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VIRTUAL BOUCHERCON 2020 Zoom Panels

[Did you miss Bouchercon?
Watch the panels here!](#)

**Most panels will be
added by November 6**

Authors Ellen Byron and Sybil Johnson will be reading from their holiday-themed books, and discussing the joys and challenges of writing a holiday-themed mystery followed by Q and A.

If any SoCalMWA author of holiday-themed books would like to be part of the discussion, please email Jessica at president@socalmwa.com.



The President's Rap Sheet

Jessica Kaye

Welcome to November. It is officially autumn, and we have nearly made it through this test called 2020.

First things first—Election Day is November 3. If you have not already voted, then regardless of your political affiliation, if you can exercise your right to vote, please do. This is a keystone of our democracy.

On to more MWA-centric topics.

We have had our Chapter's first virtual events and both were well-attended and wonderful. **Dennis Palumbo** generously shared information both on how to maintain mental health during this ongoing Covid-19 crisis and how to move forward with writing during this time, including his explanation of writer's block.

Following that theme, please let me know if you have any writing tips you would like to share. If you are willing to have your tips published in The March of Crime, please email me at president@socalmwa.com.

Don't fret if you missed Dennis' talk. The webinar is still available. You can view it by going to <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/dennis-palumbo---/>. Register and enter the password SoCalMWA.

Dennis kindly agreed to make this available to nonmembers too, so if you know someone who may benefit from viewing it, please feel free to share the link and login information. The topics are important enough that we want everyone who can benefit from this to be able to do so.

Our second virtual event was a post-Bouchercon social, co-hosted with Nor-CalMWA and NorthWestMWA. It was a lively group of writers discussing all sorts of topics and a good time was had by all.

We will have more virtual events coming up, so watch this space.

Until next time, and always, stay safe.

Jessica

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Mystery Writers of America
 Southern California Chapter
 2140 N. Hollywood Way #7304
 Burbank, CA 91510

Contact: info@socalmwa.com
 Website: <http://socalmwa.com>
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The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

The newsletter is short and sweet this month, but I assume it's because you all are out there working hard on your writing projects. I'll try to keep this Editor's Corner short and sweet as well.

Over here in my part of town, I'm busy plotting my NaNoWriMo novel. I sign up nearly every year but I have yet to finish it. I'm determined to break that streak in 2020. My strategy this year was to plot as much of the novel in advance as possible. That turned out to be about one quarter (basically, Act I). I ended up spending most of my time on character development, which actually helps me plot. For example, if I know what my character wants more than anything, it guides me in determining their actions. That may seem obvious but for along time, it wasn't to me.

I'm hoping that all that time I spent creating characters will carry me through to the end. As much as I try to plan books or stories in advance, so much changes when I'm actually writing. I like to say that "the muse is in the writing."

If you're doing NaNoWriMo, too, feel free to "buddy" me. I'm **hollywest** on the [NaNo website](#). I hope to see you there!

Holly

The March of Crime is the newsletter of the Southern California Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America.

Editor: [Holly West](#)

Opinions expressed herein are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter.

Contact us at:
themarchofcrime@gmail.com

Join the SoCalMWA Discussion Group

groups.io/g/MWA-SOCAL
(members only)

NATIONAL OFFICE

Mystery Writers of America
1140 Broadway #1507
New York, NY 10001
t. 212.888.8171
f. 212.888.8107

mwa@mysterywriters.org
<http://mysterywriters.org>

SoCalMWA Discussion Group

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- Support & Networking

OVER the TRANSOM

Part noir science-fiction part twisted new-take on Greek myth, *GENESYS X* by **b.j.graf**, is a page-turning police procedural featuring Detective Eddie Piedmont which comes out November 10 from Fairwood Press. Set in the nefarious world of black market reproductive technology in 2041 Los Angeles, the book is available for pre-orders at fairwood-press.com, Amazon, B&N, & an independent bookstore near you.

P Moss's latest novel, *THE HOUDINI KILLER*, will be released November 3 by Squidhat Press. It's a twisted look inside the mind of a female vigilante as she competes for headlines with notorious serial killer Son of Sam in 1977 New York City.

Connie di Marco's second book in the Zodiac Mysteries, *ALL SIGNS POINT TO MURDER*, will be released on December 1 by Suspense.

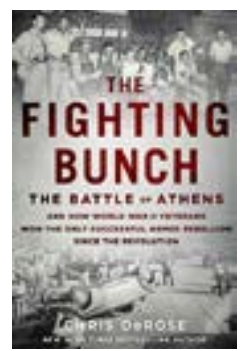
MIMI LEE READS BETWEEN THE LINES, the second book in **Jennifer J. Chow's** Sassy Cat Mystery series, releases on November 10.

Lisa Morton's story "What Ever Happened to Lorna Winters?," which originally appeared in the MWA anthology *ODD PARTNERS*, has been chosen for inclusion in *BEST AMERICAN MYSTERY STORIES 2020*.

Tom Sawyer is delighted to report that his essay about writing for *Murder, She Wrote* has been selected to appear in the forthcoming MWA anthology, *WRITING MYSTERIES*, edited by Lee Child, Laurie R. King, and Colin Harrison, to be published by Simon & Schuster.

Terry Ambrose's latest Trouble in Paradise Mystery titled *ON THE TAKE IN WAIKIKI* will be released on November 11. In this, McKenna's latest adventure, the disappearance of a Honolulu businessman pulls McKenna into a world filled with greed, lies, and betrayal.

Chris DeRose's *THE FIGHTING BUNCH: THE BATTLE OF ATHENS AND HOW WWII VETERANS WON THE ONLY SUCCESSFUL ARMED REBELLION SINCE THE REVOLUTION* (St. Martin's) will be published on November 3. It tells the true story of a group of returned WWII veterans who took up arms one last time to prevent a corrupt political machine from stealing an election.



OVER the TRANSOM


The Winter Issue of *Mystery Scene*, #166 due in mid-November, features **Pat H. Broeske's** survey of James M. Cain's rough and tumble relationship with Hollywood. "Like many leading writers of the 1930s, Cain was lured to Tinseltown by the paychecks," says Broeske. Her article charts the convergence of Hollywood and Cain—from forgettable entries (including a romantic comedy about opera!) to the one-two-three punch of screen adaptations of DOUBLE INDEMNITY, MILDRED PIERCE and THE POSTMAN ALWAYS RINGS TWICE. The author liked to badmouth Hollywood—but, notes Broeske, it was a love-hate relationship that enshrined his legend.

The fourth installment in **Thomas Perry's** 39-year Butcher's Boy series, entitled EDDIE'S BOY, will be published on December 1 by Mysterious Press/Grove Atlantic.

Member
APPEARANCES

Jennifer J. Chow has several upcoming virtual appearances, including a cozy mystery author panel at [The Back Room on November 15](#). For more info, visit [Jennifer's website](#).

In a recent [Lambda Literary Review Q&A](#), **John Morgan Wilson** talks about the pain and pleasure of revising SIMPLE JUSTICE, his Edgar-winning first novel, 25 years after its initial publication. The interview, tied to the novel's 25th anniversary reissue, with a new Foreword by Christopher Rice, also touches on sensitive aspects of the book that triggered controversy publicly and during the closed Edgar judging process.

Join Book Carnival's virtual event! **Wendall Thomas** will interview Best Selling Author Lynne Truss about her newest mystery, MURDER BY THE MILK BOTTLE,  10 a.m. on Friday, November 13. Please contact Book Carnival to register.

Matt Coyle will discuss BLIND VIGIL—the newest in his Rick Cahill series—with **Wendall Thomas** at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1 in a virtual event for Warwick's Books. Please visit the Warwick's events page to register.

Crime
CALENDAR

November 1–30 – [National Novel Writing Month](#)

December 6 – [Online Holiday Party hosted by SoCalMWA & SinCLA](#)



The
LAST WORD

“Rob Ramer was the perfect husband until he committed the ultimate family faux pas—he shot his sister-in-law to death.”

—Connie di Marco, ALL SIGNS POINT TO MURDER