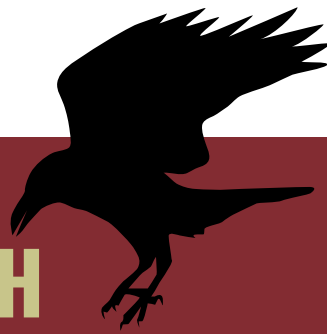




OCTOBER 2024

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



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COME CELEBRATE
WITH SoCalMWA!



OCTOBER 5

HOSTED BY
BILL & KENDALL
FITZHUGH

OCT 5

RSVP NOW
president@socalmwa.com





Fall Happenings

BY LESLIE S. KLINGER



I hope that you attended our joint program with the Private Eye Writers of America with real private investigators. It was our best-attended monthly meeting yet, with more than 75 people joining us online! It was a prime example of what we're trying to do: Offer our members opportunities to learn more about the craft of writing crime fiction. I'm also a great believer in working hand-in-hand with other organizations that share our goals.

The balance of the year's programming exemplifies those goals. We have our annual gumbo party in October, hosted by former SoCalMWA Board member **Bill Fitzhugh** and his wife Kendall—a great social event and a chance to network with our members in an unstructured setting. Following that, we have a lunch meeting in November at the Tam o 'Shanter in Glendale with an FBI agent, and our annual holiday party in December, co-hosted by Sisters in Crime Los Angeles at the South Pasadena Library. We're already busy planning educational programs for next year and organizing our presence at the Tucson Festival of Books and the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, and we're contemplating a booth at San Diego Comic-Con.

We're approaching the time of year when Chapter elections will be held. I hope that what we're planning for the Chapter will inspire you to get involved. The members of the Chapter Board are the backbone of the organization, and though the duties are not heavy, I regard the Board as the ambassadors of SoCalMWA. Please consider volunteering!

Les

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VICE PRESIDENT
TBD

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We Want You

BY HOLLY WEST

I want to reiterate what Les said in his Prez Rap: Board elections are upon us, and we'd love to have you join us.

When I think back over the events of the past year, I'm so proud of my fellow board members for their dedication to providing these opportunities to SoCalMWA members. As secretary and the newsletter editor, I'm much more behind the scenes, but Les and the rest of the board have done a great job organizing both virtual and in-person events, parties, and other chances to network.

As someone who's been a long-time volunteer for SoCalMWA, I can say it's been a fantastic time. Why else would I do it year after year? And while I plan to stay on next year, 2025 will probably be my last. I'm sure other long-time and repeat board members will eventually need a break as well.

That means we need fresh faces to step up and help now. With existing, experienced board members around to show new board members the ropes, we can build a strong foundation for the future and ensure SoCalMWA can continue being a relevant and thriving organization.

Holly



The March of Crime

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:
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Join the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group

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

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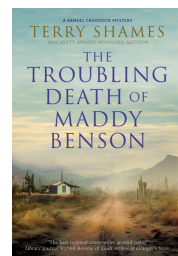
OVER THE TRANSOM



Andrew Kaplan's memoir of his life as a writer with a young family on the French Riviera, *Once Upon a Villa*, has won the 2024 Dan Poynter Legacy Award as the Best Nonfiction Book of the Year, the 2024 Global eBook Award for Best Autobiography or Memoir, the Storytrade Book Award, and was a National Indie Excellence Award finalist.



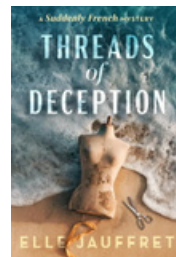
DP Lyle's *Tunica* (Cain/Harper #4) is coming from Outliers/Suspense Publishing October 1.



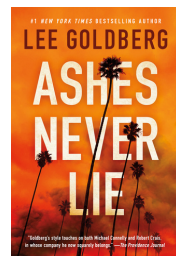
The eleventh in **Terry Shames's** Samuel Craddock series, *The Troubling Death of Maddy Benson*, comes out October 2, from Severn House. *Kirkus* calls it “A hot take on the state of abortion access (in Texas) since the demise of Roe v. Wade.”



Donald M. Munro's short story, “The Elevator Operator,” appeared in *Black Cat Weekly*, issue 160, on September 22: Hugo Sanz, a long-time elevator operator, faces more than difficult passengers—as technology threatens his existence, dark secrets from his past resurface, leading to an eerie showdown.



Elle Jauffret's debut mystery novel, *Threads of Deception*, comes out on November 12. Jauffret brings her expertise as both a criminal attorney and a mystery buff to craft a compelling story that offers unique insights into the worlds of law and fashion. aspects. ellejauffret.com.



Lee Goldberg's new novel *Ashes Never Lie*, the second in his “Sharpe & Walker” series, was released on Sept 17.

APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Jennifer J. Chow and **Ellen Byron**, along with other wonderful cozy authors, will be attending the Ashland Mystery Fest organized by Ellie Alexander. The festival takes place October 17-20 and features panels, workshops, and an interactive mystery with clues spread around town.



Bonnie Traymore appeared at the Hawaii Book and Music Festival Saturday September 14. She discussed her new release, *The Bluff: A Thriller*. A lakeside community is on the edge—literally and figuratively—when the bluff their houses sit on is crumbling. After a shoreline community member is murdered, can Kate Breslow—a woman with secrets—get out before everything crashes around her?

APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Donis Casey's "Tell Me Your Story" guest for October is screenwriter, author, speaker, and forensic specialist, **Jennifer Dornbush**. [Read Jennifer's story](#) beginning October 20.



Donis will also be Glendale, AZ's Writer in Residence September through November. She'll free workshops at the four Glendale Public Library sites and meet one-on-one for consultations. Participants must register for a session at <http://gplaz.org/events> or by calling 623-930-3600.



On Sunday, October 13, 10 a.m. – noon, the Independent Writers of Southern California will present "From Historical Mystery Writing, to Marketing, to Career Building: An interview with Prolific Writer **Jeri Westerson**" on Zoom. Free to members, \$15 for non-members. Link at JeriWesterson.com. Host Robin Quinn will chat with Jeri to help you deepen your craft as an author, learn more about writing historical mysteries, discover the best sources for research, get tips about what works and what doesn't in marketing your titles. Gain insight into what it takes to establish a career that lasts.



Edgar Award-nominated **Alexa Donne** celebrates the release of her third YA thriller, *The Bitter End*, at Annabelle's Book Club in Studio City, CA, on October 15 at 7 p.m., in conversation with Trish Lundy. Pitched as *And Then There Were None* meets "Gossip Girl," the novel follows eight spoiled Los Angeles prep school teens who end up stranded in a blizzard on a school trip to Colorado...then someone starts picking them off, one by one.

On October 22* at 7 p.m., **Terry Shames** (*The Troubling Death of Maddy Benson*) and **Georgia Jeffries** (*The Younger Girl*) will be in conversation at Vroman's Bookstore in Pasadena. Georgia invites SoCal MWA members to visit [her website](#) and sign up for her Fall Newsletter. *Note: Last month, the newsletter incorrectly said this event was on 10/23.

More appearances by **Terry Shames**: Tuesday, October 29, 7 p.m. at Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Avenue, Berkeley, interview by Michelle Chouinard. Saturday, November 2, 2 p.m. at Book Carnival, 348 S. Tustin St., Orange, in conversation with Michelle Chouinard. Also on November 2, 6 p.m. at The Book Jewel, 6259 W. 87th St., Westchester. Michelle Chouinard, **Georgia Jeffries**, and **Terry Shames** in conversation.

C3 Conference, Columbia, MD



L-R: Lee Goldberg, Sujatta Massey, Reed Farrell Coleman



Raymond Benson and Lee Goldberg



Bouchercon 2024



Raquel Reyes and **Ellen Byron** celebrate the success of the Cozies & Cocktails event.



Patrick H. Moore appeared on the “Can’t Buy a Thrill” panel on Sunday morning.



Nadine Nettmann



Anthony Award winners **Holly West** and **S.A. Cosby**



Toastmaster **Rachel Howzell Hall** looks on as **Tracy Clark** accepts her Anthony Award.



Meredith Taylor and **Elizabeth Crowens**



Leslie S. Klinger



Ellen Byron



Inventing the Page

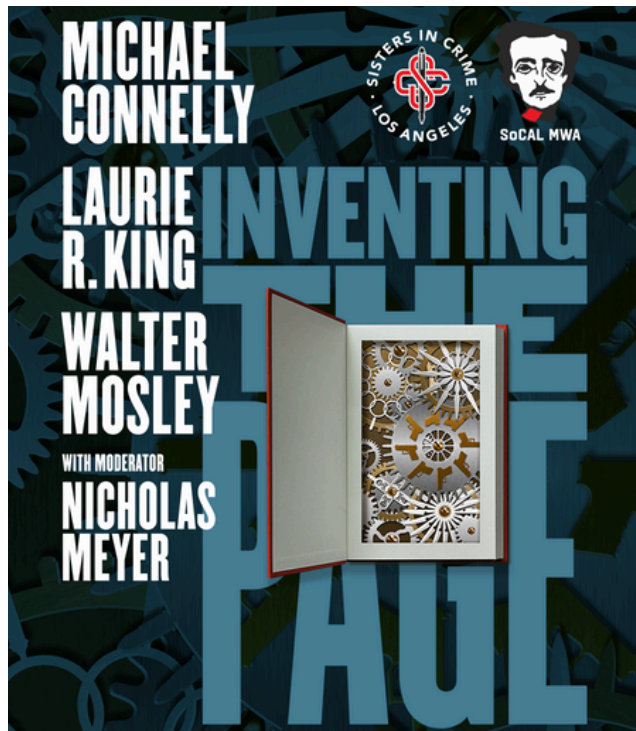
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: NOW ON YOUTUBE

SoCal's biggest mystery and thriller event of the summer is [now on YouTube](#).

Tickets sold out for Inventing the Page at the Skirball. But now you can see it at home on the new [ITP YouTube Channel](#).

Michael Connelly, Laurie R. King, and Walter Mosley talk craft, technique, and inspiration—and how they handle the sometimes bloody business of writing about murder. Author and film director Nicholas Meyer moderated the panel.

Click the image below to watch the panel.



CRIME CALENDER



2024

October 5: Gumbo Party, Los Angeles, CA

November 7–10: Noircon, Palm Springs, CA

November 17: Tam Luncheon—FBI Agent Tom Leighton, Los Angeles, CA

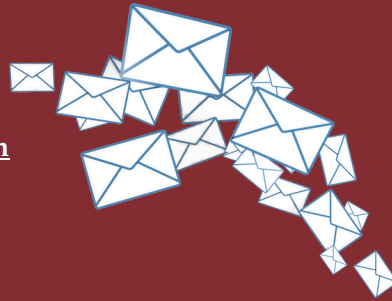
December 22: Joint Holiday Party w/ SinCLA, Los Angeles, CA

2025

March 13–16: Left Coast Crime, Denver, CO

March 15–16: Tucson Festival of Books, Tucson, AZ

If you know of an event that belongs on the Crime Calendar, email themarchofcrime@gmail.com with the info.



THE LAST WORD



“I smell death in the air.”

A Little Getaway
by **Bonnie Traymore**