MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The March of Crime

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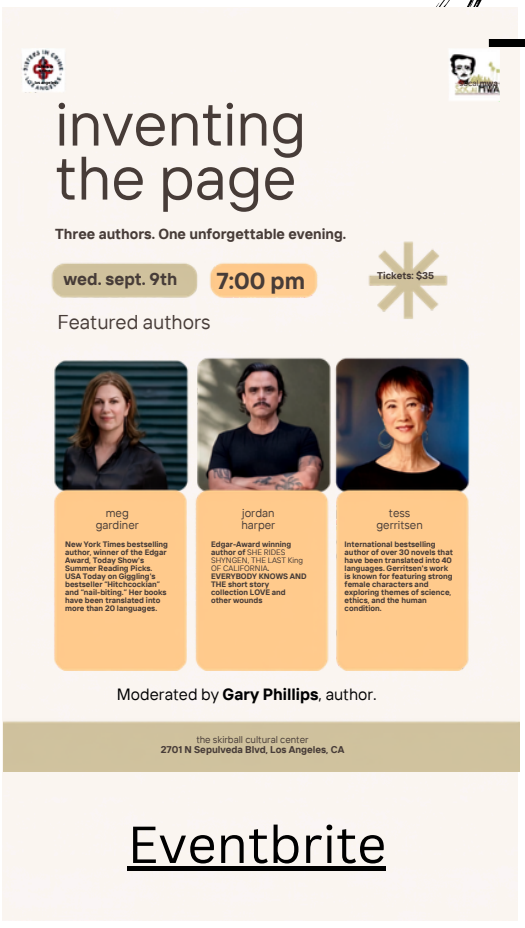
Writers on Writing...





Eventbrite

the Skirball *event*

The Southern California chapter of Mystery Writers of America and Sisters in Crime Los Angeles presents *Inventing The Page,* another in their ongoing series of programs of writers on writing.

Bestselling crime fiction writers Tess Gerritsen, Jordan Harper, and Meg Gardiner, will talk with moderator **Gary Phillips** about their craft and technique; their inspirations for their writing; and how they handle the tricky business of spilling blood on the page.

The Southern California chapter of Mystery Writers of America and Sisters of Crime Los Angeles will host this thrilling quartet on Wednesday, September 9 at 7 pm, at the Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, in the Magnin Auditorium.

PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET



Crime Minded,
But in a good way...

BY LESLIE S. KLINGER

I want to rhapsodize about the upcoming SoCalMWA and Sisters in Crime L.A. event "Inventing the Page" at the Skirball Center on Wednesday, September 9 at 7 pm.
And I want to cordially invite you AND YOUR FRIENDS to that.

We have several goals for the program, and I'm delighted to say we are achieving them all! The first goal is to showcase our stars! Four of the authors who have appeared at the past events are MWA Grand Masters. Second, we are expanding beyond our membership call by co-sponsoring the event with Sisters in Crime L.A. This has automatically increased our visibility--last year over half of the attendees at this event were non-members.

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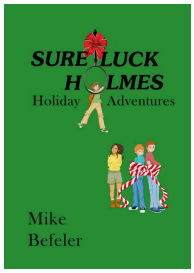
OVER THE TRANSOM, MEMBER NEWS

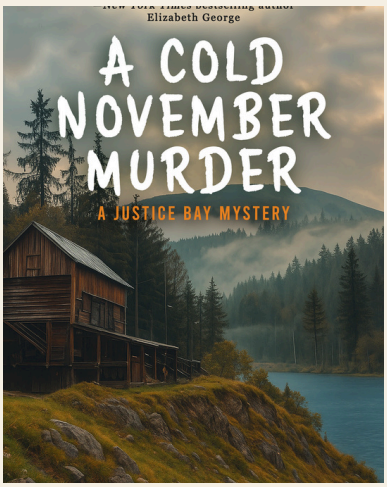


Fifth-grader Sherman Holmes and his sidekick Johanna Watson are at it again... There is no mystery they can't solve. Johanna has given her besty the nickname Sure Luck since cracking a case is often just luck. And Moriarty, the school bully intends to be his first suspect. **Mike Befeler's** Sure Luck Holmes Adventures series, titled Sure Luck Holmes Holiday Adventures recently launched.

Gay Toltl Kinman's *Jax + Cos: A Jo Peters Mystery Short Story.*Two famous musicians can't unsee something in the audience...Published in *Von Stray's Crimestalker Casebook Dec 2026.*

Donis Casey's Tell Me Your Story guest for September is Lisa Harkrader, author of children's and young adult books, including the award-winning *Airball:My Life in Briefs, The Adventures of Beanbag,* and *The Misadventures of Nobbin Swill* detective series. Lisa recently ventured into writing mysteries for adults, publishing short stories in several anthologies, including *SoWest: Danger Awaits, A Right Cozy Culinary Crime, Colorado Mystery Merge 2, a*nd the upcoming Bouchercon anthology *The Lines We Cross. For more information on Tell Me Your Story, Donis Casey is at* https://doniscasey.com.

Hush Up and Write
...thoughts on publishing



Publishing is just, well, a teensy bit in transition right now. Which is the understatement of the century. I recently went to NYC (my home town) to meet with two different (reputable) agents. I got to their offices, and their offices were gone. So when I asked **Patricia Smiley** the launch date of her new book A *Cold November Murder: A Justice Bay Mystery,* it was unsurprising that she replied "That's complicated.The official date was August 11, but it took a week or two for the books to actually be available. I had to delay my launch party with **Naomi Hirahara** until Sunday, August 30, because that's the first date the bookseller could get books."
And not only is book publishing just a teensy bit shifting, but book selling is too. The good news for intrepid investigators, there are PLENTY of options for purchase. Just google it. --**A.G.Britton**

FORENSIS: Tell me everything






Forensis *i*s your new spot to tell us everything: Where you've been, what you saw, research which has astounded you, a book you couldn't put down, a book store we all need to support. On that note, have you been to the Iliad used book store in North Hollywood? It has any book you've ever dreamed of but couldn't find. And, of course, two cats who cannot be bothered with you. Tell me everything by sending a note to themarchofcrime@gmail.com by the 15th of every month.

Meanwhile, great American author Norman Mailer (*The Executioner's Song)* once said, "It's not a party until the police show up." Well, the police did NOT show up at last month's MWA member's shenanigans, but both events were great fun. **Terry Shames's** late summer afternoon potluck soiree hosted about 30 MWA keyboard cave dwellers. The discussion centered on food and travel. Jean Claude Gertrude, the Parisian psychotherapist husband of thriller author **Efrem Seeger,** said: "In Italy there is no bad food, even at a truck stop. In Paris, the food is competitively sublime." The star of the table was Gertrude's multi-veggie vegan pesto. The life of the party was Monty, David and **Terry Shames's** rescue pup. Leftovers for days.

Later in the month Long Beach MWA members **Elaine Ash, Desiree Zamorano, Steve Meagher, Don Munro and DS Mori.** met for dinner. At this dinner, DNA and the Grim Reaper were the discussion on deck. Good times!

Finally, for the copy editors among us, ***Forensis is not a misspell, it i*****s** t**he Latin root word for forensic,** and is translated to **"public forum" or "open to debate." So have at it when you send me your stuff.**

President's Rap Sheet CONTINUED

By encouraging event attendees to join MWA, we grow our capacity to support our members both locally and nationally. Our primary mission for this event is to **educate the public about the genre of crime fiction and connect with** authors—learn more about them and "how the sausage is made." We're all asked, "Where do you get your ideas?" "How do you find the time to write?" "When do you know you're done?"

It appears all writers have these questions. It's really comforting to hear, for example, that **Robert Crais** writes chapters of his novels out of order!

Author **Gary Phillips** moderates this year's panel which includes Tess Gerritsen, Meg Gardiner and Jordan Harper. Our first event featured authors **Michael Connelly,** Walter Mosley, and Laurie R. King with **Nicholas Meyer** moderating. Last year, Gregg Hurwitz moderated the panel of **Robert Crais,** S. J. Rozan and Christopher Rice.

The event is an opportunity to raise funds for all our programming, and incredible networking opportunities.

So—please attend the event (the link for tickets is elsewhere in this newsletter), let your readers know, and perhaps kidnap your friends and take them there. See you soon!

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.

TheMarch of Crimeis the
Contact us at:
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A Good Place to Start

In ancient Vedic texts, particularly the RigVeda (1500-1000 BCE), there is an arch that is said to apply to nature, humans and civilization. This Vedic arch is: Chaos, Acceptance of Chaos, Tribe support then finally, Purpose. This arch has always seemed to me to be THE pattern of crime fiction. What I love about my favorite detectives is that they are able to stand in chaos, accept it, and then work through the evidence through observation and communication. Great detectives always find chaos a good place to start. It is the doorway. I have always found this incredibly comforting. Fear, of course, causes chaos. So one can apply the Vedic Arch to it. Thus, the essence of crime fiction appears to be a practice of the ancients. They solved mysteries, didn't they? To that I say: ASAT, SAT, YAJÑA, RTA/DHI. Chaos, acceptance, your crew and (TA DA!)--back to purpose.

MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Join the SoCalMWA Discussion Group

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

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CRIME CALENDAR



2026

September 9, 7-10 p.m. Inventing The Page, with Meg Gardiner, Jordan Harper, and Tess Gerritsen. Moderated by Gary Phillips.

September 30, Deadline for Tucson Festival of Books self-nomination portal.

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.



THE LAST WORD



The boy was next in line to be shot.

Scorpion Deception

By Andrew Kaplan