



Mystery Writers of America *New York Chapter*

Here's to a Fabulous Fall

Dear Fellow MWA-NY Chapter Members,

You wouldn't know it by the muggy weather, but fall has arrived here in the New York area. We're all working hard on our programs for next year, and it's shaping up to be a great one. Last weekend at the Brooklyn Book Festival, several members had great success selling their books, which I firmly believe bodes well for the future of the genre. Several people stopped by the booth to talk about the possibility of cross-genre projects and whether MWA would be able to help them with such things, and I was very glad to be able to tell that that we would, indeed, have resources for them.

At the Brooklyn Book Festival, I was also pleased to be able to invite people to our brunch meeting on October 1. Many of you know that we were in rather dire straits with Salmagundi, but I have really high hopes for our new venue: O'Reilly's Bar and Kitchen. Please come out and give it a shot and let us know what you think. Details below.

The board is also hip-deep in planning for the Revels, the chapter's biggest party of the year! If you'd like to help out, please reach out. We can always use an extra hand, and it's a great way to meet people in the most relaxed way possible. Please email [Joseph Goodrich](#) if you'd like to give us a hand.

Laura K. Curtis
President, MWA-NY



From left, **Jeff Markwitz**, **Sheila York**, and **Wallace Stroby** share insights into "Making a Murder" at Bridgewater Library in New Jersey on June 23. **Michael Ransom** moderated the event.

'Making a Murder' Panel Knocks Audience Dead

by Tricia Vanderhoof

Every panel, every Lethal Library event, just gets better and better. Our June 23rd "Making A Murder" collaboration with Bridgewater Library in New Jersey was our best yet.

Michael Ransom was masterful as moderator. Panelists **Sheila York**, **John Altman**, **Jeff Markowitz**, and **Wallace Stroby** shared anecdotes and insights from their experience. Conversation was brisk when Ransom posed: "In her autobiography, Agatha Christie wrote about her dislike of mysteries having a romantic subplot. Agree or disagree?" Responses got tremendous laughs from the audience.

Also generating much discussion: "How important is setting (time/place) to your

books?" and "How much effort is involved in characterizing your villains?"

The best libraries embrace their demographic and – as never before – are proactive in pursuit of new readers of every category. New Jersey's Somerset County is a hub for programs that appeal to every age, every legitimate interest, and we are now part of that. They are willing to try different approaches and then collect – and share – audience feedback to shape future offerings. Mutual cooperation, ongoing communication, meticulous planning, and flexibility are hallmarks here.

We've forged a true alliance, and word continues to spread to other counties – three more requests, one of which is for ongoing guest visits by MWA writers.

Great authors, positive exposure for MWA-NY, enthusiastic patrons, happy librarians, and new friends with mutual interests. The "W" in our logo now also stands for "Winners!"



Help Us Help You

Ever wonder how all the chapter's great guest speakers and library panels and reading series happen? That's the work of the chapter's board, fellow members who have volunteered their time. But they can't do it alone, and they can't do it forever.

We're looking for a few good volunteers to serve on the chapter board. We offer many programs, such as the Reading Series, the Meetings, the Mentor Program, the Library Panels, and the WriteIn Series. But we need members to help us plan and run these programs. Active, Affiliate, or Associate, it doesn't matter. And as always, we are looking for people to help us organize events and programs for our members outside of New York City.

Yes, it can be time-consuming, but when we work as a group, it helps lighten the load. If you are interested in serving on the board, or in volunteering to help with programs and events, [let us know](#).

Wanna Write for Us?

Each week, the News & Views blog on [our website](#) features helpful writing tips, profiles of members, and articles about the crime publishing world. The board members curate the blog, but we can always use blog posts from people like you who are interested in the mystery. Articles should be short (500 words) and helpful to your fellow members (*e.g.*, not "Why My Book Is Great," "My New Book Is Better Than My Last Book," or "Have You Read My Books Yet?").

You won't get paid and it won't make you super-famous, but we do get a decent amount of site visitors, and if you have a book coming out, we can plug it in your bio and via social media. We also link to your blog and to your latest book page on Amazon. If you've got an idea for a blog post, [shoot us a query](#).

Reach Out to the Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee supports organizations and activities that promote reading and writing across the region. One such organization is Books at Home, which puts books in the hands of inner-city youth in Trenton, N.J. In 2015, the chapter held a

book drive to support Books at Home, distributing books to seven community-based organizations in Trenton, as well as directly to children and their families.

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.](#)

Upcoming Events

MWA-NY Brunch Meeting

October 1, Sat., 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a tasty brunch as we chat, mingle, and network. Brunch includes scrambled eggs, bacon, French toast, pancakes, toast, and roasted potatoes. Also included are coffee, tea, and a drink ticket.

O'Reilly's Bar + Kitchen
21 West 35th Street
New York, NY

Cost: \$25

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

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Bones & Scones

October 8, Sat., 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Featured guests: Susan Breen, Peggy Ehrhart, Tim Hall, and C.E. Lawrence.

Join us for an afternoon of tea, scones, and murder. The Madison Public Library hosts a cozy mystery reading in partnership with the Mystery Writers of America,

New York Chapter.

Madison Public Library
39 Keep Street
Madison, NJ 07940

Cost: Free

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

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MWA-NY Crime Fiction Reading Series

October 18, Tues., 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Hosted by MWA-NY Chapter President **Laura K. Curtis**.

Join us for another evening of crime! Crime fiction, that is, read by members of the Mystery Writers of America, New York Chapter.

KGB Bar
85 East 4th Street
New York, NY

Cost: Free

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

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What Agents Know (And You Ought to)

November 2, Wed., 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Featured guests: Don Conaway, Stephany Evans, Nancy Yost, and Jenna Weart (moderator).

Get the inside track on what's hot and what's not, and on what's important in getting published and selling well today. Our panel of highly successful agents will give

information and advice for writers at all levels.

TBD

Cost: \$42

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

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

Burstein Scholarship Deadline: Friday, September 23

Attention, aspiring mystery writers! (Or friends of aspiring mystery writers...) This Friday, September 23, is the deadline for the inaugural Leon B. Burstein Scholarship.

More details are available on the [MWA-NY website](#), but here's the skinny:

- Scholarships provide financial assistance to writers who want to take a specific class, attend a conference, or research a particular subject for a mystery work in progress.
- Two scholarships, ranging between \$500 and \$1,000, will be awarded in 2016, announced on November 2, 2016.
- MWA members and non-members may both apply,

Good Noose

Awards

- **Michael Ransom**, *The Ripper Gene* (Tor-Forge), 2016 Silver Falchion Awards (Killer Nashville) - Best Horror Novel, Best Serial Killer Mystery

Books

- **Daniella Burnett**, *Deadly Legacy*, Black Opal Books, September 2016
- **Terrie Farley Moran**, *Read to Death*, Berkley, July 2016

Short Fiction

- **Kevin Egan**, "The Book of Judges," *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, October 2016

- provided they do **not** meet the [criteria for active membership](#).
- Applicants submit a completed application (available here) and a writing sample, which should be an excerpt from a mystery-related work in progress.

For more information, [check out this blog post](#).

Good luck!

- **V.S. Kemanis**, "Journal Entry, Franklin DeWitt," *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, August 2016
- **Terrie Farley Moran**, "The Boggy Bayou Caper," *Blood on the Bayou*, Bouchercon Anthology 2016, Down and Out Books, September 2016

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

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