games and co-founder and managing partner of Tule Productions, a division of Tule Entertainment.

Marr is a former ICM motion picture literary agent; while at ICM she worked on such projects as *Meet The Parents*, *Meet the Fockers*, *Underworld*, *Last First Kiss*, *Bourne Identity*, *Bridget Jone's Diary*, *Game of Thrones*, and a host of books to film and TV projects.

She founded Maggie Marr Legal, a boutique intellectual property law practice dedicated to the sales, representation, and legal needs of creatives. Learn more at https://www.maggiemarrlegal.com

You can find Maggie's Books to Film book here: https://www.amazon.com/Books-Film-TV-Every-Author/dp/B0B1DQDQ3N

LUNCH BREAK Noon-1PM

1 PM: BOOK MARKETING

Creating an Author Success Map

Presenter: Ellen Whitfield, BooksForward Vice-President

"Creating an Author Success Map: Identifying, Personalizing and Working Toward Benchmarks in Your Writing Career" that goes through the bells and whistles of book promotion, what to prioritize, including your book launch timeline.

Ellen brings guidance and warmth to the Books Forward team as vice president, providing daily mentorship to publicists and training incoming staff members. She is an expert at organization and efficiency, and her leadership helps keep the company gears turning smoothly.

She was part of the journalism community for many years, working at respected print and online media outlets including *The Dallas Morning News*, *The Advocate* newspapers across

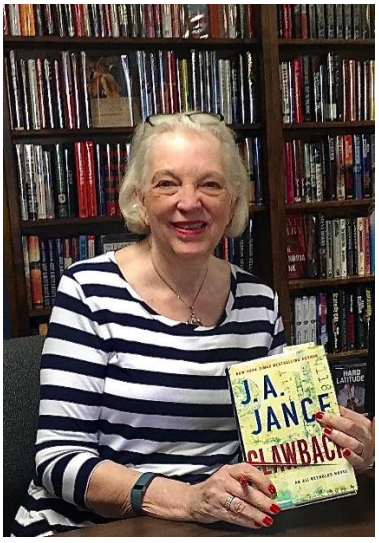
Louisiana, *The Waco Tribune Herald* and others. Her editorial experience at these publications, along with her social and online media presence as a popular bookstagrammer, benefits authors through her savviness and creativity in media pitching.

An LSU graduate, Ellen lives in Louisiana with her newspaper-executive husband, amazing daughter and charming baby boy (and their odd little dog), and is constantly adding to an ever-growing collection of 600 books. She loves reading about quirky characters on adventures, quoting sitcoms and singing loudly to Hozier.

About BooksForward
Just like the rest of the book industry, book publicity and marketing are ever-changing. We strive to give your book its very best chance to be seen and read by the world's readers. With a team comprised of several former journalists, we know how to find an eye-catching hook that will be irresistible to media and readers alike. We bring a newsroom work ethic to our campaigns – a reporter can't come back at the end of the day without a story, and we won't end our day until we share yours. Learn more at https://booksforward.com

2 PM: WRITERS LIFE

Words of Wisdom and Experience from Best-Selling Crime Fiction Author J.A. Jance



Jance was born in Watertown, South Dakota nd raised in Bisbee, Arizona, (the setting for her Joanna Brady series of novels). Before becoming an author, she worked as a school librarian on a Native American reservation (Tohono O'Odham), and as a teacher and insurance agent.

Jance attended the University of Arizona, graduating with a bachelor's degree in education in 1966, then a master's in library science in 1970. In 2000, University of Arizona awarded Jance an honorary doctorate.[3]

In July 2018, *The Strand Magazine* gave Jance its Lifetime Achievement Award to recognize her contributions to the field of crime fiction.

She lives part of the year in Arizona and part of the year in Seattle. Jance uses her initials for her pen name because a publisher told her that disclosing her gender would be a liability for a book about a male detective. At signings, Jance asks bookstores to donate a percentage of their earnings from her appearances to various causes. Over the past 10 years, she has raised more than $250,000 for charity. Learn more at https://www.jajance.com

J.A Jance will be interviewed by Margaret Mizushima, former RMMWA President and best-selling author of the Timber Creek canine mystery series. Her latest book, Dying Cry was recently launched. See more at https://www.margaretmizushima.com