



Mystery Writers of America

New York Chapter

Here's to new beginnings!

Dear Fellow MWA-NY Chapter Members,

Welcome to a New Year! If you didn't manage all the things you wanted to last year, this year you get another chance. Take a deep breath, think about what got in your way last year, and consider how to work around it in 2017.

The New York chapter is very active, and this year we hope to bring you more of the great programming you are used to. Our January meeting featured a former FBI agent, and our February meeting—on February 1—will be advice from experts on contracts. If you're not able to make the meetings, you can find content from many of them (we missed some months) recorded on the website in the Members section under [Meeting Archives](#). If you have an idea for a program, we'd love to hear from you. We're here to help you achieve your goals!

Speaking of the website, did you know we list conferences on the site? If you're looking for a way to network, conferences are great, and you can find ones that will suit your needs on the [Conferences and Festivals page](#). If you know of one we're missing, please let our conferences chair, Kate White, know by [emailing her](#).

Let's work together to achieve all our goals in 2017!

Laura K. Curtis

President, MWA-NY



From left, moderator **David Grann** and panelists **Jason Starr**, **Amy Stapp**, and **Paul Stevens** speak at the Bloomingdale Library on December 12.

MWA-NY Kicks Off Mentor Program on December 12 with 'Pitch Perfect' Panel

On December 12, at the New York Public Library's Bloomingdale Library, an all-star panel assembled to discuss how to pitch your book to agents and editors.

The panel included **Amy Stapp**, a leading New York book editor at Tor/Forge (Macmillan); **Paul Stevens**, a top agent with the Donald Maass Literary Agency; and **Jason Starr**, an international bestselling author of suspense novels. *New York Times*-bestselling author **David Grann** moderated the event.

The event kicked off MWA-NY's Mentor Program, headed by board member **Erica Obey**.

Thanks to the NYPL and Erica, and special thanks to outgoing Library Committee Chair **Tom Straw** for putting this all together.

Silver Noose Awardees

At our Revels on December 7, Chapter President **Laura K. Curtis** awarded the Silver Noose to two recipients who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in volunteering for our chapter.

Ann-Marie DiGennaro received the award for almost seven years of service as the chapter's registrar. Although she officially stepped down as registrar this year, she said members could still come to her with complaints.

Chris Knopf received the award for heading CrimeCONN, a day-long library-based crime fiction conference co-sponsored by the chapter. Working with the Westport Library, and with the help of MWA members **Jill Fletcher** and **Michelle Clark**, Knopf has led the charge for three years running. Curtis noted that that popular conference serves our Connecticut members in a way the chapter had never been able to before.

Apply Now for the Helen McCloy Scholarship

Did you know that MWA provides \$500 scholarships yearly for two worthy applicants who apply for the Helen McCloy Scholarship? The deadline for this year is **February 28, 2017**.

Writers qualify for this annual scholarship program by submitting writing samples in the form of a mystery novel, short stories, short nonfiction pieces, a screenplay or a play script, together with information about the educational programs they plan to attend, and an essay explaining their interest in mystery writing. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Membership in Mystery Writers of America is not required, nor is any entry fee. *Applicants should be unpublished in the mystery genre.*

The money must be used for a workshop or other class (not online) that will bolster the applicant's writing skills. Conferences normally would not qualify although a few might. Bouchercon, Crimebake, Killer Nashville and Malice Domestic are examples

of conferences that would *not*.

Any type of crime writing is eligible: novels, short stories, plays, and non-fiction including true crime. More information can be found at the [national MWA website](#). Click "MWA Quick Links" on the right side of the Home page. The Helen McCloy scholarship information is the last link.

Welcome, New Board Members!

The votes are in. The board of directors for the chapter this year are **Scott Adlerberg, Nancy Bilyeau, Joseph Goodrich, Rosemary Harris, Jeff Markowitz, Richie Narvaez, Erica Obey, Andrew Peck, Mistina Picciano,** and **Kate White,** with **Laura K. Curtis** serving as chapter president for another year.

Leaving the board are **Ken Isaacson, Triss Stein,** and **Tom Straw.** Best wishes and many thanks to them for their excellent service last year.

Active members vote for new board members every November. Members of the board organize and run events for the chapter. If you're interested in volunteering to help or join the board, please [contact us](#).

Apply Now to the MWA-NY Mentor Program

You can still take part in the new, improved MWA-NY Mentor Program. But hurry. **The submission period ends on January 30.**

The MWA-NY Mentor Program offers members, unpublished and published, an opportunity to have up to 50 pages of a crime-related novel or short fiction critiqued by an active member of the chapter. At the end of the program, up to two manuscripts that are judged to be the most ready are shown to a literary agent.

[Click here for full details.](#)

Upcoming Events

Square Deals & Rip-Offs: A Writer's Guide to Contracts

February 1, Wed., 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Learn about your rights as an author. Our distinguished panel includes **Sheila J. Levine**, publishing attorney; **Jason Pinter** of Polis Books; **Ann Rittenberg**, independent literary agent; and **Neil Rosini**, copyright attorney. **Gerald M. Levine**, a commercial and intellectual property litigator, will moderate.

PLEASE NOTE: *The program starts at 7:00 p.m. Dinner and drinks are not included, but you are welcome to arrive as early as 6:00 p.m.* You can buy drinks at the downstairs bar/restaurant for the networking hour before the program.

Club Quarters Hotel <<NEW VENUE>>

40 West 45th Street, 2nd Fl
New York, NY 10036

Program:

6:00 p.m. Networking (optional)
7:00 p.m. Presentation

Cost: \$10

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

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New York, Scene of the Crime: How to Write an NYC Mystery Library Panel

February 16, Thur., 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The City that never sleeps! The Rotten Apple! What better place to set your crime novel. How can you use Gotham as a character to make your story sellable? How can you avoid getting stuck in the subway tunnel of cliché? Our panel of acclaimed mystery authors will discuss New York City as a setting for crime fiction, from the

19th century to the present-day. Panelists include: [Lyndsay Faye](#), [Stefanie Pintoff](#), and [Radha Vatsal](#). The panel will be moderated by **Linda Landrigan**, editor-in-chief of [Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine](#).

To register for this event, you must [email](#) or call the NYSL box office at 212.288.6900, ext. 230, or go directly to the [NYSL website](#).

The New York Society Library
53 East 79th Street
New York, NY 10075

Program:

6:00 p.m. Refreshments
6:30 p.m. Presentation

Cost: Free

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

For a full list of upcoming events, [click here](#).

Reach Out to the Outreach Committee!

The Outreach Committee supports organizations and activities that promote reading and writing across the region.

MWA-NY members volunteer their time and talent in a variety of ways. If you're involved with organizations and activities that promote reading and writing in your community, contact the [Outreach Committee](#).

Good Noose

Short Stories

- **Cathy Lazere**, "Gurus Need Not Apply," *Ellery Queen*, November 2016
- **Richie Narvaez**, "Merry Xmas from Orchard Beach," *Spinetingler*, December 2016

Congratulations, Cathy, on attaining Active Member status!

We'd love to help support your favorite literacy group.

Have good news? Email [Mistina Bates](#).

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