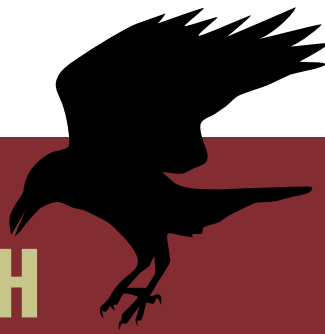


AUGUST 2025

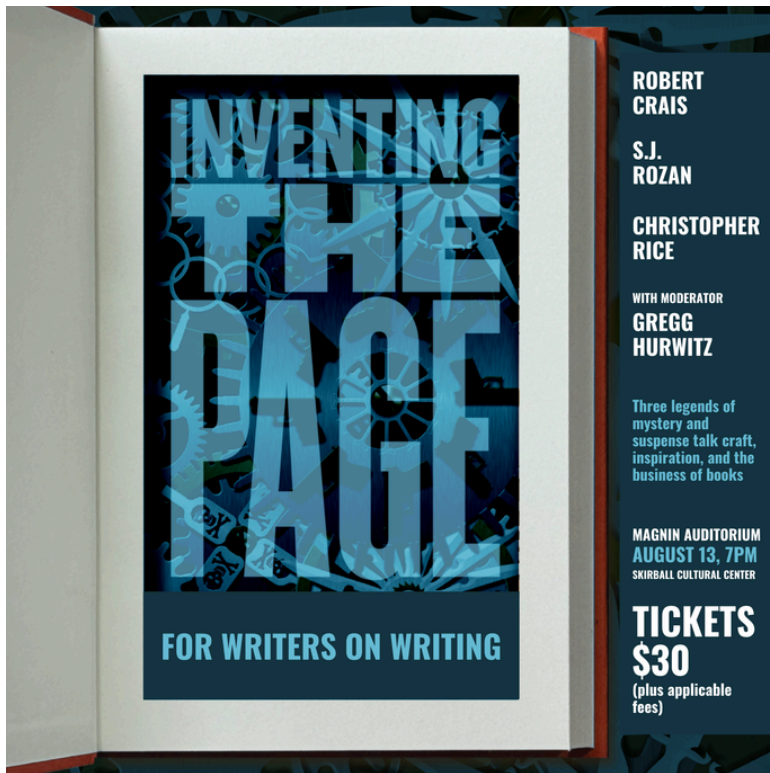
THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



Inventing the Page 2025

FOR WRITERS ON WRITING



SoCalMWA and SinCLA present “Inventing the Page: For Writers on Writing.” This ticketed event will feature **Robert Crais**, Christopher Rice, and S.J. Rozan, with Gregg Hurwitz serving as moderator.

Wednesday, August 13 at 7 p.m.
The Skirball Cultural Arts Center
Magnin Auditorium
2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

What's inside

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[Inventing the Page 2025 p. 1](#)

[President's Rap Sheet p. 2](#)

[Editor's Corner p. 3](#)

[Events & Announcements p. 4](#)

[Over the Tansom p. 5](#)

[Member Appearances p. 6](#)

[Books, BBQ, & Beer Pics p. 7](#)

[Crime Calendar p. 9](#)

[The Last Word p. 9](#)





Social Gatherings

BY LESLIE S. KLINGER



We just had our annual “Books ‘n BBQ” event at the home of Board member (and former Chapter Prez) **Gary Phillips**, attended by more than forty members of the chapter. Pictures are elsewhere in this issue if you weren’t there! It was pleasant to sit in Gary’s garage-cave, out of the heat of the sun, and look at the multitude of shelves of his own books on the walls. It was a tangible reminder of Gary’s long career as an activist, writer, and chapter member.

As might be expected, there was talk of books—a lot of “what are you working on?” and “how’s that project going?” Some folks there were well-published writers. Some expressed frustration at not yet finishing their first books, others discussed the difficulties of finding an agent, or a publisher. Some groused about deadlines, some complained about editors, cover illustrators, or royalty statements. Mostly, however, people were just glad to see each other in these turbulent times. That, after all, is the point of an event like this—networking, informing, but primarily, bringing comfort in knowing that we’re not alone.

A friend of mine is an actress. She’s not a big star, but she works a lot in television and film, as a “character” actor. Because her employment is always short-term, even though she’s surrounded by dozens of people on every job, she essentially works alone. She’s gotten used to that and is quite independent, though she tells me that there can be real loneliness in the middle of those crowds.

My day job is different. I can count on seeing the same people in my law office—my lawyer-colleagues, paralegals, assistants, and clerks—every time I go in. But, as an effect of COVID and advances in technology, I now only go into the office two days a week, and the rest of my work is done in my home office. I have meetings via Zoom, often more than one a day, but most of my time is spent reading and writing e-mails and documents. I feel the diminution of that social interaction with my “work friends,” and I’m sure that everyone else on my staff does too. I miss the possibility of sticking my head into someone’s office to bounce something off them. I miss hearing about their vacation plans or seeing photos of their recent trips. I know that friends who have retired—after they’ve had enough fishing, hiking, and travelling—often feel the same way.

continued on page 4

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Leslie S. Klinger

VICE PRESIDENT
Jennifer Younger

TREASURER
Aimee Kluck

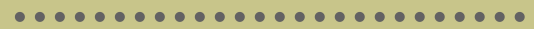
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Patricia Smiley

Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter

c/o Leslie S. Klinger
10866 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 1500
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Contact: info@socalmwa.com
Website: <http://socalmwa.com>
Twitter: [@socalmwa](https://twitter.com/socalmwa)
Facebook: [Like us](#)



Expanding Your Community

BY HOLLY WEST

Les's Prez Rap this month has me thinking about my personal writing community. My time as your newsletter editor is nearing its end, and, having done it for so long, I know I will miss my interactions with SoCalMWA members after our new editor takes over.

Beyond that, my own segment of the writing community is crucial to my well-being. I sometimes worry that I've let my other relationships falter because so much of my attention is focused on writing, books, and related subjects, and the people who share those interests.

In some cases, it took years for these bonds to form. In others, there was an immediate connection that has withstood the test of time. Some of them, I've never met in person, others I've met once—maybe twice—and others, I see once or twice a year, sometimes more, when we're lucky. And, of course, I can't forget my local writer friends whom I'm fortunate to see regularly at book signings, events, and even the occasional lunch.

One thing Les didn't mention was group texts. I have a group of writing ride-or-dies that I'm in contact with multiple times a day, almost as if we were all working in the same location. It's the virtual version of sticking your head into a colleague's office for a quick chat about whatever might be on your mind.

Considering the large region our chapter covers, I know it's difficult for many of our members to connect in person. At this point, I'm highly critical of social media in general, but I can't deny its ability to keep us connected—it's where the vast majority of my relationships with writers were made, and while many of those relationships have expanded well beyond the virtual world, it's still a place to keep in touch. If you're looking for ways to expand your personal writing community, social media is a good place to start. And if you're able, attend book signings and other events—so many of my friendships started there, too.

Have a wonderful August.

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

Calls for Submission

Short Story Anthologies

Bouchercon 2026 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada (October 21–25, 2026), is currently accepting submissions for its anthology. The deadline is October 1, 2025. The theme is Cross-Border crimes and mysteries. Submission guidelines are here.

Malice Domestic (April 24–26, 2026) is accepting submissions for their upcoming anthology, *Murder Most Senior*. The deadline for submissions is August 31, 2025 Submission guidelines are here.

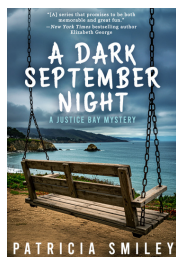


Social Gatherings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Of course, it's a cliché that writers are a solitary lot. If we truly were, our writing would be sterile and artificial. Good writing depends on understanding how people work, and that's impossible to gain from just reading books (or e-mails, for that matter). To be skilled observers of humankind, writers have to be part of it. So having a group of friends and colleagues who we see regularly (whether in person or via Crowdcast)—who share the same problems that we face daily—is the greatest benefit that our Chapter provides to our members. Not only does it help us to talk about common burdens, it lets us exercise those vital social muscles that we might otherwise let weaken!

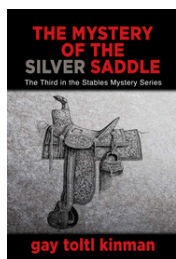
Les



On a deserted rural road in a remote Northern California coastal town, Emma McCoy's beloved aunt is killed in a hit-and-run. Was it an accident or intentional? *A Dark September Night*, the first in **Patricia Smiley's** Justice Bay series, will be released August 12.



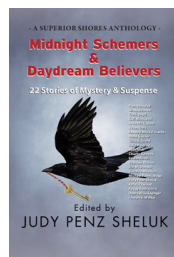
Actress Madison Lintz, who played Harry Bosch's daughter in "Bosch" and "Bosch: Legacy," is the star and an executive producer in "Eve Ronin," a TV adaptation of **Lee Goldberg's** Ronin series. Michael Connelly calls Ronin "a heroine for the ages." The sixth novel in the series □ *Fallen Star*, comes out in October.



Gay Toltl Kinman's *The Mystery of the Silver Saddle*, the third novel in the Stables mysteries, is now available in paperback and on Kindle. Three sixth graders investigate when the silver saddle goes missing during the Cowboy Poetry Festival.



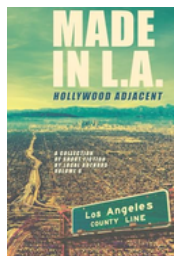
Marjorie McCown's Hollywood mystery, *Star Struck*, was selected a Top Pick in the cozy mystery category for Killer Nashville's 2025 Silver Falchion Award.



Peggy Rothschild's short story, "Ghost Wolves," is included in the recently released anthology, *Midnight Schemers and Daydream Believers: 22 Stories of Mystery and Suspense*. Desire or desperation, revenge or retribution—how far would you go to realize a dream? This collection explores the possibilities.



Joe Pan's debut novel, *Florida Palms*, was published to wide praise, including a rave review from *The New York Times Book Review*, which also named it an Editors' Choice pick for July. The coming-of-age literary crime novel also received a starred review from *Library Journal*, was named a CrimeReads Most Anticipated Book, and optioned for a TV series by HBO.



Ken Funsten, CFA, has new short story in *Made in L.A., Vol. 6: Hollywood Adjacent*. "Refunding His Dick" is about a young lad named Zack who tells his father he wants to be a dick for Halloween. What the kid says makes all the grown-ups go bananas. It's a romp!

USA Today bestselling author **Karen Odden's** sixth mystery, *At Artful Dodge*, is coming next summer from Soho Crime. Think "Oceans 8" crossed with Victorian London.

APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Ellen Byron is celebrating the release of *Solid Gold Murder*, Golden Motel Mystery #2, with the following events (there will be swag and treats): Thursday, August 7, 7 p.m. at Book Soup (8818 W. Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood), Ellen will appear with Rick Copp/Lee Hollis, “From Sitcoms to Stabbings: How They Pivoted.” Saturday, August 16, 3 p.m. at Once Upon a Time bookstore (2207 Honolulu Ave., Montrose). She’ll also be stopping at Blue Cypress Bookstore in New Orleans on Sunday, September 7, 5 p.m., the last day of Bouchercon, and then visiting Murder by the Book in Houston on Monday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m.

Jeri Westerson will be at the following locations for her *The Misplaced Physician* tour, the third book in her Sherlockian pastiche series, An Irregular Detective Mystery.

AN IRREGULAR DETECTIVE MYSTERY PARTY!

Please bring a friend and RSVP to jeriwesterson@gmail.com

AUG 2	OC	Book Carnival! Saturday, 2 PM 348 S Tustin St. Orange, CA
AUG 3	LA	Sisters in Crime "What If?" Panel Sunday, 2 pm Radford Studio Center 4024 Radford Ave, Studio City, MUST REGISTER AHEAD OF TIME. See my website.
AUG 16	ON-LINE	LIVE ONLINE Event! Saturday, 2 PM YOUTUBE LAUNCH https://tinyurl.com/55zjsz25
AUG 23	LA	The Book Jewel Saturday, 2 pm 6259 W 87th St. Westchester, CA
AUG 25	IE	Coffee with the Author! Mon, 3 pm. Canyon Lake Library 31594 Railroad Canyon Rd, Canyon Lake

GO TO JERIWESTERSON.COM FOR FULL DETAILS
EVEN IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND, PLEASE CONSIDER ORDERING THE BOOK FROM THESE 2 BOOKSELLERS.

Georgia Jeffries will be signing copies of her novel, *The Younger Girl*, on August 16 at Barnes & Noble at The Americana Brand, 210 Americana Way, Glendale, between 3 and 6 p.m. Georgia will also appear on the “Capote, Rule, Larson, Bugliosi ... Their Facts, Your Fiction” on Wednesday, September 3 at 3 p.m. with fellow panelists, Lina Chern, Keith Roysdon, CherAnn Wright, D.M. Barr, and moderator Cathy Pickens at Bouchercon 2025 in New Orleans.



Dan Bronson, author of the Jack Shannon mysteries, will speak at the August meeting of The Writers of Kern. His topic? “This Writer’s Journey: From the Written Word to the Screen Image and Back.”

You can read interviews with **Joe Pan**, author of *Florida Palms*, at *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Writers Digest*, *Lit Hub*, *Flamingo Magazine*, and the International Thriller Writers site, all of which are available on his website at JoePan.com.

Every day, Mr. Anne van Doorn of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, reads a short story, and at the end of the week, he selects the best for his “Story of the Week” award on Facebook. The last week in June, van Doorn chose **Ken Funsten**, CFA's mystery, “What’s Really Unforgettable” in *Angel City Beat: A SinCLA Mystery Anthology*, edited by Barb Goffman. [See it here.](#)

Theresa Maue was recently interviewed on “What’s Your Story.” The interview includes discussions of Maue’s books—*Knife Edge: Zee & Rico Mystery Book One* and book two, *Dark Mirror*, which will be released in January 2026. You can watch the interview [here](#).

Donis Casey’s “Tell Me Your Story” guest for August is **Jackie Sereno**, a retired educator and author of the Circling Eagle mystery series. The inspiration for the Circling Eagle Series comes from her husband, a member of the Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, and from her fond memories of the state of Wisconsin. Read Jackie’s story at DonisCasey.com beginning August 20.



APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Books, BBQ, & Beer

Event Photos by Les Klinger and Travis Richardson



APPEARANCES & EVENTS



More Books, BBQ, & Beer



CRIME CALENDAR



2025

August 13: [Inventing the Page, Los Angeles, CA](#)

August 21–24: [Killer Nashville, Franklin, TN](#)

September 3–7: [Bouchercon, New Orleans, LA](#)

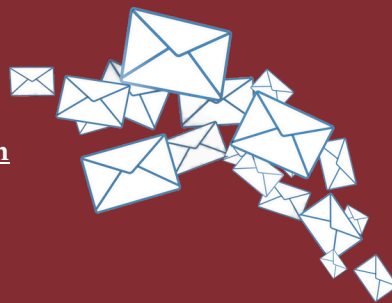
September 25: Author Readings—Thriller/Suspense

October: Gumbo Party, Los Angeles, CA (Date TBD)

November 20: Author Readings—Noir, Crowdcast

For events without links, save the dates, and we'll send details as soon as they're available.

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



THE LAST WORD



“I will catch one dolphin, and one nurse shark. I will shove one foot into the blowhole of the dolphin, and one into the gills of the nurse shark, and I will ride them like skis into the horizon, where the ghost of Ponce de León will greet me with delicious Puerto Rican rum.”

Florida Palms
by Joe Pan