MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

THE MARCH OF CRIME NOVEMBER ISSUE

Writers, writers everywhere







It is a lonely craft, so writers have to get out and about for inspiration. Last month, from Canada to Los Angeles events were poppin'. At Bouchercon in Calgary, Canada, **Curtis Ippolito** won the Anthony Award for Best Anthology or Collection for *On Fire and Under Water: A Climate Change Crime Fiction Anthology.* Seven contributors to the winning anthology were also in attendance (top photo) **Priscilla Paton, C.E. McKenna, Jim Ruland, Puja Guha, Kendall Brunson, Curtis Ippolito, C.W. Blackwell, and Raymond J. Brash.**
Ellen Byron and Raquel V. Reyes at the MWA event, **Cozies and Cocktails (middle photo)**.
In Los Angeles, the hallowed Diesel Bookstore partnered with the Santa Monica Library welcoming MWA Grandmaster **Walter Mosley** in conversation with former NFL starter and author **Andre Hardy** to discuss and sign Hardy's new book *Tear the City Down and* Mosley's *Hanging and Burning; A King Oliver Novel.*

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THE PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET

Leslie S. Klinger

Bouchercon in the reareview

Bouchercon in Calgary, Canada, is in the rearview mirror, and it was a joy as always. The Canadians gave a generously warm welcome to those of us from south of the border, even though the weather was—well, not Southern-California-ish. I look forward to seeing old friends (I still feel like a newbie, only starting attending B'cons in 2005) and meeting new people. It's a great opportunity to expand one's reading scope, listening to authors whose books sound intriguing.

I was honored to be a co-presenter for the Anthony awards (with Laurie R. King) and enjoyed listening to the remarks, both from legends like Sara Paretsky and Louise Penny and award winners who were new to me. Tracy Clark, who won for Best Paperback Original, said something that struck me. In thanking the organizations that had supported her—Sisters in Crime, MWA, and Crime Writers of Color, she said (approximately): "Writing is painful, and it's great to whine about that together."

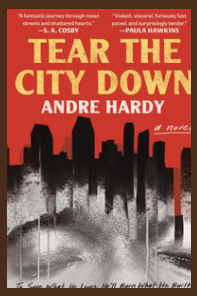
That sums up for me the whole point of why I'm involved—not the whining, but the "together" part. Despite the awards, writing is not a competition. Your winning doesn't mean that the rest of us lose. The more we attract readers, the more folks there are that might buy my books. I belong to writers' groups in multiple genre, and the mystery world stands head and shoulders above them in its collegiality and sense of community. Our little informal cocktail party, open to all MWA members, was proof of that—and I know we gained some new members!

From the perspective of my job as Chapter president, Bouchercon is a terrific time to sit down with other Chapter presidents and Board members and share ideas, talk about what's working and what's not. No surprise—we all deal with widespread memberships and how to balance virtual and in-person meetings. We also grapple with engaging our members in the Chapter activities, so that it isn't always the "usual suspects" who end up doing the work.

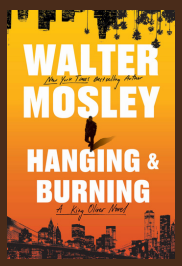
That reminds me: I hope you'll come out to our first in-person gathering in a while, a luncheon on November 7, at Truxton's American Bistro in Culver City. Our special speaker is Shawn Holley, a top criminal defense lawyer with a depth of experience (including the O.J. defense team)! I'll be talking with Shawn about her amazing career but also about her daily life as an attorney. I know that she's also handled a number of sexual harassment, "me-too" cases—on both sides—and has a lot to share with us.

Remember, Chapter elections are just around the corner. I hope that you'll consider becoming a Chapter leader. We always need "fresh blood" on the Board of Directors and the volunteer jobs. Best, Les

Over the Transom, Member News

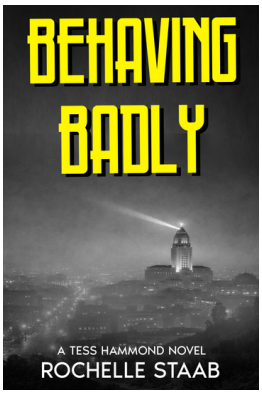


Tear the City Down by **Andre Hardy**. A debut crime novel from a former NFL player that blends jazz, football and a gritty portrait of a dying city.



Hanging and Burning: A King Oliver Novel by MWA Master **Walter Mosley**. A dying gangster's plea sends Joe King Oliver on a quest for a missing woman across America's unwavering dark and violent underworld.

Amnon Kabatchnik's latest book, *Bloody Broadway – Plays Of Menace, Murder, And Mystery, Volume I,* was reviewed in Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine. The book takes a close look at seventy-nine plays that appeared on Broadway stages between 1902 And 1930.



Rochelle Staab's noir novel *Behaving Badly* set in 1932 is on sale on Amazon in early November. This completes Staab's Mind for Murder Mystery series' trilogy which goes on sale on Amazon in early November. The other books in the series: *Hollywood Hoodoo, Bruja Brouhaha* and *Hex on the Ex,* have been off the market for a decade.



Sharon Lynn's *Death takes a Knight: A Cotswold Crimes Mystery*, Book 4, has been awarded a gold medal by Literary Titans.

Linda Reid's short story, *The Pitts*, was accepted for the 18th annual anthology of the Florida Writers Association.



DC Frost will read from her book *A Shadow of Jaguars*, published last March. Sun, 11/15/2026 3pm at Politics and Prose, Washington, DC



Gay Toltl Kinman's *The Mystery of the Tacos for Thoroughbreds Fiesta:* the eighth in the Stables Mystery series is available on Kindle and in print. This series is a fundraiser for thoroughbreds.

Gary Phillips is pleased to note *Chompers* is in **Joe R. Lansdale**'s *Tales of the Razor*. *Tales of the Razor* is a collection of comics adaptations by various writers of some of Mr. Lansdale's horror short stories. It's from Vibrant Graphic Arts. https://vibrant-graphic-arts.myshopify.com/

Donis Casey's November Tell Me Your Story guest is **Mary Louisa Locke**. Her first book, *Maids of Misfortune*, was a finalist in the historical fiction category of the 2010 Next Generation Indie Book Awards. She rose to an historical mystery best seller list on Kindle. As of 2026, she's published six more novels, six novellas and eight short stories. Check out her story at https://doniscasey.com beginning November 20.

EDITOR'S CORNER



by
A.G.Britton



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.

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In 1656, my great grandmother of nine generations, Mary Bliss Parsons of Hampton Massachusetts was imprisoned for witchcraft for six months—three times. Each time, she was released due to the efforts of her influential husband. Mary Bliss was an herbalist healer, a mother of twelve and extremely beautiful. The accusation of witchcraft against Bliss came from a local woman who was threatened by her beauty and feared Bliss would steal her husband. In 1692, my great aunt Elizabeth Hart was imprisoned for witchcraft for seven months. Historians estimate that roughly forty to sixty thousand people were imprisoned, tortured and executed for witchcraft in Europe and early America. No prominent historical witch hunters were formally prosecuted or put on trial for executing countless women accused of witchcraft. This was, in my opinion, long, slow methodical serial killing. Based on FEAR.

What's the point? There is a through line from THEN to NOW which carries on this fear of creative, intrepid and magical women on the 31st of last month as kids dressed up in witchy and other scary costumes on Halloween. The origin of this holiday was Samhain, the Celtic end of harvest when bonfires were lit and gratitude was given for the spirits who guide us as we enter the dark months of winter. Obviously, we have lost that real point. But that's what fear does, makes us lose our way and forget the good and sacred. But there is another idea here: Fear is also the great entry point into power. It makes us get creative, seek help; it creates heroes and heroines. Fear is the underpinning of every great mystery, suspense, thriller and detective novel. Solving the terror of the unknown, unwinding great mysteries is the purpose of these genres. So thank you all, for unwinding all that is FEAR. Best, Abbie

MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Join the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group

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(members only)

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CRIME CALENDAR



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

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

November 13: Christina Hoag will be one of ten authors reading from their works at Starlite Pulp Presents Noir in the Boneyard, 29 Palms Public Cemetery, 5350 Encelia Ave., Twentynine Palms, CA , Friday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m. Free admission, but ticket required on Eventbrite.

November 14: "How to Think Like a Criminal" hosted by Mystery Ink. Panel includes Georgia Jeffries, Jaime Parker Stickle and moderator Lee Goldberg. 11am at the Orange County Book Fair, 245 El Camino Road in Old Town Tustin. See ocbookfair.org for more info



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

THE LAST WORD

"ARMAN BABYLON, HMM, let's see. Yes, yes, in room 3122 North Tower," the stern Black woman in nurses' white told me.

Hanging and Burning

A King Oliver Novel

By Walter Mosley

