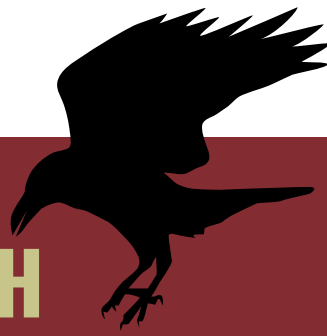


SEPTEMBER 2024

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



SoCalMWA Presents:

Writing Private Eyes: How to Get it Right

Virtual Panel with Christina Duran, John A. Hoda,
& Joe Koenig

Three working private Investigators will discuss what they do and how writers can get it right. Moderated by **Gay Tolt Kinman**, President of Private Eye Writers of America.

Sunday, September 15
1-2:30 p.m.



Gay Tolt Kinman
Moderator

[REGISTER ON CROWDCAST FOR THIS EVENT](#)



Christina Duran
Amatrix
Investigations



John A. Hoda
Hoda Investigations



Joe Koenig
KMI Investigations

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1-2:30 PM (PT)

Three working Private Investigators will discuss their work and how writers can get it right.

The panel, featuring Joe Koenig, Christina Duran, and John A. Hoda, will be moderated by **Gay Tolt Kinman**, President of Private Eye Writers of America. [Read our speakers' bios here.](#)

Register now for this event on Sunday, September 15, 1-2:30 PST. The program is co-sponsored by PWA and SoCalMWA and is brought to us by Crowdcast, thanks to Travis Richardson, immediate Past President of SoCalMWA.

[Register Here](#)

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Bouchercon Wrap Up

BY LESLIE S. KLINGER



Just back from Bouchercon in Nashville. Everyone agrees: We really got our “steps” in at this enormous property! Fortunately, its immensity didn’t prevent ample socialization. We had a pleasant hour of drinks with about fifty of our SoCal and NorCal members on Friday night.

The panels were terrific, full of energy and solid tips about writing. I spent several hours manning the MWA table in the main hall, proselytizing to potential members and reinvigorating former members. I tried to convey the intangible benefits of MWA membership: Networking with other writers or, for readers, a chance to hang out with famous writers! Of course, Bouchercon is a time when a cornucopia of awards are handed out, and we’re especially proud of SoCal Board member/newsletter editor **Holly West**, who won an Anthony for “Best Anthology.”

Speaking of famous writers, I hope you attended our fabulous August 7 event with **Michael Connelly**, Laurie R. King, Walter Mosley, and Nicholas Meyers. It was a great panel discussion about the craft of writing. My favorite question was, “How do you know when you’re done with a book?” You’ll have to watch the video to find out their answers, and [you can find it on YouTube here](#).

Meanwhile, we’re busy planning our next event, so stay tuned!

We have several more events planned for the balance of the year, including our annual gumbo party hosted by former Board member Bill Fitzhugh. Then, we wrap up with our holiday party, which we’re co-hosting with SinCLA. Hope to see you at all of them!

Les

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Feeling the Love

BY HOLLY WEST

Something amazing happened at Bouchercon this year. *Killin' Time in San Diego*, edited by me, won an Anthony Award! I still can't believe it.

The moment when they announced I'd won, I went numb. There was no time to process anything as I got up to receive the award. I was shaking and trying unsuccessfully not to burst into tears, I do know that. And from the crowd, I heard my friends chanting, *Holly! Holly! Holly!* I rushed through my speech because I was afraid of taking too long. Plus, it's hard to talk when all you really want to do is collapse on the floor in a heap of overwhelming awkwardness. (Grammar check has just informed me that "heap of overwhelming awkwardness" is not a thing, but this is my space, and I'm sticking with it).

What I do remember, more than anything, is feeling an abundance of love and support. At some level, I think we all crave that occasionally, and there is no question in my mind that I achieved it that night. I'm keeping hold of that as I go forward because although it was fleeting, it was precious.

Thank you to all who voted, to my fellow nominees, and to every single person who had a hand in making *Killin' Time in San Diego* happen. It's got my name on it, but the award belongs to many.

We are on the edge of fall, which is my favorite season. But we are also facing some difficult and potentially stressful weeks ahead. As we all struggle to keep our sanity and nerves intact, I know we can count on the things we've all come here for in the first place: Reading, writing, and community.

Holly

The March of Crime

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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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<http://mysterywriters.org>



Private Eye Panel Speakers

Christina Duran is a licensed Private Investigator, a Certified Criminal Defense Investigator, an Insurance Fraud Specialist, and a Mitigation Specialist. She has a wealth of experience in these areas and others. She is based in the Riverside area of Southern California and owns Amatrix Investigations.

Joe Koenig is a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) and Forensic Linguist (court-certified Expert Witness for Interviewing & Interrogation). He retired from the Michigan State Police after 26 years and has 50+ years of investigative experience in the public and private sectors. He is the award-winning author of two books on Forensic Linguistics: "Getting the Truth" (2014) and 2019 "Getting the Truth: I am D.B. Cooper." He investigated/supervised investigations into homicides, organized crime, financial crimes, narcotics, and public corruption. He owns and operates KMI Investigations in Michigan, specializing in financial fraud investigations and Forensic Linguistics.

John A. Hoda is an award-winning author and headline-making investigator. A former insurance fraud investigator and police officer, John has been a licensed Private Investigator since 1997 and is the owner of Hoda Investigations. He's the author of the Marsha O'Shea FBI Agent series, the Gwendolyn Strong small-town cozy mysteries, and four how-to books on the business side of running an investigations firm. As the showrunner of 200+ episodes of the "My Favorite Detective Stories" podcast, he's interviewed best-selling and award-winning authors about what makes their flawed fictional detectives tick. His latest project is a Kickstarter campaign for his Victorian Thriller *Hyde*

Gay Tolti Kinman (Moderator) is the President of the Private Eye Writers of America and the author of several books, short stories, plays, and children's books—almost all in the mystery genre.

The March of Crime

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Inventing the Page

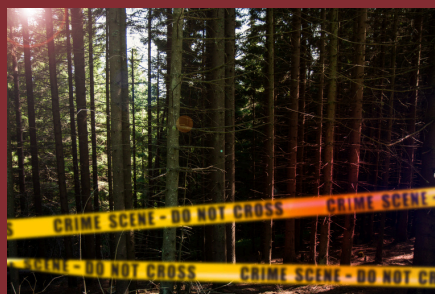
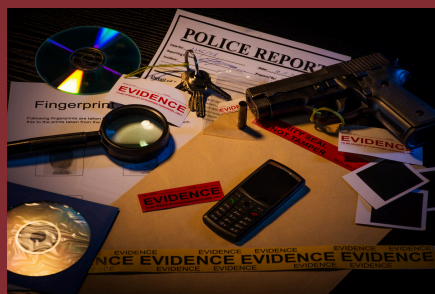
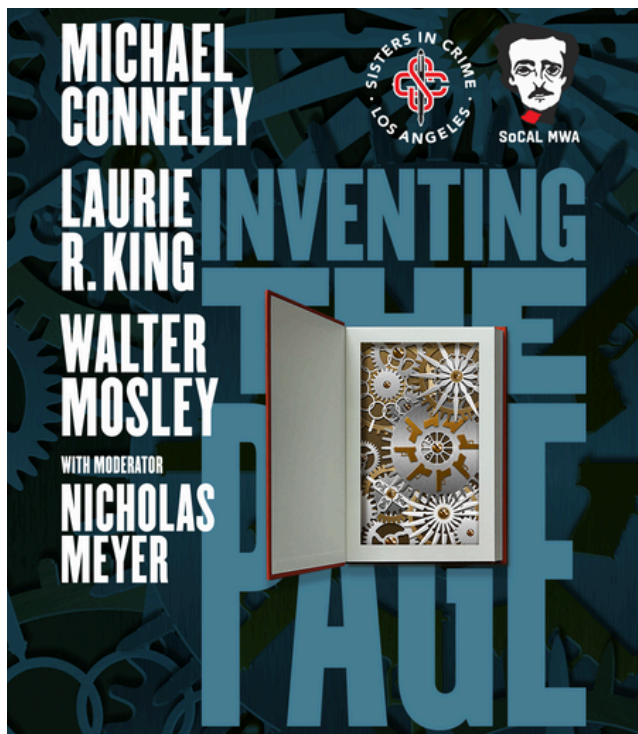
NOW ON YOUTUBE

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.



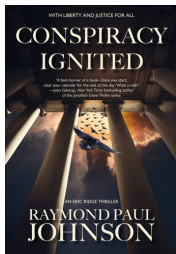
OVER THE TRANSOM



FRENCH QUARTER FRIGHT NIGHT, the third book in **Ellen Byron's** Lefty Award-winning and Agatha and Anthony-nominated Vintage Cookbook Mystery series, launches on September 3.



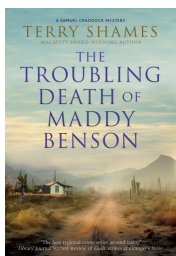
Rosemary and Larry Mild's novel set in the Great Depression, *On the Rails: The Adventures of Boxcar Bertie*, won First Prize in the Action/Adventure (Fiction) Category from 2024 Next Generation Indie Book Awards.



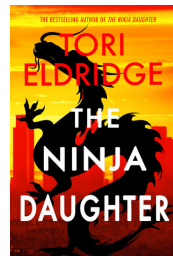
Raymond Paul Johnson's *Conspiracy Ignited* (Blank Slate Press/Amphora Publishing Group) has been named First Place Winner of the 2024 Clue Award by Chanticleer International Book Awards (CIBAs). See [Ray's website](#) for more information.



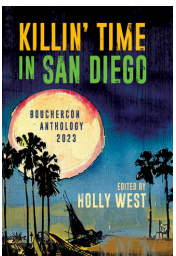
Peggy Rothschild's short story, "The Same Old Song" is included in the 2024 Bouchercon Anthology, *Tales of Music, Murder, and Mayhem*, published in late August.



Terry Shames' eleventh book in the Samuel Craddock series, *The Troubling Death of Maddy Benson*, comes out October 2 from Severn House Publishing.



Tori Eldridge's Lily Wong thriller series will be reissued in the USA and UK with vibrant new covers on January 21, 2025 by [Datura Books](#).



Killin' Time in San Diego, edited by **Holly West**, won an Anthony Award at Bouchercon 2024 in Nashville.

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



Michael Craft continues his award-winning Dante & Jazz mystery series with a third installment, *Desert Reunion*, a September 10 release from Questover Press. Two mismatched crime-solvers team up to investigate dual murders in the sunny paradise of Palm Springs.



APPEARANCES & EVENTS



On October 23 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.

Nancy Cole Silverman will be doing a book signing and reading from her new book, *Passport to Spy*, at Book Jewel, 6259 W. 87th Street in Westchester, on Sunday, September 15, from 3 to 4 p.m.



On Wednesday, September 25, 1–3 pm, **Jeri Westerson** will be talking about her latest book in her Irregular Detective Mystery series, *The Mummy of Mayfair*, at the Sun City Library. “The Real History Behind The Mummy of Mayfair” discusses Victorian England, with a sidebar about Sherlock Holmes and writing a pastiche, including a quiz. There will be a free raffle for attendees and books for sale. 26982 Cherry Hills Blvd, Menifee, CA 92586



Welcome from Janet Elizabeth Lynn and Will Zeilinger

Janet Elizabeth Lynn and **Will Zeilinger** are launching their new quarterly newsletter, “The Married Authors,” this month. Watch your email or the SoCalMWA Facebook page for a subscription link.

Wendall Thomas will offer the next webinar in her “Living Room Lecture” series on “Creating Memorable Relationships on Screen,” September 21–22, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It focuses on the five elements shared by the most enduring film relationships. [More information here.](#)



Ellen Byron will be in-person at The Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Phoenix, AZ, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 28. She's chatting with the store's cookbook club about her Vintage Cookbook Mysteries, but all are welcome to join the fun! She'll be gifting attendees with some vintage cookbooks from her own collection.

Donis Casey is pleased to welcome the lovely **Lorie Lewis Ham** as September's guest at “Tell Me Your Story.” Lorie is the Editor-in-Chief of *Kings River Life* and she's published seven mystery novels, including her latest, *One of You*, featuring P.I./Podcaster Roxi Carlucci. [Read Lorie's story](#) beginning September 20.



WRITERLY ADVICE

A character in Sheila Lowe's latest book is a female mortician. For research, Sheila listened to an Australian podcast, “Are You Dying to Know?” hosted by mortician Tracy Wood and her partner, Trish. After Sheila thanked them on their YouTube page, they invited her to appear on the show, which will air in September. Thanking experts and consultants, even when they didn't know they helped, might get you some free PR!



Inventing the Page



Nancy Cole Silverman, President of Sisters in Crime LA



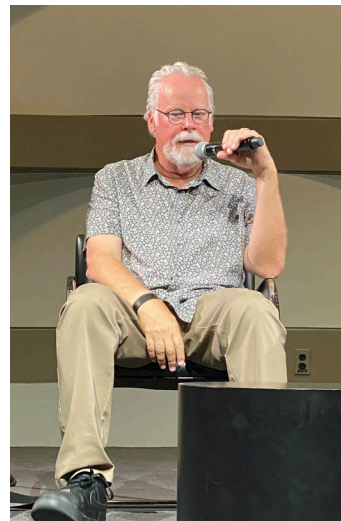
Leslie Klinger, President of Mystery Writers of America, Southern California Chapter



Walter Mosley



Laurie R. King



Michael Connelly



L-R: **Walter Mosley**, **Laurie R. King**, **Michael Connelly**, **Nicholas Meyer**

CRIME CALENDER



September 15: Joint Meeting with SoCalMWA & PWA, Virtual Event

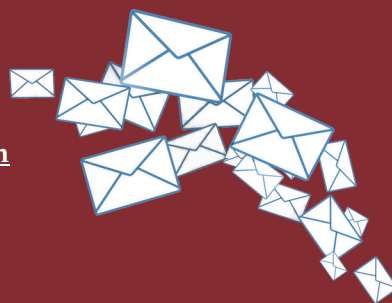
September 26–29: Sleuthfest, St. Petersburg, FL

September 28: Men of Mystery, Long Beach, CA

October 5: Gumbo Party, Los Angeles, CA

November 7–10: Noircon, Palm Springs, CA

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



THE LAST WORD



“I died three times that day.”

Shout at the Devil
by **Dan Bronson**