MARCH OF CRIME

MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER July & August 2011

CALIFORNIA CRIME WRITERS CONFERENCE PROVIDES EXPERTISE & INSPIRATION IN PASADENA

150 individuals attended More than workshops, panels and demonstrations at the Crime Writers California Conference (CCWC), the second event co-presented by the SoCal MWA chapter and Sisters in Crime/Los Angeles during the weekend of June 11-12. As in the first conference in 2009, the CCWC was held at the Hilton Pasadena.

"The weekend was a success in every way," said Naomi Hirahara, former SoCal MWA chapter president who co-chaired conference with SinC/LA president Sybil left to right: Keynote speakers SJ Rozan and T Jefferson Parker, CCWC co-chairs

The feaulty provided invaluable Naomi Hirahara and Sybil Johnson. Photo by Jackie Houchin. Johnson. "The faculty provided invaluable



information, ranging from grammar tips to the ins-and-outs of LAPD's robbery and homicide department to the business of writing. I'm most elated by the good news that at least one agent requested a full manuscript from one of our attendees during our manuscript consultation." Another critiquer with ties to a small press had also asked to see the full manuscript of another participant, while another writer was able to formally seal the deal with an agent whom she had been communicating with prior to the conference.

Keynote speakers - New York Times best-selling author T Jefferson Parker and New York City-based award-winning writer SJ Rozan - both inspired and entertained the crowd during lunch. Parker, who has won Edgar Awards for not only his novels, Silent Joe and California

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CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? AN INDIE BOOKSTORE OPENING! SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS.



THE PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET GARY PHILLIPS

If you haven't checked out our national site lately, I encourage you to take a few moments and do so. As you were informed via a recent eblast, MWA recently revamped its publishers' guidelines in an effort to acknowledge the changes e-books

have made, and continue to make, on our industry. The changes we've incorporated certainly don't capture all that is happening in this fast-moving environment and we know sooner than later we'll revisit and readjust. I'm sure many of you, including me, are involved in e-book efforts that do not currently meet the MWA guidelines, but that isn't a reason to not be involved in MWA.

Just the opposite.

This is your organization and the only way we make it stronger and more useful is to study, engage, discuss and constantly seek to improve the services and benefits we provide. If you haven't checked out the discounts and services we offer lately, when you're on the national site, click into the "Members Only" section to re-familiarize yourself with what's there and maybe see some new offerings. Remember too we have a literacy program, grant scholarships and have kick-started the MWA University, our traveling writers program.

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

Editors: David J Sherman

Natascha Jaffa

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



Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter 12021 Wilshire Blvd #506 Los Angeles CA 90025 323.319.6MWA (6692) info@socalmwa.com http://www.socalmwa.com

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: GARY PHILLIPS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: DEBORAH ATKINSON

JAMES SCOTT BELL
RICHARD BREWER
TYLER DILTS
CHRISTA FAUST
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PAMELA SAMUELS YOUNG

JERI WESTERSON

Ex-officio: Naomi Hirahara

NATIONAL OFFICE
Mystery Writers of America
1140 Broadway #1507
New York NY 10001
212.888.8171 / 212.888.8107 (fax)
mwa@mysterywriters.org
http://www.mysterywriters.org

YOUR EDITORS SPEAK DAVID J SHERMAN & NATASCHA JAFFA

Hello and welcome to the July issue. I, along with my co-editor Natascha Jaffa, have taken over the helm from Jeri Westerson, and we'll do our best to carry on the fantastic work she did. Thanks for the years of effort, Jeri.



In the next two issues, we will take a minute to let you know a little about ourselves. This month, it's my turn.

I'm David J Sherman. I've been writing for more than thirty years. My first novel in the Jack Murphy series, *The Dark Side*, was published in 2002. My next Jack Murphy novel, *Clouded Judgment*, will be out in January 2012.

I'm currently working on my new project, The Creativity Ninja (www.creativityninja.com), where I help writers become authors. I'm a Zen Buddhist, a great listener, a lousy golfer, and a compassionate world citizen.

In the next issue, Natascha will share a bit about herself.

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In a world where we are losing indie bookstores at an alarming rate, here is your chance to celebrate an indie opening! Join your fellow members at the soon-to-be open LA area branch of Mysterious Galaxy. Free food, including some tasty Q (bar-b-que) and libations provided by your chapter.

Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore
2810 Artesia Blvd
Redondo Beach CA 90278

EACH MEMBER CAN BRING A GUEST.

RSVP BY JULY 25 TO CONTACT@SOCALMWA.COM

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Girl, but also a short story, "Skinhead Central", spoke about his struggles in getting his first mystery novel published in the 1980s.

In conclusion, Parker said, "I love thrillers, I like to read them and I'm happy to be part of a long literary tradition that goes back to Poe and Arthur Conan Doyle. And all the writers here today are carrying on that tradition, and it's a nice place to be. Most of you are writers, some published, some not. If I were to offer any help at all, what I would pass along is it's important to remember that writing should often be a pleasure. It's easy to lose track of that when you turn pro."

Rozan, on the other hand, shared her theories on why mystery genre writing resonates in a world that often doesn't make sense. The author of the Bill and Lydia Chin series, Rozan is a

winner of the Edgar, Anthony, Shamus, Nero and Macavity awards. She also led a workshop on avoiding the "sagging middle" in the writing of a novel.

Real-life crime fighters led informative break-out sessions. Pasadena police detective Joseph Allard gave a presentation on financial fraud, while the well-known Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) detective Dennis Kicoyne (who has worked on the Grim Sleeper serial killer case and most recently was assigned to the Dodger Stadium beating case) presented real-world stories of working homicide.

Two high-profile female law enforcement officers, former LAPD Deputy Chief Margaret York and Dr. Kathleen Socal MWA President Gary Phillips leads a workshop on McChesney, former FBI executive assistant director,



dialogue. Photo by Jackie Houchin.

discussed their rise to top leadership positions. Both women had started their careers in the 1960s, when females could only supervise other female police officers. York and her female police partner at the time were, in fact, the inspiration behind the ground-breaking television program, "Cagney and Lacey".



left to right: MWA member Linda Johnston, SoCal MWA board member Darrell James, and Sisters in Crime/LA board member Diana James. Photo by Jackie Houchin.

McChesney, on the other hand, had been working at the FBI when Ted Bundy had been stopped by police in Utah for a routine traffic violation. Evidence linked Bundy to a series of murders of young women and McChesney was among the FBI investigators in Seattle who questioned Bundy, who was eventually executed for assaulting and killing at least 30 women.

MWA member Dianne Emley, who writes a series featuring a female detective with the Pasadena Police Department, moderated most of the sessions in the forensic track.

Other representatives from law enforcement

enforcement and the courts at the conference included Derek Pacifico of the Bernardino County Sheriff's Department; Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Karla Kerlin, Pasadena Police Department; and Sergeant Eduardo Calatayud. Bill Hayes and Jennifer Thomas of Old School Kenpo was on hand to give a demonstration on fighting techniques.

Agents were also popular features at panel discussions, manuscript consultations and the cocktail party. Participating agents and editors included Angela Rinaldi, Kimberley Members of the Pasadena Police Department explain use of force at a break-out Kelly Gottuso Mortimer, Cameron,



session. Photo by Naomi Hirahara.

Robbins and Matthew Pizzo of Zova Books. Dan Smetanka, led a workshop at Counterpoint Books/Soft Skull Press who formerly worked at Random House, hand to explain the typical life cycle of a book. Former SoCal MWA chapter president Les Klinger and renowned intellectual property attorney Jonathan Kirsch explored the ins-and-outs of book contracts.



left to right: Former LAPD Deputy Chief Margaret York, former FBI executive assistant director Kathleen McChesney, and SoCal MWA chapter member DianneEmley, who was responsible for the forensic track "Women in Blue" panel. Photo by Naomi Hirahara.

Other helpful workshops were led by three Northern California-based authors, Avery Ames (Daryl Wood Gerber), Juliet Blackwell and Michelle Gagnon; SoCal MWA chapter president Gary Phillips; award-winning author and founder of the Crime Lab Project Jan Burke; television writer and e-publishing bestseller Lee Goldberg; local writers, June Casagrande, Denise Hamilton, Dorothy Howell, Sheila Lowe, Jeff Sherratt, Eric Stone and Jeri Westerson; publicist Diana James; and children's book author Kerry Madden.

The California Crime Writers Conference is held every other year; the next one will be in 2013. Join its Facebook page (California Crime Writers Conference) to network with participants and keep abreast of new developments.

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Mystery Writers of America, Inc. (MWA) was established in 1945 by a dozen or so like-minded mystery writers for the purpose of promoting and protecting the interests and welfare of mystery writers and to increase the estem and literary recognition given to the genre.



LAPD Detective Dennis Kilcoyne (left) with MWA member Eric Stone, who was on the CCWC programing committee. Photo by Naomi Hirahara.

WRITE MIND: THE BUDDY SYSTEM

BY DENNIS PALUMBO

At the end of Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Sign of Four*, Dr. Watson announces to Sherlock Holmes that he's decided to get married. "Honestly, I cannot congratulate you," Holmes replies, in his usual sharp-edged manner. He then tells Watson quite bluntly that all the marriage means to him is that he's losing a partner.

I'm reminded of that scene from the novel because of something similar that happened recently to one of my writer patients. His best friend, also a writer, had just announced that

he was giving up, and moving back East to work in his uncle's hardware business. Though these two were not writing partners, they'd met out here in Los Angeles years ago, become friends, and had taken turns supporting each other's careers. For my patient, this was a devastating loss.

"He was that one guy I could call up at 1 AM," my patient explained. "The one you could bitch to about writing – how it was going, your stupid agent, whatever – and he'd know exactly what you were talking about. The one who was always count on your side, who never lied to you – except those times when you needed a comforting lie, if you know what I mean."



Public Domain Photo: http://goo.gl/YDLqk

I knew exactly what he meant. It's what every writer really needs, maybe more than an agent, a computer, or even a shrink. What every writer needs is a buddy.

Remember the "buddy system"? When we were kids in swimming class, we were always advised to "swim with a buddy". When teachers lead school kids across the street, isn't each child instructed to hold hands with another child?

The buddy system recognized the need for support in navigating new developmental stages, or mastering new physical skills. Even as adults, we acknowledge the need for this kind of help when learning a new task. Scuba instructors require that students dive with a buddy. The same goes for learning to rock climb, sky-dive, a whole range of sports.

Even when it's not officially named as such, the buddy system helps us get through the thornier patches in life. In high school, what is double-dating but an excuse to do a new, frightening social event with the security of a friend having to go through it with you? Even when attempting to reach the highest office in the land, each presidential candidate has a running mate. A constitutional requirement? Maybe. I say it's the buddy system in action.

Most writers I know seem to gravitate naturally toward a buddy. This is usually, but not always, another writer. Someone who understands the vocabulary of the publishing business,

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A TOOL FOR YOUR MARKETING ARSENAL

BY DAVID J SHERMAN

A QR, or Quick Response, Code is a new way of communicating information to our readers. It could be a URL, a phone number, an address, or just about any character-based data. QR Codes have been around for a while in Japan, where they originated, but they're relatively new in the US. QRs are a type of bar code that are readable by smart phones and other readers. They take a few minutes to generate, but the code is simple black ink on a white background, so additional printing costs are negligible and it's easy to integrate into existing materials.

Why would you bother to use one? Perhaps you have a long URL or one that is commonly misspelled, or maybe you just want to make it as easy as possible for your readers to contact you, whether by phone, email or URL. As this technology spreads, readers are going to come to rely on QR Codes, and if you don't incorporate



Public Domain Image: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Wikipedia_mobile_en.svg

their use, you risk looking out of touch with your fan base.

The URL doesn't have to be your homepage. When your new book is published, you can direct readers to a page about that book. You can use QR Codes to offer incentives or bonuses, like multimedia content, dossiers on your characters, just about anything. Use these QR Codes on your business cards, advertisements, and bookmarks, and guide your readers to the specific content you want them to consume.

And the best news is that you can create these codes for free. Use the QR Code Generator from the ZXing (Zebra Crossing) Project at http://zxing.appspot.com/generator/, and generate QR Codes for calendar events, contact information, email addresses, geo locations, phone numbers, SMS, text, URLs, and WiFi networks. Just take a moment and think of the possibilities. I'll wait.

Technology continues to advance, smart phones are now the norm, and ebook sales are catching fire. Take advantage of this marketing tool now and enhance your readers' experiences.

David J Sherman is the author of the Jack Murphy series. The first novel in the series, The Dark Side, was published in 2002. His next in the series, Clouded Judgment, will be published in January 2012. He is currently working on his new project, The Creativity Ninja (www.creativityninja.com) where he helps writers become authors.



Sponsored by the Orange County Chapter of Sisters in Crime and the Southern California Chapter of Mystery Writers of America

You are invited to come along and see the sites that inspired Raymond Chandler's hardboiled detective tales. Chandler's L.A. The city. The way he saw it. Ride along with mystery writers and discover what makes Los Angeles the noir capital.

When: Sunday, July 17

What Time: Noon to 4 pm Where: Clifton's Cafeteria 648 South Broadway

Downtown L.A. 90014

How Much: \$40 per person

(for OCSinC & MWA members and guests) \$75 for non-members

A snack stop is included.

Meet at Clifton's Cafeteria at 11:30 am to board the bus. Bus leaves promptly at Noon. A tour guide will tell the tales and immerse you into Chandler's Los Angeles.

Seating is limited. Reserve your seat asap. Pay by check or paypal at www.socalmwa.com

Close to the Metro stop or paid parking lot across the street from Clifton's.

Find out about joining Sisters in Crime at www.ocsistersincrime.org

It's a Crime to Miss This Tour

STAY THIRSTY

BY JAMES SCOTT BELL



Photo by Graham Hills (http://www.flickr.com/photos/grahamhills/)

I love a good ad campaign.

When I started running a small legal publishing business years ago, I had to teach myself advertising and marketing. I read some classics on the subject, such as How to Write a Good Advertisement by Victor O. Schwab and Tested Advertising Methods by John Caples.

My favorite, though, was Ogilvy on Advertising by the legendary ad man David Ogilvy. This volume made me appreciate what goes into successful ads, and just how hard they are to pull off.

So when I see a great ad campaign, I nod in approval. One of the best of all time has to be the "I'm a Mac, I'm a PC" series. It's no accident that Mac's market share has shot up in tandem with these ads. Smart, funny, short, well acted, superb.

My current favorite is "The most interesting man in the world" campaign for Dos Equis.

A typical spot features "vintage film" of the man in various pursuits, while a narrator recites a few facts about him. Then we see him

sitting in a bar surrounded by beautiful people. He looks into the camera and, in a slight Spanish accent, says, "I don't always drink beer, but when I do I prefer Dos Equis."

A few of my favorite "facts" about this man are:

- He lives vicariously through himself.
- He once had an awkward moment, just to see how it feels.
- The police often question him, just because they find him interesting.
- He once taught a German shepherd to bark in Spanish.

And then, at the end of each ad, comes the man's signature sign off: "Stay thirsty, my friends."

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Mystery Writers of America

Mystery Writers of America is pleased to announce the launch of a new listserv at yahoogroups. This group is for any current MWA member who is writing Juvenile and/or Young Adult books or is interested in breaking into this area.

We hope this new list will continue to foster a sense of community among our members and will give you an opportunity to share ideas, ask questions, etc. about this increasingly growing part of our genre.

If you are interested, send an email to: mwa-kids-yawriters-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Please make sure you include your name when sending the email so we can confirm you are a member of Mystery Writers of America.

Any questions - just email the national office at: mwa@mysterywriters.org

REMINDER

The deadline for articles and news is the 7th before publication date.

Please email your items to us at themarchofcime@gmail.com by August 7th for the September/October issue. Thanks for your help!



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

FRESH BLOOD

Active

Arthur Eisenson (reinstated)
Mary Firmin (reinstated)
Lisa Fredsti
Jo Hammett (reinstated)
Ed Kovach
Kathleen Sharp

Affiliate

Dolores Grabitz, David Howard, William Jones, Carol Nicholson

Associate

Susan Epstein

CHAPTER NEWS

Robert S Levinson's "Any Similarity to Persons Living or Dead is Purely Coincidental" is illustrated on the cover of September's Alfred Hitchcock Magazine, currently on newsstands. The short story is set in late 30s Hollywood and features some of the same characters who appear in his ninth crime novel, A Rhumba in Waltz Time, which launches Thursday, Sept. 8, with a gala reception at Skylight Books, Los Angeles.

The Midnight Show Murders, the comedy-mystery written by Al Roker and **Dick Lochte**, has been short-listed for the Nero Wolfe Award. Winner will be announced at a dinner in NYC in December, right around the pub date of the next book in the series, *The Talk Show Murders*.

Oren Peli & Michael R. Perry's television series The River has been picked up for eight episodes, to begin airing on ABC in early 2012.

Leslie Klinger's new anthology In the Shadow of Dracula, an annotated collection of Victorian vampire stories, will be published by IDW in August.

Shaun Morey's first novel, Wahoo Rhapsody, will be released July 5, 2011 by Amazon Encore.

John Morgan Wilson has two short stories in the just-published Saints & Sinners 2011: New Fiction from the Festival (Queer Mojo), an anthology comprised of the twelve finalists in the short fiction competition at this year's Saints & Sinners Literary Festival in New Orleans. John also has stories in two forthcoming anthologies, Art from Art (Modernist Press) and Men of the Mean Streets (Bold Strokes Books).

Edward Wright's From Blood has been sold to Vantage Point Books for publication in early 2012. The UK edition, published last year by Orion, was named one of the year's best mystery novels by the Financial Times of London.

Carol Costa's second book in the Ask Aunt Emma mystery series, Ask Aunt Emma Again, released as an e-book in June by Champagne Books. The print version will be available by the end of August. Her Young/Adult Ghost Story, The Secret of Eastman Springs, will be released in July by Open Books Press. And The Seventh Messenger, a historical novel based on the true story of the House of David religious colony, will be released in June by Anaphora Press.

Lisa Morton's *The Castle of Los Angeles* won the Bram Stoker Award for First Novel at HWA's Stoker Awards Weekend in Long Island.

Do you have news you'd like to share with our Chapter? Be sure to send it to themarchofcrime@gmail.com by the 7th prior to publication. The next due date is August 7th for the September & October 2011 issue.



INVITES YOU TO A STAGED READING OF THE EDGAR AWARD-WINNING PLAY

THE PSYCHIC

A Murder Mystery (of sorts)

BY SAM BOBRICK

Tuesday, July 26, 2011 @ 7pm

7000 W 3rd Street 2nd Floor Multi-Purpose Room Los Angeles CA 90048

Parking Entrance on Blackburn, One Block South of 3rd Street

The Psychic follows the chaotic life of Adam Webster, a down-on-his-luck writer, who has put a sign in his apartment window in desperation to make rent:

PSYCHIC READINGS \$25.

The sign soon draws the interest of the lovely and conflicted Laura, her shady husband Roy, Roy's mistress, a gangster named Johnny Bubbles,

and ace detective Norris Coslow.

In the surprising twists that follow, The Psychic entangles Adam in a hilarious murder mystery that you won't want to miss!

STARRING THE CASE FROM LAST YEAR'S PRODUCTION AT GARRY MARSHALL'S FALCON THEATRE

JEFF CANNATA, DANA GREEN, CYRUS ALEXANDER, BRIDGET GLANERY, RICHARD HORVITZ & PHIL PROCTOR

Joining us for this staging as the "Narrator" will be Melinda

Peterson

FREE OF CHARGE

Reservations are Required

RSVP via email to: diversity@wga.org

Include "PSYCHIC" in the subject line

Call 323.782.4589 with questions

THE PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET

[continued from page 2]

Clearly in the times we're living in, much is not set in stone. Our goal is to be of service to our members yet only by your involvement in our committees and programs do we keep the organization vital and moving forward.

Yours,

Gary

YOUR EDITORS SPEAK

[continued from page 3]

Now, a little housekeeping. The deadline for articles and news will be the 7th prior to publication. The next issue will publish September 1, so please have your data turned in by August 7.

I am grateful for the chance to serve our membership.

Dave

BUDDY SYSTEM

[continued from page 6]

the particular joys and pains of working with an editor, the stress of deadlines, the agonies of a bad review.

Someone who, to put it simply, gets it. And, more importantly, gets you.

The Creativity Ninja

I Help Writers Become Authors

www.creativityninja.com

CCWC

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"Once again, Sisters in Crime/LA had the pleasure of working with SoCal MWA to put on a successful conference," said SinC/LA's Johnson. "We look forward to working with them again on the 2013 California Crime Writers Conference."

If you'd like to be part of the organizing committee, please contact CCWConference@gmail.com.



left to right: Moderated by author Avery Ames (Daryl Wood Gerber), the agents panel featured Angela Rinaldi, Kimberley Cameron, and Kimberly Gottuso Mortimer. Photo by Naomi Hirahara.

When I was a Hollywood screenwriter, my best friend – a writer and director – performed this service for me. As I did for him. We'd call each other after bad meetings, replaying the events and offering encouragement. He was the only one I'd let read an unfinished script I was struggling with, confident that he'd be incisive and supportive in just the right measures. He knew my writing style, my creative sensibilities so well, he'd know where I was trying to go with the script – often, before I knew. And, according to him, this was something I was able to provide him as well.

Though they may not think of it in terms of a buddy system, most of my writer patients have this same kind of relationship with at least one other person in their lives. The one friend who offers clarity in difficult, confusing situations. The one whose bullshit indicator you trust completely. The one you can call at one AM. That one person in an often wrenching, contradictory, heart-breaking business that helps you feel less alone.

Agents come and go. So do book deals and canceled contracts. Flush times and lean times. But for a writer, the "buddy system" — the long-term, on-going relationship with that one intellectual, emotional, creative "soul mate" — is a treasured constant.

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.

STAY THIRSTY

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What's so good about this campaign?

It's risky. Having a graying, middle aged man as the lead character is, as they say, counter programming.

It's funny without trying too hard. The understated way the deep-voiced narrator extols the man's legend is pitch perfect.

It has a complete backstory, revealed a little at a time in the mock film clips.

These are qualities of a good novel, too. Risky, in that it doesn't repeat the same old; a bit of unforced humor is always welcome; and a backstory that renders characters real and complex without slowing down the narrative. All that we can learn from "the most interesting man in the world" campaign.

And from the man himself we can learn, as writers, to live life expansively and not just lollygag through our existence. Not waiting for inspiration, but going after it as Jack London once said, "with a club". Believing, with Kerouac, in the "holy contour of life".

We ought to be seekers as well as storytellers, a little mad sometimes, risking the pity and scorn of our fellows as we pursue the artistic vision. Then we park ourselves at the keyboard and strive to get it down on the page. Why go through it all? Because the world needs dreams

rendered in words.

Writer, keep after it and someday this may be said of you as well: "His charisma can be seen from space. Even his enemies list him as their emergency contact number."

Stay thirsty, my friends.

James Scott Bell is the author of several thrillers, including the Buchanan series – Try Dying, Try Darkness, Try Fear (Hachette/Center Street). He has also written three of the most popular writing books on the market: Plot & Structure, Revision & Self-Editing and The Art of War for Writers (Writers Digest Books). This article is adapted from his e-book Writing Fiction for All You're Worth, available for \$2.99 on Kindle or Nook. His website is www.jamesscottbell.com

THE 9/11 TEN MINUTE PLAYWRITING CONTEST

American Science Theatre is holding this contest. First prize: \$100

For details, please visit: www.americansciencetheatre.com



The Editors would like to extend a heartfelt

Thank You

to

Jeri Westerson

For her hard work these past few years, tirelessly churning out this newsletter by herself. Having done an issue ourselves, we can appreciate the amount of effort required. It won't be easy, but we will do our best to carry on the tradition of publishing a newsletter of the highest caliber.

MEETING RECAP

FURTHER ADVENTURES: ON WRITING NOVELIZATIONS AND MEDIA TIE-IN

Ever wonder what it's like to play with other people's characters? From novel versions of popular movies to licensed original fiction featuring franchise characters from film, TV or even video games, media-related work-for-hire novels are the new 21st century pulp fiction.

On June 18th, five veteran pulp slingers gathered at the historic Sportsman's Lodge in Studio City to discuss the drama, the deadlines and other unique challenges of this often misunderstood genre.

The panel consisted of Doug Lyle (Royal Pains), William Rabkin (Psych), Lee Goldberg (Monk) and Nathan Long (Warhammer), and was moderated by Christa (Snakes on a Plane) Faust. It was a lively, diverse group with a wide range of experience and back-story. Goldberg and Rabkin have worked extensively in television, while wild card Long comes from a fantasy background. Relative newbie Lyle brought his own perspective, sharing an amusing cautionary tale about the often bumpy road between proposal and publication. Other topics of discussion ranged from the nuts and bolts of the script-to-book process to the perils of rabid fans, eleventh hour changes, and why tie-in writers get no respect.



Christa Faust, Lee Goldberg, William Rabkin, Nathan Long and Doug Lyle share experiences in the movie tie in world. Photo by Richard Brewer.



Christa talks about the detailedness of fans devotion to the characters of the TV series. Photo by Richard Brewer.



Christa Faust, Lee Goldberg, William Rabkin, Nathan Long, Doug Lyle. Photo by Richard Brewer.



Doug explains the trials and excitement of writing characters created by others. Photo by Richard Brewer.

THE CRIME CALENDAR

July 14 - 17, 2011

Public Safety Writers Association Las Vegas NV policewriter.com

August 27 - 28, 2011

Police Interogation for Writers LA County CA (tbd) www.globaltraininginstitute.com (click 'Crime Writer', then 'Course Schedule')

September 15 - 18, 2011

Bouchercon 2011, St Louis MO bouchercon 2011.com

February 2012

Love is Murder, Chicago IL www.loveismurder.net

July 21 - 24, 2011

Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival
Harrogate UK
harrogate-festival.org.uk/crime

September 9 - 11, 2011

Seascape "Escape to Write" Writers Retreat
Chester CT
robertaisleib.com/seascape.html

September 23 - 25, 2011

Writers' Police Academy Jamestown NC writerspoliceacademy.com

Please note that the information provided here is done so as a service to our members. Some events may have fees. MWA and/or the Southern California Chapter of MWA do not endorse the events listed here unless specifically stated.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!