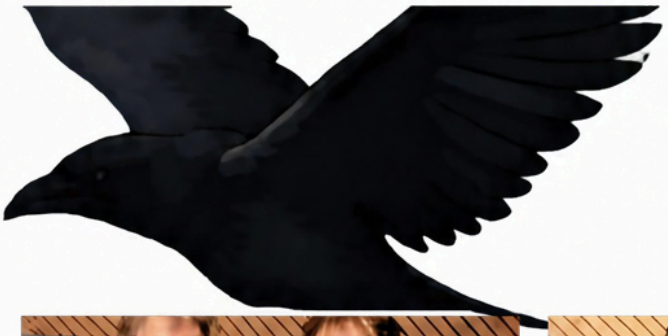
MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The March of Crime



The Page Invented!





Inventing the Page panelists: Meg Gardner, Tess Gerritsen, Jordan Harper.
Moderator: **Gary Phillips**.



THE PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET

Musings on the Skirball Inventing the Page event

BY LESLIE S. KLINGER

Well, we did it. Another round of "Inventing the Page," I mean—a great panel held at the Skirball Center on September 9, featuring our intrepid moderator **Gary Phillips**, and superstars Meg Gardner, Tess Gerritsen and Jordan Harper. It was a close thing, I must say! The day of the panel, all seemed well, with almost 100 people having purchased tickets. Then, on my way to a pre-event dinner with the panelists, my assistant called me to tell me that there were fire issues near the Skirball. I called the Luxe Sunset Boulevard Hotel, where we were gathering, but they assured us that there were no issues. In the middle of dinner, however, as we were anxiously waiting for Gary to join us, the WatchDuty app began alerting, and we quickly learned that the entire area around the Skirball was a "be prepared to evacuate" zone. As we watched the alerts, the fire grew from five acres to ten, from ten to twenty. It seemed to stop there, and we decided to proceed to the Skirball (about two miles away).

That journey took forty-five minutes. There were countless fire trucks, police vehicles, and road blocks, as we were rerouted the long way around to get that short distance. When we arrived, our SinCLA partners and our stalwart bookseller Debbie Mitsch, of Mystery Ink, were already there, as was Gary (he'd given up on trying to get to the hotel for dinner—we owe you one, Gary!). They were busy setting up, and the crowd began to appear, trickling in. We ended up starting fifteen minutes late, and only about half of the ticket-purchasers made it, but the show went on and many books were sold and signed.

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MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

October 2026

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PAT H. BROESKE

9. 25. 26

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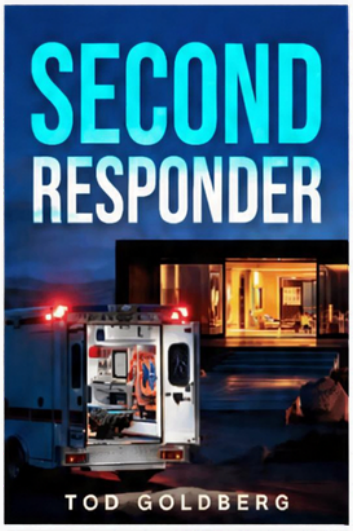
OVER THE TRANSOM, MEMBER NEWS



MWA/SocCal member **Lee Goldberg's** 7th Eve Ronin novel, *Split Screen* debuts on October 20. He is also back at work with MWA/SocCal member **Phoef Sutton** as writers and executive producers on the second season of *You're Killing Me* mystery series starring Brooke Shields, which will air on Acorn this May.



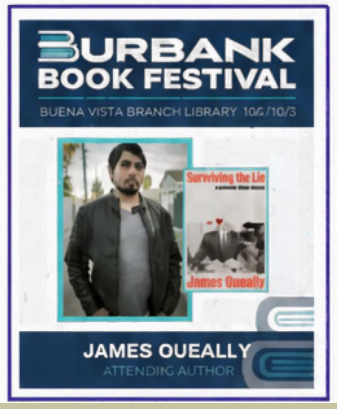
MWA/SocCal member **Tod Goldberg's** new short story *Second Responder* will be published by Brash Books in digital and paperback editions on October 20.



Gay Toltl Kinman's new Jo Peters mystery short story *Gardening Because Murder is So Wrong* is available on Amazon and Kindle.



Mike Befeler's latest book, *Begotten*, will be published in October. Nature versus nurture--which has the greater pull? The grisly murders of rapists by a serial killer decades apart tests Detective Arlin Jamison's perseverance. Through years of relentless pursuit, his efforts to track down the killer uncovers a dark secret in both their lives. He and the killer were begotten by murderous fathers. Now Arlin must face the question.Can he be more than his heredity?



Los Angeles Times Crime Reporter **James Queally**, the author of the Russell Avery mystery series, will be signing his new book *Suviving The Lie* at the Burbank Book Festival at the Buena Vista Branch Library on October 3, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Queally will also be reading at Noir At The Bar: L.A. in the lounge of the Glen Arden Club in Glendale on October 11, at 6 p.m. *Surviving the Lie* received a starred review from *Booklist* and concludes the Russell Avery trilogy, which follows the misadventures of an ex-journalist who can't seem to quit the truth, even though it's quit him.

FORENSIS: Tell me everything






Forensis: A public forum, or debate. **The Latin root word for forensic.**

So much going on, and so much coming up! **Mark Bruce** won the Claymore Award at Killer Nashville Mystery Writer's Conference in the Action/Adventure category for "Cleopatra's Tomb." His short story "Minerva James and the Goddess of the Hearth" was in the September/October issue of *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*. And he has a short story in the upcoming anthology *Objection/Overruled* by Murderous Ink Press. The story is "Laurel Wreath," featuring Public Defender Martin Berry.

Ellen Byron signed a two-book deal with Kensington Publishing for a new series, the Local Needlepoint Shop Mysteries, inspired by her own go-to hobby.

The American Cinematheque and Beyond Fest recently presented a 10th anniversary screening of *Too Late,* the noir/private eye film written and directed by MWA member **Dennis Hauck**. In writing the novel *The Detweiler Girl,* Hauck said he was influenced by the weary humanism of Ross MacDonald's PI Lew Archer.

Vince Thompson, a former tech executive, will release his debut novel, a Silicon Valley thriller *The Lockup Period* on October 20.

Internationally bestselling spy thriller author **Andrew Kaplan** will be giving an Author's Luncheon presentation for Brandeis University on Friday, October 16, 2026. Venue: Mission Hills Country Club Rancho Mirage.
Registration: RSVP to Gail Minkow at 310-933-7454 or via email at gail.minkow2@gmail.com.

President's Rap Sheet continued from page 1

The panel was great! The overwhelming message from all of the writers was how much they appreciate the community of writers. Each told their story, about how success came unexpectedly and how they dealt with it. All of them had a consistent message—stick to your knitting. Don't think about the market, don't think about what will sell or what your publisher or agent wants. Think about what you want to write, do it, and then believe in it.

Interestingly, for a group of mystery/thriller writers, they all seemed to agree that the plot itself was the least important element. The critical element is the characters (and how their specific setting creates, nurtures, and affects them). Once those are developed, what happens to them and how they react is your story.

We're going to take a look at how to do this event in the future to expand the audience—it was so valuable, and we're extremely grateful to these authors, especially Meg and Tess, who came so far to be with us! At least we gave them a genuine Southern California experience to use for their next book!

Hope to see many of you at Bouchercon in Calgary this month, and then in November, back to an in-person luncheon with a great speaker, Shawn Holley Criminal Defense Attorney. --Les

EDITOR'S CORNER



by
A.G.Britton



Pat H. Broeske, a beloved and active member and board member of SoCal Mystery Writers of America died on Friday, September 25, 2026. Massive condolences to her family, loved ones and friends.

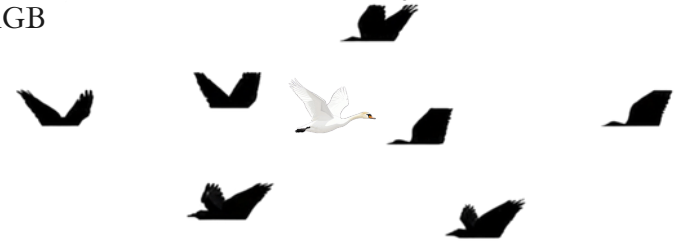
It's odd when you just meet someone and decide they are "your kind of person," and then suddenly they are gone. I had been driving around for a couple days with a book to send to Pat in my car. We had a long conversation about it, and I told her I'd send it. And then Pat was gone. But the book is still there.

My experience was that Pat sprinkled fairy dust on *The March of Crime*, the kind that made murky things become clear. She was my top editor, rescuing me from my "exuberant" grammar, and letting me know when Les had forgotten to include me in emails. She was the glue. Ask Bonnie and ask Holly--*The March of Crime* former editors. Pat bothered to send me the photos and captions from the I*nventing the Page* panel—those are hers on p. 1. She cared: She was The Glue.

And why not? Her byline appeared on stories as disparate as an examination of Jim Morrison's poetry and the ABCs of cataloguing a major archaeological collection. But it was as a veteran chronicler of Hollywood—"the business"—that Pat was best known for. She wrote for everybody: *The New York Times, Orange Coast, Emmy Entertainment Weekly, Los Angeles Times* (staff writer), *Us, The Washington Post, Rolling Stone, Chicago Tribune, Interview, Soap Opera Digest, Elle, Redbook, Family Circle, Fitness* and *American Archaeology.*

A native of Southern California, she lived in Orange County with her architect husband, James Broeske, and a menagerie of rescue pets. She was a lifelong mystery buff.

Rest in peace my almost friend. I have the book you wanted in my car with a small note from The Queen. And there it will stay. Love, AGB



Newsletter of the Southern California Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America

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

MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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

CRIME CALENDAR



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

2026

October 3, 2026: Burbank Book Festival at the Buena Vista Branch, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. **James Queally**

October 11, 2026: Noir At The Bar, 6 p.m. **James Queally**

October 16, 2026: Mission Hills Country Club. Brandeis Desert Chapter Season Opener Book & Author Luncheon featuring **Andrew Kaplan** Contact the Brandeis Desert Chapter

November 8:Truxton's Restaurant, noon, MWA member Luncheon with Shawn Holley, Criminal Defense Attorney **Truxton's, 8611 Truxton Avenue, Los Angeles.**

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



THE LAST WORD



Stillwell could hear the plane but couldn't see it.
"Boss, you hear that?" "Affirmative," he said.
"Hold your position. Be ready."

Ironwood

By Michael Connelly