



WisRWA member [Molly Maka](#), self-proclaimed 1940s girl, writer of historical romance, and a veteran of historical reenactment, will be presenting her secrets to the Milwaukee area on Saturday, June 18.

As a ten-year veteran of historical reenacting of various time periods, Molly brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her presentation on how historical reenacting can enhance your writing. She will demonstrate how, through reenacting, you too can create identifiable and relatable characters based in a historical context, and establish and capture the nuances of the time period of your characters' worlds. And she'll explain how getting involved in historical reenacting can help you get in touch with the past.

We caught up with Molly before she started pin curling her hair for the next [Stars and Stripes Honor Flight](#) to ask her a few questions leading up to her presentation.

**WisRWA: How did you get involved in historical reenactment?**

**Molly:** Believe it or not I always had a penchant for dressing historically. I remember one year I asked my grandmother if she had any of her 1940s clothes because I wanted to be a

40s girl for Halloween. That might have been the first time. Another year I dressed as a colonial girl off to a ball. When I saw the gorgeous Elizabethan court dresses at the Bristol Renaissance Faire the summer after I graduated high school, I knew I had to get involved. In 2006, my dream was realized when I joined the cast of the Guilde of St. George. From there I learned about other time periods people could reenact and my involvement in different eras sort of evolved from there.

**WisRWA: What time period(s) do you favor, if any?**

**Molly:** I have several that I tend to favor. Let me put it back to you: Which one do you all think is my favorite and why? Go ahead and answer in the comments. I'll give a prize on Saturday to a randomly selected commenter. And, of course, I'll reveal the answer.

**WisRWA: When you are at an historical reenactment, do you find yourself trying out things you'd like to write about?**

**Molly:** That's tough because, even if I don't plan to write about something, I still look for opportunities to try new things in a historical context, if only for the experience of trying it out. You never know when you can use something. My biggest bucket list item right now is to learn how to drive a World War II-era Army jeep. And I've had plenty of interesting adventures I'm still planning to write about. I'll be talking about some of the best ones on Saturday.

**WisRWA: What is your favorite outfit/accessory?**

**Molly:** Right now I would have to say it's a toss-up between my post war aluminum and lucite box purse and an adorable vintage navy blue dress with navy and red polka dot accents. It fits like it was made for me. Who knows, I might just have both of them with me on Saturday.

**WisRWA: Can you tell us the coolest experience you've had doing historical reenactments.**

**Molly:** Absolutely. I've got some great stories. Of course, you'll just have to wait until Saturday to hear them. ☐

Many thanks to Molly for sharing a little bit about herself and her passion. We're so looking forward to her presentation: *The Historical Reenactor Who Writes: How Touching the Past Can Enhance Your Story*. Please join us in Mayfair Mall Community Room (Lower Level) on

Saturday, June 18th at 9 AM. We hope to see you there!

Photo Credit: [Claire Noonan Photography](#)