MARCH OF CRIME

MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA-SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

LA Times Festival at USC

Richard Brewer provided some pictures of the pre-fest party at Skylight Books in Los Angeles as well as a shot of the MWA booth at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, which appeared at the end of April at its new digs on the campus on the University of Southern California.



Stuart Woods talking with Lee Goldberg.



Cara Black with Jessica Kaye at Skylight Books.



Naomi Hirahara with James Scott Bell.



Richard Brewer with Ashely Ream.

INSIDE THIS

The Prez	2
Chapter News	5
The Editor	3
Articles6, 9,	10
Save the Date	3
Crime Calendar	4
Next Meeting	.11
Last Word	10



Darrell James holding down the fort at the MWA booth.

The President's Rap Sheet



Gary Phillips

As the summer approaches your chapter is engaged in several activities which we hope you will find entertaining as well as engaging.

By the time you read this, there should be on the website the audio podcast of our rocking and reeling writing crime graphic novels panel conducted on March 19 at Meltdown Comics on the Sunset Strip. We're looking to get future panels up on the site as well. Speaking of panels, don't forget the upcoming Further Adventures on Writing Novelizations and Media Tie-in on Saturday, June 18 at the Sportsman's Lodge. Again, check the website for more details and to RSVP for the lunch.

Lastly, let your friends and neighbors who may be pre-published writers know about the California Crime Writers Conference on June 11 and 12 in Pasadena. This is the second such conference we're co-sponsoring with Sisters in Crime/L.A. In addition to keynotes by award-winning mystery writers S.J. Rozan and T. Jefferson Parker (hey, what's with all the initials?), there's a great line up of craft workshops and technical presentations to benefit the pre-published, newbies, to seasoned pros.

Out for now.

Gary

New Editor Needed For March of Crime Newsletter

Jeri Westerson, The March of Crime newsletter editor, is stepping down after three years of redesigning and putting together this newsletter. Her replacement should be willing to call on members to develop articles and essays on writing and the publishing world. They will layout pages and email the newsletter to members. If you are interested in this unpaid but nevertheless rewarding position, please contact Jeri at themarchofcrime@gmail.com.

Critique Partner Wanted

Long-established critique group in the Pasadena area needs a new member. We meet every other Sunday at 10:00. Published/unpublished--male/female--old or young--we'd like to hear from you. Call Dorothy at 626-799-2269.



Mystery Writers of America, Inc. (MWA) was established in 1945 by a dozen or so likeminded mystery writers for the purpose of promoting and protecting the interests and welfare of mystery writers and to increase the esteem and literary recognition given to the genre. MARCH OF CRIME Page 3



Your Editor Speaks Jeri Westerson

Now is the time for all good men and women to come to the aid of their newsletter. In other words, it's been a good run, folks, but it's time for me to step down as newsletter editor and foist it onto some other poor sap...er, what I mean to say is, I'm certain there is an individual out there who would love to make a stab at editing The March of Crime. I took on this gig about

three years ago, just as I published my first book. It afforded me a chance

(and an excuse) to introduce myself to other members when we got together for chapter meetings and events. I appreciated the leg up since this business is all about networking any way you can. And the fruits of those labors have culminated in my running out of time to do this newsletter the justice it deserves! We have a *lot* of members scattered across four states. That's a lot of people to see your name on this column and on any article you care to write. Am I trying to bribe you? Yes! If you are interested, give me a shout through the email below and I'll discuss the ins and outs of formatting and mundane matters like that, as well as how easy you can make this for yourself. I've had a good time re-designing and putting together the newsletter for this chapter. I hope you've enjoyed receiving them. Now how about getting more intimate with your membership and give editing a try? I await your email at: themarchofcrime@gmail.com.

Save the Date

Joint Trip with Orange County Sisters in Crime Raymond Chandler's Los Angeles Bus Tour

Sunday, July 17 4 hour tour snack stop included

\$40 for members & guests \$75 for the public

We'll all meet downtown in the morning. Look for an email sign up to come

Fresh Blood

Linda Brown, affiliate, Los Angeles, CA

Susan Hellman, affiliate

Christopher Goffard, affiliate

Engrid Epel, affiliate

Hawkeye Sheene, active



Killer Quotes

"The sunshine was as empty as a headwaiter's smile." -- Raymond Chandler, The Big Sleep

The Crime Calendar

May 19-22, 2011: Crimefest, Bristol, UK www.crimefest.com

May 26-28, 2011: Mayhem in the Midlands, Omaha NE -- CANCELLED

June 3-5, 2011: Bloody Words, Victoria BC bloodywords2011.com

June 3-5, 2011: Mayhem in the Grove (formerly Murder in the Grove), Idaho, murderinthegrove.com

June 11-12, 2011: California Crime Writers Conference, Pasadena CA, sponsored by SinC/LA and SoCal MWA www.ccwconference.org

June 17–19, 2011: Historical Novel Society Conference San Diego, CA historicalnovelsociety.org

June 24-27, 2011: American Library Association New Orleans, LA

July 6-9, 2011: Thrillerfest, New York, NY www.thrillerwriters.org

July 21-24, 2011 Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival, Harrogate UK harrogate-festival.org.uk/crime

July 14-17, 2011: Public Safety Writers Association, Las Vegas NV policewriter.com

September 9-11, 2011: Seascape "Escape to Write" Writers Retreat, Chester CT robertaisleib.com/seascape.html

September 23-25: Writers' Police Academy, Jamestown NC writerspoliceacademy.com

September 15-18, 2011: Bouchercon, St. Louis MO bouchercon2011.com

February 2012: Love Is Murder, Chicago IL www.loveismurder.net

Chapter News

- ~Carol M. Tanzman's YA thriller, DANCERGIRL, will be published by Harlequin Teen in December, 2011. A second novel will follow a year later.
- ~Dennis Palumbo's crime novel MIRROR IMAGE is now available on Kindle.
- ~Linda Palmer (currently writing as Melinda Wells) signed a new contract with Berkley Prime Crime for two more in her series set against the background of a cable TV cooking show. Book # 4, PIE A LA MURDER, will be published on July 5. SEVEN LAYER DEATH (# 5), is scheduled for publication in 2012.
- ~Gay Toltl Kinman's short story "Hidden Past" set in Los Olivos in 1882, has been accepted for publication in the SINC Central Coast anthology to be publed in late fall 2011. Gay's short story "Catnapping" published (along with others) in Michael Connelly's (ed.) MURDER IN VEGAS is now on audio, read by Phil Gigante and Joyce Bean. And Gay will be one of the judges on the Best Hardcover committee for the Shamus Award from Private Eye Writers of America.
- ~Jeri Westerson will be speaking at the Fountain Valley Friends of the Library luncheon on June 10; she will be teaching a workshop on "Researching Historicals" at the California Crime Writer's Conference on June 11 at the Hilton in Pasadena; and she will be on a panel on June 18 at the Historical Novel Society's conference in San Diego. She also has a short story, "Noodle Girl" in her first anthology, SHAKEN, edited by Edgar-nominated Tim Hallinan. All proceeds of the anthology will go to Japan Earthquake Relief.
- ~Amnon Kabatchik is releasing his latest BLOOD ON THE STAGE 1950-1975: MILESTONE PLAYS OF CRIME, MYSTERY, AND DETECTION. This third volume in the series is due for release May 2011 by Scarecrow Press.
- ~Sue Ann Jaffarian will be a guest speaker at the Celebrating Words Festival held at L.A. Mission College on May 21. On June 4, Sue Ann will be one of the featured authors at the Downey Library Annual Author Luncheon which will be held at The Rio Hondo Country Club in Downey.
- ~Coming June 2011 from **D.P. Lyle**, HOT LIGHTS, COLD STEEL, a Dub Walker Thriller, and ROYAL PAINS: FIRST, DO NO HARM, tie-in novel from the hit TV series. Doug will be at the following locations: Mystery Ink, Huntington Beach, CA Saturday, June 4, 1 pm. Launch Party for HOT LIGHTS, COLD STEEL and ROYAL PAINS: FIRST, DO NO HARM 7176 Edinger Ave., Huntington Beach 714-960-4000; Mysterious Galaxy Books, San Diego Saturday, June 11, 2 pm signing of HOT LIGHTS, COLD STEEL and ROYAL PAINS: FIRST, DO NO HARM 7051 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. Suite #302, San Diego, CA 858-268-4747; FURTHER ADVENTURES: Writing Novelizations and Media Tie-ins Panel with William Rabkin, Lee Goldberg, Nathan Long, and Christa Faust (Moderator) An MWA sponsored event Saturday June 18, 11:00 am Sportsmen's Lodge 12833 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604 818-755-5000
- ~THE INFORMANT, by Thomas Perry, will be released May 5 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
- ~CLUTCHES AND CURSES, the fourth book in **Dorothy Howell's** Haley Randolph mystery series, will be released in hardcover from Kensington in June. SHOULDER BAGS AND SHOOTINGS will be released in paperback in May.
- ~Craig Faustus Buck has an essay entitled "The Girl Who Played with Larsson" in the soon to be released (May 10) THE TATTOED GIRL: THE ENIGMA OF STIEG LARSSON AND THE SECRETS BEHIND THE MOST COMPELLING THRILLERS OF OUR TIME from St. Martin's Griffin.

Write Mind: Commitment

By Dennis Palumbo

As a psychotherapist, one of the themes that emerges often in my work with patients is commitment. In dealing with relationship issues, for example, the depth of a commitment is tested by fears about the future, questions about trust and fidelity, and concerns about the tension between dependence and independence. ikewise, patients with children struggle daily with the commitment to the rigors of parenthood: the emotional and financial responsibilties, the sharp changes in lifestyle, the balancing of one's needs with those of one's child.

For my writer patients, this same level of commitment is required. I believe the relationship a writer has with his or her writing is analogous to that of any committed relationship, with the same joys and frustrations, pleasures and demands. And, like all relationships, a commitment to writing needs to be nurtured, tended.

What does a commitment to your writing entail? The same things as a commitment to a mate, a partner, or a child. The following come to mind:

Constancy. You've got to be in it for the long haul. You're not going anywhere. You'll be at the keyboard tomorrow, and the day after that, and the day after that.

Resilience. Things aren't always going to go well. There'll be good writing days and bad ones, great pages and awful ones. The test of any committed relationship is your willingness to accept (and endure) the up's and down's, the disappointments as well as the triumphs. A commitment to the writing life has the same requirement.

Fluidity. "The best laid plans," etc., etc. If something isn't working, you try something else. A long-term commitment requires the ability to learn from mistakes, and to give up cherished notions about the way things "should" be. So too a writer committed to his or her craft is both its student and master, learning from wrong turns and stale ideas, trying new approaches; coaxing the work along, yet at the same time following where it leads. This keeps the writing fresh, alive, even dangerous sometimes. Which, for a writer, is both exciting and nerve-wracking. (The parallels to marriage and parenting are self-explanatory!)

Openness to surprise. A corollary to fluidity, this aspect of a real commitment to writing challenges us to be open to a surprising twist of story, or an unexpected nuance of a character we thought we "knew." It's welcoming a dark or comic spin that seems to come to us like a devil's whisper, urging us to pursue it. An openness to surprise reminds us why we made the commitment in the first place---because the task of writing, of creating something from nothing, acts upon us as much as we upon it, and the surprise of our own humor, rage, eros and empathy thrills us, fulfills us. A friend of mine once said, "We write so that we won't die." An openness to surprise keeps our commitment to writing alive.

Patience. A crucial element of commitment. The waiting, with or even without expectation, for the next moment to arrive. Hopeful, watchful, the testing of faith in ourselves and that to which we're committed. A trait as valuable as a good work ethic, a writer's patience is aided by curiosity about what's coming next, and a conviction that it will probably be worth the wait. Because the real test of a writer's commitment is that he or she would rather be there, waiting, working, fretting, than anywhere else.

Finally, Love. The foundation of commitment. Having the faith, endurance or just plain stubbornness to stay committed against all odds is meaningless without love. A writer who doesn't love writing can't make a real commitment to it; all the struggles, the blocks, the high's and low's, become merely a test of one's will, or ego. Without love, one can perhaps survive the writer's life---maybe even garner some success in the marketplace---but what you're committed to lies elsewhere. Without love, the true joy of writing---that mysterious kinship with what you write, that transcendence of yourself whenever what you've written has literally captured your heart---is rarely felt.

A commitment to writing, in the end, means that you accept, with as much grace as you can muster on any given day, its myriad demands and delights, failures and triumphs.

Of course, like in any committed relationship, sometimes it seems like you're doing all the giving. But then, when you least expect it, it gives something back, and you remember again why you love it, its meaning in your life. And, over and above this, you have the sublime experience of allegiance to something other than, and perhaps greater than, yourself.

Formerly a Hollywood screenwriter (My Favorite Year; Welcome Back, Kotter, etc.), Dennis Palumbo is now a licensed psychotherapist in private practice. His mystery fiction has appeared in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, The Strand, Written By and elsewhere, and is collected in From Crime to Crime (Tallfellow Press). His mystery novel, MIRROR IMAGE (Poisoned Pen Press), is the first in a series featuring psychologist Daniel Rinaldi, a trauma expert who consults with the Pittsburgh Police. The sequel, FEVER DREAM, will appear in November. Info at www.dennispalumbo.com.

RT Convention Usual Suspects

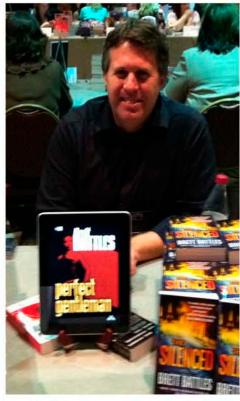
The Romantic Times Book Lovers Convention hit Pasadena from April 6-10. Roving reporter Lee Goldberg offers some pictures.



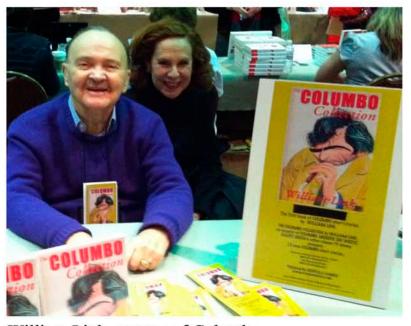
MWA Board member Lori Armstrong.



Award winning writer/producer of CHEERS and MASH).



Brett Battles.



William Link, creator of Columbo.

Sisters in Crime Los Angeles & So Cal Mystery Writers of America Present



June 11-12, 2011

At The Hilton Pasadena, 168 S. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA



Come Join Us for a Weekend of Crime Writers, Forensic Specialists, Editors, and Agents!

The conference attracts attendees and presenters from across the country and offers four tracks of classes geared to writers from the beginner to the multi-published. Come meet your future agent!



Special Guest Saturday Keynote
T. Jefferson Parker

Special Guest Sunday Keynote
S. J. Rozan

	Registration Rates are:
	\$265 now until Feb 28
	\$300 from Mar 1 - May 31
	\$350 June 1 to day of event (on-site registration only)
Name	
Address	
	ired to confirm registration)
Pen name (if applicable)
Ċ	MWA Member SinC Member Non Member
	Food choices:
	Saturday: Chicken Beef Vegetarian
	Sunday: Chicken Fish Vegetarian
	Conference fee
	Manuscript critique SOLD OUT\$50
	Total enclosed
	To contiden and new bounds of
Make d	To register and pay by check: neck payable to "Sisters in Crime/LA" and mail with completed form to
	Crime/LA, 1107 Fair Oaks Avenue, PMB 338, South Pasadena, CA 91030

To register online, pay via PayPal, and for more information visit www.ccwconference.org

Stellar Forensic Track, Agents Among Highlights of California Crime Writers Conference in June

An investigator in the Grim Sleeper serial killer case, former LAPD deputy chief, and a woman who held the third highest ranking position within the FBI are among the forensic speakers scheduled for the California Crime Writers Conference at the Hilton Pasadena on June 11-12, 2011. The conference is jointly sponsored by the Sisters of Crime/Los Angeles and the SoCal MWA chapter.

The forensic track is one of four tracks that will be offered during the two-day conference, which also features keynote speakers, New York Times bestselling author T. Jefferson Parker and New York City-based Edgar Award-winning S.J. Rozan. Another highlight will be an agents and editors reception, as well as panels on obtaining and working with agents and editors and dealing with contracts.

Among the forensic speakers include:

- Detective Dennis Kilcoyne, LAPD veteran who has worked with the elite Robbery-Homicide Division since 1994. In addition to the Grim Sleeper serial killings, he has investigated cases involving the "Black Widows" grandmothers who killed homeless men in an insurance scam, as well as O.J. Simpson.
- Margaret York, the wife of Judge Lance Ito, who served as the deputy chief of the LAPD and the head of the Los Angeles County Police.
- · Kathleen McChesney, former executive assistant director of the FBI.
- Sergeant Derek Pacifico, who is the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department lead interview and interrogation instructor.
- Detective Joe Allard, who deals with financial crime as a member of the Pasadena Police Department.
- Judge Karla Kerlin, who, as a deputy district attorney with the Sex Crimes and Major Crimes Division, was assigned to the Robert Blake murder trial.
- Sgt. Eduardo Calatayud, a certified hostage negotiator with the Pasadena Police Department.

There will also demonstrations of fighting techniques and police use of force.

Participating literary professionals include the following: agent Betsy Amster; Kimberley Cameron of the literary agency, Kimberley Cameron & Associates in Tiburon, California; agent Kelly Gottuso Mortimer; and Daniel Smetanka, editor-at-large for Counterpoint/Soft Skull Press. Attorney Jonathan Kirsch, an intellectual property expert, and former SoCal MWA chapter president Les Klinger will lead two sessions devoted to book contracts and other publishing law issues. Other sessions will explore the craft of writing, role of publicity in marketing mystery novels, researching historicals, and the ever-popular topic of e-publishing.

To register, visit the conference website at www.ccwconference.org. Registration fee, which includes breakfast and lunch meals and an agents' cocktail party, is \$300 until May 31 and \$350 (walk-in).

The Hilton Pasadena is offering discounts for overnight hotel rooms for those who request the special CCWC rate when they book their rooms.

The CCWC is a biennial event hosted by the area's top mystery writers' organizations.

For more information about Sisters in Crime/Los Angeles, visit www.sistersincrimela.com. For information about SoCal MWA, visit www.socalmwa.com.

What: California Crime Writers Conference

When: Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and June 12, 2011

Where: The Hilton Pasadena, 168 South Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena.

Registration: www.ccwconference.org



Rules for the 2012 St. Martin's Minotaur/ Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Competition

St. Martin's Minotaur and Mystery Writers Writers of America are pleased to announce the winner of the 2011 First Crime Novel Competition. The winner is Eleanor Kuhns. The announcement was made at the 2011 Edgar® Awards Banquet on Thursday, April 28, 2011. The winner of the 2012 contest will be announced at the 2012 Edgar Awards banquet on April 26, 2012. Sponsored by St. Martin's Minotaur and Mystery Writers of America (MWA)

1. The Competition is open to any writer, regardless of nationality, aged 18 or older, who has never been the author of any Published Novel (in any genre), as defined by the guidelines below, (except that authors of self-published works only may enter, as long as the manuscript submitted is not the self-published work) and is not under contract with a publisher for publication of a novel. Employees, and members of their immediate families

living in the same household, of Minotaur Books or Mystery Writers of America (or a parent, subsidiary, or affiliate of either of them) are not eligible to enter. Only one manuscript entry (the "Manuscript") is permitted per writer. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. To enter, you must first request an entry form by sending an e-mail to: MB-MWAFirstCrimeNovelCompetition@StMartins.com and include the following information:

Name of Entrant: Manuscript Title: Address: Phone:

All requests for entry forms must be received by Minotaur Books by email by November 15, 2011. DO NOT SEND MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSIONS TO MINOTAUR BOOKS.

Each entrant will receive an entry form by email containing the address of the judge to whom he or she will send (by regular mail or next-business-day delivery service) his or her manuscript. Entries must be postmarked no later than November 30, 2011 and received by judges no later than December 15, 2011 and must include:

- a) A double-spaced and neatly typed copy of the manuscript (photocopies are acceptable), with pages numbered consecutively from beginning to end.
- b) A letter or cover sheet containing the name, address, email address and telephone number of the entrant and the entrant's previous writing credits, if any.
- c) The application form, printed from their email, duly completed, and a self-addressed letter-sized envelope for our response.
- d) A digital copy of the manuscript burned to a CD or saved to a USB stick as a Microsoft Word document. All CDs and USB sticks should be marked with the author's name and the title of the manuscript.

Each entrant must keep a copy of the Manuscript for his or her own protection. Minotaur Books will not be responsible for lost, stolen, or mislaid manuscripts. Because of the great volume of submissions we receive, the fact that judges are volunteers with full-time responsibilities elsewhere, and the fact that most writers now have the work in their computers, Manuscripts, CDs and USB sticks will not be returned. Please do not send return postage or envelopes for return of your Manuscript.

It is important that you submit your Manuscript as early as possible. Our judges are volunteers who are extremely busy with their primary concerns, and submissions will get a more careful reading if the judge does not have to contend with a flood of last-minute entries.

3. Entrants must have a valid e-mail address. In case of dispute as to identity of an entrant, entry will be declared made by the authorized account holder of the e-mail address provided to Minotaur Books. "Authorized Account Holder" is defined as an actual person who is assigned an e-mail address by an Internet access provider, online service provider, or other organization (e.g., business, educational institution, etc.) responsible for assigning e-mail addresses or the domain associated with the submitted e-mail address. Minotaur Books and Mystery Writers of America are not responsible for technical, hardware, software, telephone or other communications malfunctions, errors or failures of any kind, lost or unavailable network connections, website, Internet, or ISP unavailability, unauthorized human intervention, traffic congestion, incomplete or inaccurate capture of entry information (regardless of cause) or failed, incomplete, or delayed computer transmissions which may limit one's ability to enter this Competition, including any injury or damage to any computer relating to or resulting from downloading any materials in this Competition.

All Manuscripts submitted: a) must be original works of book length (no less than 220 typewritten pages or approximately 60, 000 words) written in the English language; b) must be written solely by the entrant, who may not be the author of any previously Published Novel; c) must not violate any right of any third party or be libelous, and dmust generally follow the Guidelines.

For Guidelines, go to http://www.mysterywriters.org/?q=Contests-Writers.

MARCH OF CRIME Page 11

MARCH OF CRIME



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA Southern California Chapter 12021 Wilshire Blvd. #506 Los Angeles, CA 90025

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

Editor: Jeri Westerson

To submit material for The March of Crime, email the editor at TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com

To advertise in TMOC, visit our website at www.SoCalMWA.com for information.

Any opinions expressed herein are those of each author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Mystery Writers of America or the local chapter.

Next Meeting:

Further Adventures: On Writing Novelizations and Media Tie-Ins

With Doug Lyle ("Royal Pains"), William Rabkin ("Psych"), Lee Goldberg ("Monk") and Nathan Long ("Warhammer"), moderated by Christa ("Snakes on a Plane") Faust.

Saturday, June 18 11:00 am to 2 pm

Sportsman's Lodge 12833 Ventura Blvd. Studio City

Lunch: \$20 for members \$25 for non-members

RSVP at www.socalmwa.org

Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter

12021 Wilshire Blvd., #506, Los Angeles, CA 90025 323-319-6MWA (6692)

Email: info@socalmwa.com

The Web of Crime: www.socalmwa.com

President Gary Phillips Board of Directors

Deborah Atkinson, James Scott Bell, Richard Brewer,

Tyler Dilts, Christa Faust, Darrell James, Gay Toti Kinman, Pamela Samuels Young, Jeri Westerson

Ex-officio: Naomi Hirahara



Mystery Writers of America 1140 Broadway, Suite 1507, New York, NY 10001 Phone: 212.888.8171 / Fax: 212.888.8107

> Email: <u>mwa@mysterywriters.org</u> Website: <u>www.mysterywriters.org</u>

The MWA logo and awards name "Edgar" are protected marks of the Mystery Writers of America, Inc., and are used in all issues of The March of Crime

LAST WORD



On an appropriately overcast Saturday afternoon this past Saturday, March 19, a motley crew of participants and audience gathered in the back room of the wondrous Meltdown Comics store on Sunset for our crime comics panel, Knife to the Page: Writing Crime Graphic Novels. Given movies The Road to Perdition, History of Violence, Sin City to the recent bloody romp, Red, are all based on this disposable sequential art form source material, we wanted to take a closer examination of this disposable medium and what goes into making these dang "funny books." Our panelists were Doselle Young (Gangland), Deborah Vankin (Poseurs) and Joshua Hale Fialkov (Tumor), moderated by Gary (The Rinse) Phillips, and a good time was had by all.

For the blow-by-blow where everything from party noir to towns without pity were discussed, simply go to our website and under podcasts in the Members section, you can hear an audio of the panel. It was a blast.