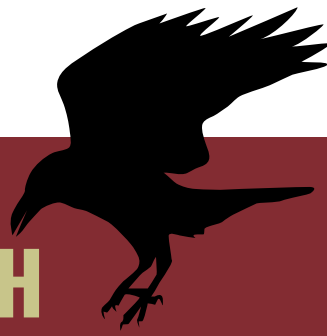


OCTOBER 2025

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



MWA University

Achieve Success Writing Short Crime Fiction

Zoom Webinar

Create and sustain a successful career writing short crime fiction. Our panelists provide tips, tricks, and techniques for crafting publishable short stories and discuss finding and submitting to current crime fiction anthologies and magazines. Whether you're a short story specialist or a novelist who dabbles in short fiction, you should come away with valuable information that will elevate your short story career.

Moderator: Michael Bracken

Panelists: Ashley-Ruth Bernier, Erika Crause, Art Taylor

Wednesday, October 15, 2025
(8 EST / 7 CST / 6 MST / 5 PST)

MORE INFO

(There is no registration link yet. Watch the MWA website and/or your email for an announcement, coming soon)



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Bouchercon Recap

BY LESLIE S. KLINGER



Bouchercon, the biggest annual gathering of crime-fiction writers and readers, took place in New Orleans this year, September 3–7. Though I haven't seen official figures, it's usually about 500 writers and 1,000 readers, all eager to meet and greet.

For those who have never been to a B'con, the joke is that the real action is at the bar, where thirsty writers and readers talk for hours. But there are dozens of panels throughout the four days, and these give the audience the chance to hear their favorite authors talk about books, the craft, and the writing life. The panels are also an opportunity to meet writers you haven't read yet.

For writers, there are also craft-oriented panels. What do smaller publishers want? Do I need to burnish my social media presence? How do I go about finding an editor, a publicist, or an agent? And of course, that burning question—to outline or not to outline!

I participated in two panels this year, a Sherlock Holmes panel—including Chapter member **Nicholas Meyer**—and a business panel. The Holmes panel is always a treat, as we explore the reasons for the continued popularity of the Great Detective. Over 100 folks turned out to listen to a lively discussion by five writers of new Holmes stories (and me, who loves all things Holmes). The business panel was equally lively. We got into discussions about tax planning for writers, copyright registration, contract problems, insurance, trademarking characters, and a host of other topics. One panelist was a publisher, one an editor, and they had very specific ideas about what they want from the publisher/author relationship.

If you ask anyone who attended, they'll likely all respond with the same description: "Exhausting!" Yet at the same time, it's refreshing, reinvigorating, and uplifting. I've participated in many conferences across the genre, and the mystery community is uniquely supportive of each other. **Michael Connelly**—who was very much present at Bouchercon and readily accessible (just ask the hundreds of people who stood in lines to get his newest book signed!)—has said many times, "Your book's success doesn't mean that I've failed."

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Introducing Our New Editor

BY HOLLY WEST

This is my twelfth year as the editor of *The March of Crime*. I actually thought it had been longer—maybe thirteen or fourteen—but I just checked the archive and it looks like I started in September/October 2013. Time flies when you're having fun.

And it has been fun. I wouldn't have done it for so long if it wasn't. The other day, my husband and I were walking our dog, and we were discussing my decision to end this gig. He asked me if I was tempted at all to keep doing it. I said, yes.

I've been tempted to stay, but I'm also ready to concentrate fully on my own work, without distractions, no matter how small they are. At times, I've felt like a professional volunteer since I began writing in 2009. It's been such an amazing way to get to know people in the community, and I don't regret any of it for a second. But I also know I've let it get in the way of the work that matters most to me: my own writing.

Our new editor, **Bonnie Hearn Hill**, has been a member of SoCalMWA for well over a decade. She is an accomplished author, TV presenter, and editor, among other talents. Along with her expertise, she brings new ideas and enthusiasm to *The March of Crime*. We are so fortunate that she volunteered to take over my position.

Bonnie, possibly along with my help, will edit the November newsletter. While I don't foresee any problems, please be patient while we make this transition.

As sorry as I am to leave my post as your editor, I'm excited for the future of SoCalMWA and this newsletter. I'm confident I couldn't leave it in better hands.

And don't worry, I'll still be around. You can't get rid of me that easily.

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

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Discussion Group

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

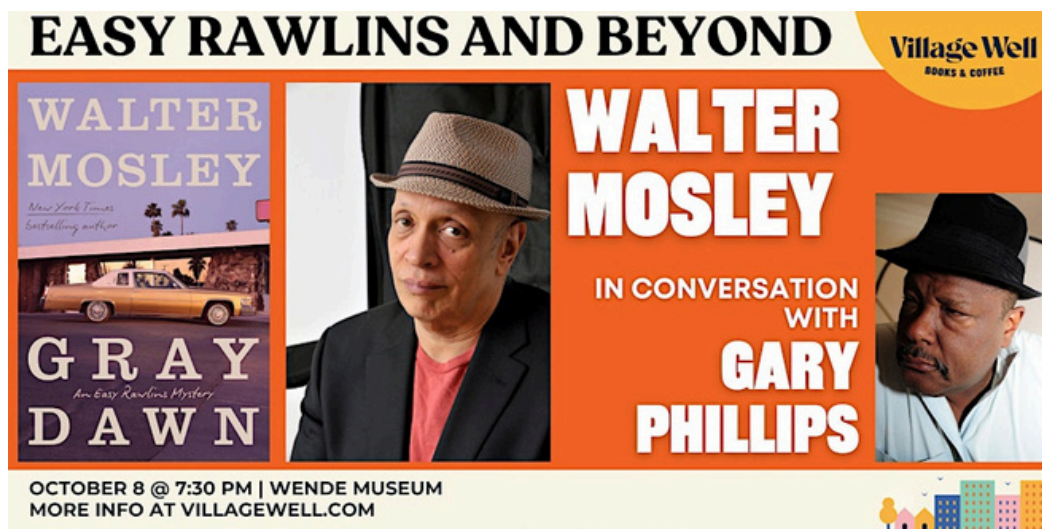
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<http://mysterywriters.org>



Walter Mosley in Conversation with Gary Phillips

The Wende Museum

If you weren't able to attend Walter Mosley's event with Steph Cha last month, he'll be making another appearance on October 8, this time in conversation with Gary Phillips. Sponsored by Village Well Books & Coffee in Culver City. This is a free event.



Wednesday, October 8
7:30 p.m.
The Wende Museum
10808 Culver Boulevard, Culver City

[REGISTER HERE](#)

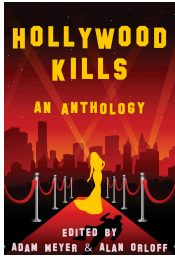
Bouchercon Recap

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2](#)

That attitude, which you'll hear from every writer in attendance, is what makes Bouchercon such a great event. It is a community, and we care for and support each other.

And that's what MWA is all about too. We had an official presence there—a table for signings—and over 100 members sat at the table over the four days, meeting other members as well as readers and writers who weren't yet members. It's always a great outreach effort, and I'm pleased to say that we garnered several new members from the event. So next year—when B'con is in Calgary in late October—do come!

Les



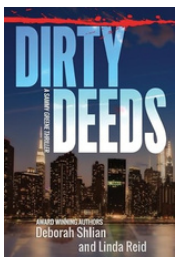
John Shepphird's short story, "Call 'Action, Cut'...And Take the Blame," appears in the *Hollywood Kills* anthology edited by Adam Meyer and Alan Orloff: a director is forced to hire an influencer (not an actress) and murder finds its way onto the call sheet.



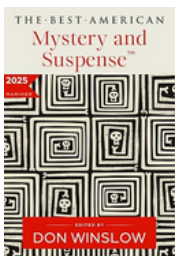
Sharon Lynn's *Death Plays with Fire* won the Pencraft Award for Literary Excellence, Mystery. Two upcoming manuscripts were long-listed with the Chanticleer International Book Awards: *Dark Web Gaslight* (October 2026)(Clue Award), and *The Romantic: A Campus Crimes Mystery* (October 2027)(Murder & Mayhem).



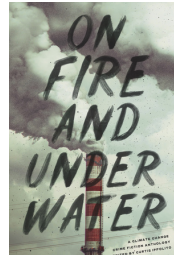
Jolie Tunnell announces the release of her third book in the Mrs. Kelly Mystery Series, *Murder at the Palace*, (Tule Publishing), on September 8.



Dirty Deeds, written by Deborah Shlian and **Linda Reid**, the fourth book in the Sammy Greene thriller series, was awarded a silver medal in Mystery/Suspense from the Florida Authors and Publishers Association in September 2025.



Gary Phillips's short story "The Darklight Gizmo Matter" was selected for *Best American Mystery and Suspense 2025*. Set in '70s L.A., it features Onyx Adams, a PI inspired by Pam Grier. The story first appeared in *Private Dicks and Disco Balls: Private Eyes in the Dyn-O-Mite Seventies*, edited by Michael Bracken.



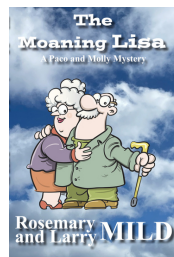
On Fire and Under Water: A Climate Change Crime Fiction Anthology, edited by **Curtis Ippolito** (Rock and a Hard Place Press), is out now. It explores how climate change impacts real people in their most desperate hour. Curtis also won the Anthony Award for his short story, "Something to Hold On To," at Bouchercon in New Orleans.



The twelfth book in **Shannon Baker's** Kate Fox series, *Killer Flock*, is an October release from Severn River Publishing. Kate must deal with a group of birdwatchers stranded in the school during a blizzard. When one of them is found murdered, Kate and her crew must corral the killer before there's another death.



Aimee Kluck's story, "Teardrop Murphys," appears in *Crimeucopia: What The Butler Didn't See* (Murderous Ink Press). Dedicated to the Boston band the Dropkick Murphys, P.I. Bertie McGoey is hired to find the instruments stolen from an all-girl Celtic punk band on the day of the Battle of the Bands.



Rosemary and Larry Mild have just introduced their fourth Paco and Molly mystery, *The Moaning Lisa*. Missing residents at Gilded Gates Assisted Living Community present a scary challenge for our two elderly sleuths.



Lee Goldberg's *Fallen Star*, the sixth novel in his "Eve Ronin" series, will be released in mid-October. A TV series version is in development from the team behind "The Chi," with Madison Lintz (Bosch) attached to star.

APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Jennifer J. Chow will be in conversation with Lorie Lewis Ham at Book Carnival on Saturday, October 25 at 2 p.m. Jennifer will also be at the Orange Public Library Mystery Authors luncheon (“In the Library with a Candlestick”) with fellow authors **Marjorie McCown** and Kemper Donovan on Sunday, October 26 at 11 a.m. [Buy tickets here.](#)

The Hawai'i Literary Arts Council has named **Rosemary and Larry Mild** recipients of a 2024 Elliot Cades Award for Literature, the state's most prestigious literary honor. As a husband and wife writing team, they were named co-recipients of the award for established writers.

Wendall Thomas will join Howard Suber (HBO's “The Power of Film”) as a lecturer on the UCLA-Sponsored Royal Caribbean “Screenwriting Cruise” along the Mexican Rivera in February. It's a seven-day intensive work and play trip open to screenwriters, authors, playwrights, and anyone who wants help developing a new story. [More info here.](#)



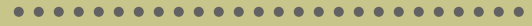
Ellen Byron will be joining other authors included in the short story anthology, *Hollywood Kills*, for an event at Book Carnival in Orange, CA, at 2 p.m. on October 11. All sales proceeds for the anthology go to the California Community Foundation's Wildfire Recovery Fund. Ellen will also be joining other mystery authors at the Ashland Mystery Festival in Ashland, OR, from October 16-19.



Dan Bronson, writer of the Ed Harris thriller “The Last Innocent Man,” the cult classic “Death of a Cheerleader,” and the Jack Shannon novels *Someone To Watch Over Me* and *Shout at the Devil*, will appear at the 2025 NoirCon in Palm Springs, introducing and commenting on the opening night screening of the Bogart classic “In a Lonely Place,” a film he rewrote and updated as an unproduced remake for Bruce Willis.



Lee Goldberg's *Fallen Star* will launch with Lee in conversation with author Christopher Farnsworth (Robert B. Parker's *Buried Secrets*) at the Calabasas Library on Oct. 21st. Books will be available from Mystery Ink at the event.



Bouchercon Photos

September 3-7, 2025

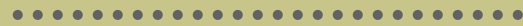




Bouchercon Photos

September 3-7, 2025





2025

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.

In Memoriam

On September 15, 2025, the crime fiction community lost **Thomas Perry**. A longtime member of SoCalMWA, Perry authored thirty-one mystery and thriller novels. Among his many accomplishments, his first book, *The Butcher's Boy*, won the Edgar® Award in 1983. Perry will be deeply missed.



“My mom's death was like her life, orderly and, yes, secretive.”

If Anything Should Happen
A Kit Doyle Mystery
by **Bonnie Hearn Hill**