

On the Case, the MWA-NY Newsletter: March 2026

The latest whodunits and happenings of the MWA-NY chapter.



Mystery Writers of America

New York Chapter

Chapter President's Message from Daniella Bernett:

Dear writers,

As winter begins to relinquish its grasp, the Ides of March loom. That fateful day in 44 B.C. when Julius Caesar was assassinated represented a turning point in Roman history. It's the perfect time to embark on your own personal journey of renewal by tapping into the bounty of mysteries on the horizon.

Reinvigorate your writing and hone your skills with our insightful CrimeCraft programs. Get serious about improving pacing, refining language, or polishing your story in general with the Mentoring program, which opens for submissions this month.

Meanwhile, the 2026 Edgar Awards week is fast approaching at the end of April. Keep reading to find out how to register for the MWA Symposium and Edgars banquet. It would be a crime to miss this most prestigious event in the world of mystery.

Like a good, strong cup of tea, aficionados can never get enough of the mystery genre. Therefore, MWA-NY again is proud to co-sponsor CrimeCONN, Connecticut's acclaimed annual one-day mystery writers and readers conference at the Ferguson Library in Stamford, CT. Mark your calendars. This event will be held Saturday, May 16. More information is available below.

Daniella

Editor's Message from Doug Harrell:

If you have good news to share, we'd love to hear it. Go to the Author Update page of the MWA-NY

website and fill out this form to get your information on the website.

<https://www.mwany.org/submit-an-author-update/>

If you want it to also go in the newsletter, email me at **newsletter@mwany.org** to let me know to grab it.

Also, if there's something you'd like to see in the newsletter email me at that address.

Doug

Connect with MWA-NY on Groups.IO

Did you know that the MWA-NY has a bulletin board where you can see all the latest updates and communicate with your fellow members?

It's easy to get connected.

Just type "Groups.IO" into your browser, go to the site, and create a profile.

Then send an email to:

MWA-NY+subscribe@groups.io

That's it.

See you there!

Upcoming MWA-NY Events



Crime Craft

A Series of Discussions
About Crime Writing

Join host Kate Hohl
Monday, March 16th, 2026

**"The Writer's Third Act:
Embracing New Roles in
Publishing and Teaching"**

With Author Mark McNease



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
NEW YORK CHAPTER

CRIME CRAFT

NOTE: Monday this month

Monday, March 16, from 6:00 p.m.

Program Chair **Kate Hohl** invites you to a Zoom meeting.

<https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/83794864332?pwd=sZ4GSNGYygUCr6hySlym6YoP9i9pM4.1>

Please join host Kate Hohl on Monday, March 16th at 6:00 p.m. EST for the March Crime Craft with author **Mark McNease**: "The Writer's Third Act: Embracing New Roles in Publishing and Teaching."

Mark will be focusing on his "third act" as a workshop instructor, self-publisher, and mentor to show how writers can evolve beyond just publishing stories. Learn how to leverage your writing life to teach, guide, and create new pathways.

Mark McNease is an author, publisher, and workshop instructor. He has 15 novels published, most

of which are available as audiobooks. He is also a two-time Emmy Winner as the co-creator of the children's television program In the Outdoors.

Mark is a former board member for MWA-NY and currently supports the Communications Team. He leads writing and journaling programs designed to be practical, encouraging, and accessible, helping writers of all backgrounds develop confidence and craft.

Sincerely,
Kate Hohl and the MWA-NY board

See All Crime Craft youtube videos here
<https://www.youtube.com/@mwany9572>

Manhattan Mystery Reading
Tuesday, March 31 7 - 10 p.m.
Bibliotheque, 54 Mercer St., NYC

The first Authors Reading event of 2026 will be held from 7-10 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31st at Bibliotheque, the bookstore/bar/café at 54 Mercer St. in SoHo. (<https://www.bibliothequenyc.com/>)

Members reading from their work will be

James McCrone, Elizabeth Crowens, Nikhil Iyengar, Gary Cahill, Jeffrey Somers, and Lori Robbins.

But the Reading is not only a showcase for authors. It's an opportunity for MWA-NY members and friends who live in and close to the City to socialize. Our survey last year indicated a desire for no-host get-togethers at bars or restaurants, in a private or semi-private space—ideally one (like this!) with a literary ambiance. Bibliotheque will have food and beverages for sale.

I'll be the M.C. For more information, email info@mwany.org.

Hal Glatzer

MWA-NY CHAPTER--LOCAL GROUPS COMMITTEE NEWS
Contact email: localgroups@mwany.org

UPCOMING--Stay Tuned

Save the Date



2026 Edgar® Week Symposium
Tuesday, April 28, 2026 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Marriott Marquis Times Square
1535 Broadway, New York City

Yes, it's live again this year!

Spend a day rubbing elbows with **MWA Executive Vice President James L'Etoile, 2026 Grand Masters Lee Child and Donna Andrews**, and dozens of Edgar® Award nominees as they discuss their craft at this years symposium.

Cost: \$95 members, \$125 non-members.

You may also pay online via the MWA Store – [Members Rate](#) or [Non-Member Rate](#)

2026 Edgar® Awards Banquet
Wednesday, April 29, 2026 6:30 p.m. - ???
Marriott Marquis Times Square
1535 Broadway, New York City

MWA will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of the awards and the 81st anniversary of the organization. As always, it will be a sit-down dinner.

Dress code: Black-Tie Preferred – Dressed to Kill.

Tickets are \$250 per person – <https://mysterywriters.org/product/2026-edgar-banquet-tickets/>



**CrimeCONN 2026 invites you to *Pick Your Poison*
May 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Ferguson Library in Stamford, CT**

The mystery genre is full of sub-genres and sub-sub genres. You can discover how writers convert their life experiences, or compelling interests, or just plain curiosity, into mystery and suspense at CrimeCONN 2026.

Considered one of the premier small-scale mystery writers and lovers conference, CrimeCONN is co-sponsored by the Mystery Writers of America, New York Chapter, and the Ferguson Library in Stamford, CT.

The one-day event will be held on May 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and offers a virtual attendance option. The keynote speaker this year is *The New York Times* bestselling author

Alafair Burke, in conversation with **John Valeri**, acclaimed mystery reviewer and online host.

USA Today bestselling author

Hank Phillippi Ryan will hold this year's one-hour writers workshop, as well as appear on a panel led by **Reed Farrel Coleman**. Other bestselling and award-winning authors joining panels include **Alison Gaylin**, **Lynne Constantine**, **Peter Blauner**, **Kate White** and **Hilary Davidson**. MWA-NY President **Daniella Bernett** will serve on a panel as well.

CrimeCONN also features a perennial favorite,

Michelle Clark's forensic science panel. Michelle is a highly regarded Connecticut death investigator who brings in experts from around the region who give invaluable insight into the real world of crime fighting.

You'd be hard pressed to find more to learn, inform and inspire in the world of crime writing than CrimeCONN 2026. Coffee, continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Discounts for seniors, students, and MWA members.

Full Program available at:

<https://www.mwany.org/2026/02/crimeconn-2026-set-for-may-16/>

Registration link: <https://www.fergusonlibrary.org/event/hold-crimeconn-80291#!event-register/2026/5/16/crimeconn-2026>

MWA-NY News

Mentor Program

The MWA-NY Mentor Program committee invites members, unpublished and published, to submit their work, finished or in-progress, for critique by published professionals to help hone your work!

You may be both a mentor and a mentee.

Applications to be a mentor or mentee are open now through March 31. Mentors will provide feedback by May 1.

If you wish to be a mentor, send an email to mentors@mwany.org noting the genres you feel comfortable with (e.g., cozy, police procedural, historical) and we will send you a guideline page. You will be expected to review up to 10,000 words. You will remain anonymous, unless you choose to reveal yourself.

How it works:

Submit the first 10,000 words of a manuscript, or one short story up to 10,000 words (a slightly shorter or longer submission is fine if a scene or chapter ends a few pages before or after this limit).

Pay a small fee (\$25) to participate.

This goes toward MWA-NY, not the mentors, so that we can put on other programs for all of you!

An Active Status member of the New York chapter will provide constructive feedback in writing! If you're interested, we need three things from you:

1) The mentee application

Fill it out online [here](#)

<https://www.mwany.org/mentor-applications-mystery-writers-of-america-ny/>

OR you can print out the paper form [here](#) and scan it (or take a photo) and email it to Mentors@mwany.org.

If you have a problem with the links, use: <https://www.mwany.org/mentor-applications-mystery-writers-of-america-ny/>

2) Payment

You can pay either by check or Paypal! (which includes a fifty cent paypal fee). To pay by Paypal simply go to this [link](#)

OR

to pay by check, mail a check for \$25, payable to MWA-NY to:

R.J. KORETO (ATTN: MWA-NY MENTOR PROGRAM)

278 CHERRY LANE

SUFFERN, NY 10901

3) Your Manuscript

This will only be accepted via email. Your submission can be up to 10,000 words of a single short story or part of a novel. A synopsis of 500 words or less (needed to help us match you to a mentor) is preferable for novels. The synopsis should describe the whole plot for completed novels and what you know of the plot so far for works in progress. If you do not have a full synopsis, then please add a paragraph at the end of your extract saying how you believe this story will end.

The work should be something that fits into the mystery criteria – crime-related, suspense, true-crime, cozy, sci-fi noir... the list of genres is long, so don't hesitate to ask if you're unsure!

Please submit your pages as a MS Word documents in **.doc** or **.docx** format (no .pdf or .rtf or anything else), double-spaced, in a Times New Roman or 12-point Courier font.

Include your name, the title and the page number at the top of each page. The synopsis, if included, should be part of this document, and not a separate document.

Name your document with your last name as the file name. Example: Smith.doc

Attach the MS Word document to an e-mail addressed to

mentors@mwany.org. Include in the body of the e-mail:

Your full name

Title of Manuscript

Whether Novel or Short Story

Genre (to help us pair you with the best mentor)

Remember to attach your pages!

Critiques will be e-mailed to you as we receive them from the mentors, but no later than May 15, 2025. This program does not involve face-to-face discussion or an ongoing relationship between mentor and mentee, unless initiated by the mentor. (In fact, your mentor will remain anonymous unless he or she chooses to reveal themselves.)

The Active Status members who serve as mentors do so without payment. Their only commitment is to critique the work in writing and help develop new authors.

If you have additional questions, please e-mail

mentors@mwany.org – the subject line of your e-mail should be “Mentor Program.”

We look forward to receiving your submission!

Help MWA-NY Connect with Libraries

Hello MWA-NY members,

I am the new Library Panel Liaison for the chapter. I will soon be contacting libraries in the six states that comprise the chapter—New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware and West Virginia—and would appreciate your help.

As you may know, MWA-NY organizes free, in-person panel discussions where our local authors visit libraries and exchange ideas on an array of topics in the crime fiction genre, ranging from the writing process, character development, plot and setting, to the various mystery subgenres.

If you have a particular connection to a library, know specific librarians, or have visited a library and done a presentation or reading, could you send me a list of the facilities and a contact name? I would like to inquire whether they would be interested in hosting an MWA-NY panel.

Also, I welcome any suggestions about approaching libraries or arranging panels. I can be reached at:

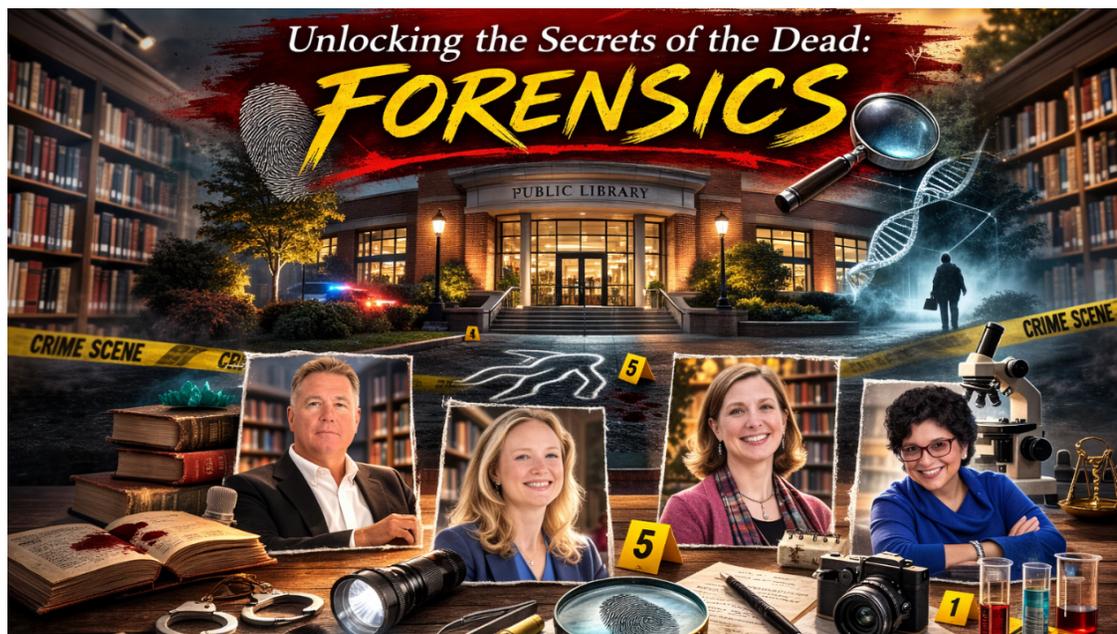
library@mwany.org

Thanks for your help here and best of luck for a creative year!

Suzanne Trauth

MWA Board Member-Library Panel Liaison

In Case You Missed IT



Unlocking the Secrets of the Dead: Forensics

Check out the Video of our expert panel with **Lt. Art Weisgerber, Dr. Lauren Thoma, and Kimberlee Sue Moran** discussing crime scene forensics.

From crime fiction and cold cases to autopsies, crime scene investigation, and forensic archaeology. Discover how science, history, and real-world experience come together to uncover the truth.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAtOQJGto4c>

Member Updates

MWA NY board member **Yvonne Ventresca's** thriller, *IF YOU'RE READING THIS, I'M GONE*, was acquired by Poisoned Pen Press in a two-book deal. Coming in spring of 2027, the novel is told in a book-within-a-book narrative about a missing author who leaves behind a final manuscript

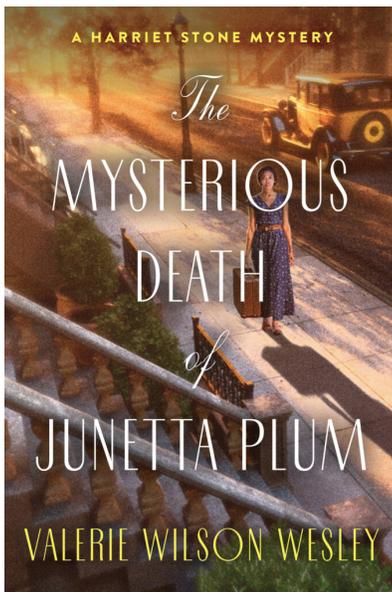
that eerily mirrors her own life as a widow being stalked.

For more information,

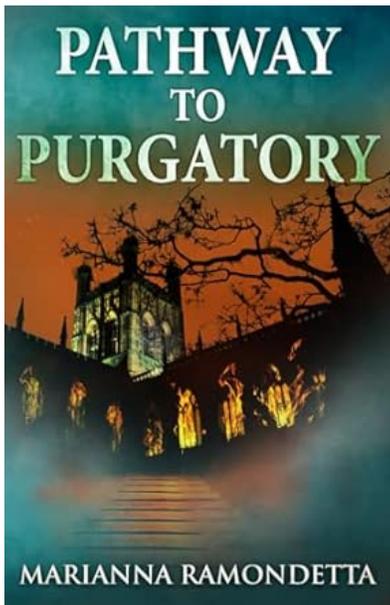
[subscribe to Yvonne's newsletter](#) or follow her on [Instagram](#).



Valerie Wilson's *The Mysterious Death of Junetta Plum* was published by Kensington in December. At the darkly glamorous height of the Roaring 20s, an independent Black intellectual and her bi-racial foster child are immersed in the vibrant world of the Harlem Renaissance – and a shocking murder on Striver's Row – in this thrilling Jazz Age mystery.



Marianna Heusler In *Pathway to Purgatory, Next Chapter*, the ashes of the past are disturbed when a luxury nursing home is built on the same ground where a devastating fire destroyed a Catholic elementary school fifty years earlier. As construction begins, buried secrets claw their way to the surface—and those involved in the project begin to unravel.



We want to publish news from MWA-NY chapter members in our Author Updates column on the homepage. Send information on new books published, launch parties, readings, awards, publishing deals and anything else the world should know about your publishing life.

To submit an update, including pictures from events, a headshot or cover image, [click to fill out our form.](#)

NOTE: If you sent an author update to the website that never got posted, please resend it. We've had technical difficulties, and we may have missed some.

Who to contact for what:

Member support and general questions - info@mwany.org

Programming - programs@mwany.org

To join readings - readings@mwany.org

Mentor Program - mentors@mwany.org

Library Panels - library@mwany.org

Newsletter - newsletter@mwany.org

Local Groups - localgroups@mwany.org

Communications - comms@mwany.org

News - news@mwany.org

Other: President@mwany.org

USEFUL LINKS

our website: www.mwany.org