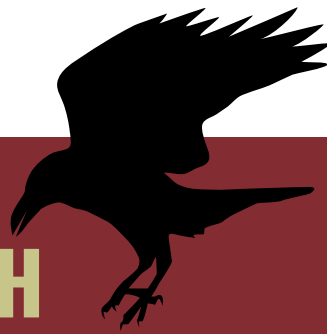


JULY 2024

# THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



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See three legends of mystery writing, one night only, at the Skirball Cultural Center's Magnin Auditorium.

Tickets are now on sale for the biggest event for mystery and thriller fans in SoCal this summer: Inventing the Page at the Skirball Cultural Center's Magnin Auditorium. Michael Connelly, Laurie R. King, and Walter Mosley will talk about craft, technique, and inspiration—and how they handle the sometimes bloody business of writing about murder. Author and film director Nicholas Meyer will moderate.

August 7, 2024, at 7 pm  
Skirball Cultural Center, Magnin Auditorium  
2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA.

Tickets are just \$35 (fees apply) and are selling fast.

[Buy Tickets](#)





## Stay for the Friendships

BY LESLIE S. KLINGER



This past week brought two pleasant reminders of why I joined MWA.

First, we announced our big event to be held at the Skirball on August 7, co-sponsored by Sisters in Crime Los Angeles. This will be a craft-oriented “panel,” composed of three of our Grand Masters, **Michael Connelly**, Laurie R. King, and Walter Mosley, and moderated by Nicholas Meyer, the well-known writer-director. Elsewhere in this newsletter are the details of time, place, and ordering information. The seating is limited to about 300 people, and the panelists are just beginning the publicity. We expect a sell-out, so act fast to get your tickets. I’m fortunate to know all of the participants well. They’re all amazingly talented—duh—but more importantly, they’re thoughtful and articulate about what they do and how they do it so well. It’s a rare opportunity to hear from people who really are masters of our trade. We hope that this is only the beginning of a series of forums featuring some of our craft’s superstars, and in my mind, it’s exactly what MWA should be all about: Educating our members and the public about crime fiction and how it’s created.

Then I attended our “Books ‘n BBQ” book-swap event at the home of **Gary Phillips** on Saturday the 22 (pictures here). It was a beautiful day, the food was great, but most importantly, I was happy to see so many longtime friends there: **Patty Smiley**, who served as Chapter V.P. back in the 2000s, **Nathan Walpow**, who had been Chapter President before me in the mid-2000s, **Linda Johnston**, who’d been on the Board with me many years ago, **Brett Battles**, a longtime member, and current Board members Gary and **Travis Richardson**, to name just a few. Of course, many of our current members were there as well, people whom I’ve met in the last few years, but seeing folks who were around when I joined MWA in 2002 especially struck me. It forcibly reminded me of the immediate camaraderie that our Chapter offers. We’re all a little older (well, honestly, 20+ years older), but we’re still doing what we love, and it’s great to do that in the company of friends who “get it.”

So, come to learn about writing but stay for the friendships!

Les

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## This and That

BY HOLLY WEST

I got the warm and fuzzies when I read Les's Prez Rap this month. Because it's true! I always talk about how important my friends and colleagues in the crime fiction community are to me, and a good portion of them were made through my involvement with SoCalMWA.

As usual, things slow down in the publishing industry during the summer, and judging from the brevity of July's issue, I'd say that's true for us, as well. But behind the scenes, the SoCalMWA board is planning some fantastic events over the next few months. Keep an eye on your email for updates. Full disclosure: Since I became the chapter's secretary, those emails usually come from me, so I apologize in advance if I sometimes make a mistake and need to send out corrections.

Summer is both a blessing and a curse for me. I usually wake up earlier, which means I finish my writing before I really start my day. It's always a productive time for me and I love it because of that.

But...the heat. MY. GOD. THE. HEAT. It's about now when I regret our move to Northern California more than any other. Next week, while my previous neighborhood in Venice enjoys temperatures in the mid-seventies to low-eighties, we here in NorCal will be suffering with temperatures averaging 107 degrees. I'm not happy about it.

Enough about things I can't change and get back to those blessings. I'm making terrific progress on my novel-in-progress and I'm on course to query agents by fall.

Beyond that, I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in Nashville for Bouchercon. I've never been there, and while I hope to do some touristy things, I mostly can't wait to spend time with my writing friends. I hope to see you!

Stay cool (even if I can't),

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.

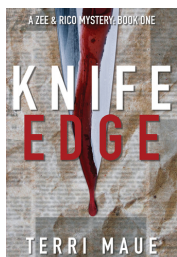
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Discussion Group

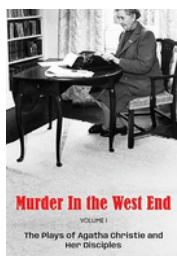
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# OVER THE TRANSOM



**Terri Maue's** murder mystery *Knife Edge* has garnered a Five-Star Review from Readers' Favorites. The reviewer noted the authentic characters, richly detailed setting, well-paced plot, and twists and turns that keep the resolution hidden to the very end.



**Amnon Kabatchnik** has authored two new releases: *Murder in the West End: The Plays of Agatha Christie and Her Disciples Volume 1* (BearManor Media, June 2024) and *Murder in the West End: The Plays of Agatha Christie and Her Disciples Volume 2* (BearManor Media, August 2024).



**Fred Andersen's** story "Rito Was a High Number" (70s comic action thriller) is in the newest issue of *Yellow Mama*. It's also available in [audio](#).



**Gay Tolt Kinman's** new mystery short story is available on Kindle and Amazon. In "The Showerhead," a woman finds that her new shower is not exactly what she ordered. She has to find out who tampered with it and why, then she plans her revenge.



The second book in **Jeri Westerson's** An Irregular Detective mystery series (A Sherlockian Pastiche), *The Mummy of Mayfair*, will be published on July 2 (Severn House).



# APPEARANCES & EVENTS



**Jeri Westerson** is launching the second in her An Irregular Detective Mysteries (A Sherlockian Pastiche) *The Mummy of Mayfair*: Saturday, July 13, 2 p.m. PT—[YouTube Book Party](#). Entertaining discussion, free giveaways. Friday, July 19, 1–2 p.m. PT—Whodunnit Book Club on Zoom! Comparing Tudor England to Victorian London, things that are different and things that stay the same. Check her website for the Zoom link. Sunday, July 21, Noon—Ticketed Event Lunch at a fantasy Scottish Manor, The Tam O'Shanter in Los Angeles. SOLD OUT! Monday, July 1—Ebook Giveaway on LibraryThing. A FREE ebook to be given away to 30 lucky random winners. Link at [JeriWesterson.com](#)

Do high school class reunions make you want to kill someone? Celebrating book #9 in the Claudia Rose forensic series, **Sheila Lowe** will be signing *Maximum Pressure* at the Open Book in Canyon Country on July 13 at 1 p.m., at the Fernhill Clubhouse in Huntington Beach on July 20 at 1 p.m., and at Book Carnival in Orange on July 21 at 2 p.m.

Chapter President **Leslie Klinger** will moderate a conversation with Nicholas Meyer and Laurie R. King titled "Writing Sherlock Holmes into the 21st Century" at the American Library Association Conference at the Bayfront Hilton in San Diego on Sunday, June 30, at 1 p.m.



Donis Casey's "Tell Me Your Story" guest for July is Alexander Marriott, whose acclaimed debut mystery novel, *The School of Homer*, has just been released. Alex is a trained historian who writes about American intellectual and political history, among other topics. He also publishes detective novels featuring his Virgil Colvin, a Chicago transplant living in Greece. Read Alexander's story July 20–31 on Donis's [website](#).



## Book Swap & BBQ



# CRIME CALENDER



- August 7: Inventing the Page: Connelly, King, & Mosley, Los Angeles, CA
- August 22–25: Killer Nashville, Franklin, TN
- August 28–September 1: Bouchercon, Nashville, TN
- September 15: Joint Meeting with SoCalMWA & PWA, Virtual Event
- October 5: Gumbo Party, Los Angeles, CA

If you know of an event that belongs on the Crime Calendar, email [themarchofcrime@gmail.com](mailto:themarchofcrime@gmail.com) with the info.

# THE LAST WORD



“On his deathbed, Mr. Tonai had murmured about the price of cucumbers in Long Beach and celery in Venice. I didn’t have the heart to tell him that he was thousands of miles away from California.”

*Evergreen*  
by Naomi Hirahara