

Conference Countdown!

With less than two weeks left before the conference, we had so much to tell everyone that Carrie, our esteemed editor—and the 2009 Conference Chairperson—was kind enough to agree to get out this Special Edition of The Quill. Thank you, Carrie! And thanks to everyone who is working hard to make this conference a success!

Susan and Barbara

Quick Notes:

- If you are driving, the Hilton reports that there are currently no gas shortages in Myrtle Beach.
- If you are flying in, we're going to offer "SCWW Attendee" signs to the drivers from **Tropical Taxi**. This is an effort to help you all connect to share in cab fares to the hotel.
- SCWW volunteers will be at the airport with "SCWW Faculty" signs. They won't be able to give you a lift, but they can point you in the right direction.
- Most SCWW volunteers will be in navy polo shirts with white SCWW logos, not orange shirts as previously announced. Some volunteers may not be wearing the navy polo shirts, but all will have volunteer pins.
- When you arrive at the conference, please come to the SCWW registration desk in the back of the Hilton lobby to pick up your name badge and conference materials.
- **Please wear your name badge with the lanyard** that you are given to all SCWW sessions. This is your admission pass. Please do not ask SCWW volunteers to let you in without one, or Hilton staff members to serve you without one.
- **Change in Book Nook Hours:** If you plan to offer your own books for sale at the Book Nook, you can drop off your inventory beginning Friday morning at 10 a.m. There are no Thursday drop-off hours. The Book Nook will open for business at noon on Friday, and will operate until 5 p.m. Saturday Book Nook hours are 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Sunday hours are 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Please make sure that each book is marked with a price. We won't be able to refer to price lists. At conference close on Sunday, you may pick up a check for books sold, and any remaining inventory. Although it is not a requirement, SCWW appreciates those who chose to donate a percentage of their sales to the organization. Any books left at the Book Nook after 1 p.m. Sunday, October 26 will be considered as donations to the organization.

Ask an Agent / Ask an Editor / Ask the Crime Experts

Have a question you're dying to ask at an agent or editor's panel discussion, or the panel with **Michael Connelly** and his team, but don't want the microphone in your hand? Never fear! You can email your questions in advance. Please send all questions to Carrie McCullough at: carriemccullough@bellsouth.net. In the subject line, if the question is for an agent, put "Agent Panel Question." The agents' panel discussions are Saturday morning at 8:45 and Sunday morning at 10:45. If the question is for an editor, please put "Editor Panel Question" in the subject line. The editors' panel discussions are Saturday morning at 10:15 and Sunday morning at 8:45. If the question is for **Michael Connelly, Philip Spitzer, Asya Muchnick, or Shannon Byrne**, please put "Life of Crime Panel" in the subject line. Everyone is encouraged to ask any question that comes to mind during the sessions—we want these to be lively and interactive. If you aren't shy, please stand up during the open Q&A and someone will bring you a microphone so that everyone can hear your question.

About this Year's Auction

Most of you know that each year we hold a silent auction to help defray conference costs. This year's auction will begin at 9 a.m. Friday and run through 12:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon. All auction items will be on display near the conference meeting rooms in the new Palisades conference center, which adjoins the Hilton. We'll have baskets of books and other writer goodies prepared by our local chapters like last year—these were a favorite. Many will have themes, such as Short Story, Science Fiction, Southern Fiction, etc., and several will appeal to any writer. We'll also have Web For Authors certificates. I think most of you are familiar with Web For Authors, but, if not, please check this fabulous tool out at www.webforauthors.com. Specifically designed for authors, this service allows you to create and maintain your own website, and includes tools to help you market your work as well. You'll also find South Carolina art and craft items, and, of course, everyone's favorite, faculty book-length critiques.

The following faculty members are offering book-length critiques unless otherwise noted below:

Anne C. Barnhill

Charlotte Cook (first 3-5 chapters equaling 50 formatted pages, and 3 hours via email & telephone to critique)

Kathleen Gilligan

Irene Goodman (proposal consisting of 3 chapters and a synopsis)

Sulay Hernandez

Beth Jusino

David Long

Alexandra Machinist

Matthew Mahoney

C. E. Murphy

Derek Nikitas

Bidding was lively on these last year, so check the bid sheets often! Please remember, all auction proceeds go to our organization, and help us offer the best conference possible at an affordable price and other programs throughout the year.

Three Open Mic Sessions a Treat for Both Readers and Listeners

Following the success of last year's open mic events, three opportunities to read samples of your work and listen to the creative expression of others will be offered at the 2008 conference. Once again, Friday evening will see two sessions: one for poets, sponsored and led by The Poetry Society of South Carolina, and one for writers of fiction and creative non-fiction. On Saturday evening one session will combine all three genres. Don't miss these opportunities to hear writers you know and writers you'll want to know.

All Friday evening Night Owl sessions will begin at 9 p.m. Open mic sign-up sheets will be posted at 8:45 p.m. beside the doors to the assigned rooms. The first 20 fiction and creative non-fiction writers to sign up may speak for 3 to 4 minutes, including introductory comments and a short piece or excerpt. (Please time your piece at home.) Writers are asked to bring a 3 x 5 card with a few introductory comments about themselves. Humor is welcome! For more information contact Cynthia Dyer at chodelldyer@aol.com. The first 20 poets to sign up for Friday evening's poetry open mic may read one or two poems (each a maximum of one page in length). Poets are also asked to bring a 3 x 5 card with brief introductory notes about themselves. For more information contact Mary Harris at wordnotes185@hotmail.com. Saturday night's combined open mic event will begin at 9 p.m. Sign-ups will begin at 8:45 p.m. outside the assigned room. The first 20 poets or writers of any genre to sign up may read one or more pieces totaling three minutes or less, including introductory comments. Don't forget to bring that 3 x 5 card with brief—possibly funny—notes about yourself.

Come share your work and meet new writers. Kick back, relax and be entertained and inspired at the end of your fast-paced day.

Keynote Speaker and Toastmaster Primer

Here's a little more about these folks:



While he was attending the University of Florida, **Michael Connelly** decided to become a writer after discovering the books of Raymond Chandler. He chose a major in journalism and a minor in creative writing. Time would prove he'd major in and become a master of both.

After graduating in 1980, he worked at newspapers in Daytona Beach and Fort Lauderdale, primarily on the crime beat, during the height of the wave of murder and violence that rolled over

South Florida during the so-called cocaine wars. Then, in 1986, he and two other reporters spent several months interviewing survivors of a major airline crash. Their story on the crash was short-listed for a Pulitzer Prize for feature writing, and it raised Connelly's profile as a first-rate journalist. Talent doesn't sit idle for long, and soon after, Connelly headed west to Los Angeles — to Raymond Chandler's Los Angeles — where he landed a prized job as a crime reporter at the *Los Angeles Times*.

There's no way he could have known then just how fateful a move this was. Just three years into the job covering crime in L.A., Connelly set to work on *The Black Echo*, the first of many novels to feature LAPD detective Hieronymus "Harry" Bosch. Published in 1992, the book won an Edgar Award for Best First Novel and raised Connelly's profile again, this time as a first-rate author. His debut novel was partly based on a crime that occurred in Los Angeles around the time of his early days at the *Los Angeles Times*.

Connelly followed up his first novel with three more Harry Bosch books, *The Black Ice*, *The Concrete Blonde*, and *The Last Coyote*, before going on to write *The Poet* in 1996 — a thriller with a newspaper reporter as a protagonist. In 1997, he returned to Bosch with *Trunk Music*, and in 1998, he offered fans another nonseries thriller, *Blood Work*. It was inspired in part by a friend's heart transplant and the attendant survivor's guilt he experienced, knowing that someone had to die in order that he could live. Connelly had witnessed this response before in the survivors of the plane crash he had written about years before. *Blood Work* was released in 2002 as a major motion picture directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. Even though Eastwood made significant changes to the plot, it still made Connelly's day to have worked with one of his longtime idols.

He then went on to write *Angels Flight* (1999), the nonseries novel *Void Moon* (2000), about a high-stakes Las Vegas thief, and *A Darkness More Than Night* (2001), which united Harry Bosch with Terry McCaleb from *Blood Work* and was named one of the Best Books of the Year by the *Los Angeles Times*. And then there were two in one year: *City of Bones* (2002) and the stand-alone thriller *Chasing the Dime*, which was also named one of the Best Books of the Year by the *Los Angeles Times*. *Lost Light* (2003) followed and was the first Bosch book written from the first-person perspective. *The Narrows* (2004), which revealed Connelly's unfinished business with the villain in *The Poet*, was his tenth Bosch novel.

In 2005, Connelly brought out two #1 bestsellers: his eleventh Bosch novel, *The Closers* (May 2005), and *The Lincoln Lawyer* (October 2005), his first-ever legal thriller, both debuting at #1 on the New York Times bestseller list.

In 2006, Michael Connelly had three offerings: His first nonfiction book, *Crime Beat: A Decade of Covering Cops & Killers*, was published in May 2006. Connelly's twelfth Harry Bosch novel, *Echo Park*, was released in October 2006, and recently won a *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize in the Mystery/Thriller category. And the serialization of *The Overlook*, an original Harry Bosch novella, was published in the *New York Times Magazine's* "Funny Pages," and ran every Sunday for 16 weeks. Michael rewrote *The Overlook* as a novel (May 2007) with new, never-before published material. His next

novel, *The Brass Verdict*, will be published this month, and features both Harry Bosch and Mickey Haller from *The Lincoln Lawyer*.

Connelly's books continue to win numerous awards. While Harry Bosch continues to live in and solve cases in L.A., Connelly now resides with his family in Florida.

Lee Goldberg is a two-time Edgar Award nominee whose many TV writing and/or producing credits include *Martial Law*, *SeaQuest*, *Diagnosis Murder*, *The Cosby Mysteries*, *Hunter*, *Spenser: For Hire*, *Nero Wolfe*, *Missing* and *Monk*. He's also the author of *My Gun Has Bullets*, *Beyond the Beyond*, *Successful Television Writing*, *The Man With with The Iron-On Badge* and the *Diagnosis Murder* and *Monk* series of original mystery novels. He has led TV writing seminars all over the United States, as well as Edmonton, Madrid, Cologne, Frankfurt, and Stockholm, consulted for studios and broadcasters in Germany, Sweden, and the Netherlands, and has taught at UCLA Extension. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Mystery Writers of America and is the co-founder of the International Association of Media Tie-in Writers.

