

On the Case, the MWA-NY Newsletter: December 2025

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



Mystery Writers of America *New York Chapter*

Chapter President's Message from Nev March:

Dear writers,

Along with **Lev Rosen** and **Mark McNease**, my time on the chapter board has come to an end. Continuing on the board are **Hal Glatzer**, **Daniella Bernett**, **David Bushman**, **Doug Harrell**, **Ken Wishnia**, **Kate Hohl**, and **Carol Binkowski**. It has been my pleasure to head the team these last two years, with such fun colleagues who are also very talented writers. You can support these volunteers by following them on social media and helping to promote and amplify their work.

As you know, we announce the Leon Burstein Awards at our annual Revels. This year we had three excellent and equally riveting finalists, so we announced a tie! Our long-standing member **Dan Burstein** (who instituted the award in his father's name) handed out the awards to the three winners: **Margaret Ryan**, **David Liss** and **John Dzuiban**!

Congratulations also to all those who completed their manuscripts in time for this contest. With our online CrimeCraft meetings and Mentor Program critiques, this contest helps aspiring writers up their craft and take their manuscripts closer to publication.

This year, our board added new programs such as the Agent-led Querying Success webinar. With **Carol Binkowski**'s leadership, we identified 28 new local groups where members can meet and connect in person. [See more benefits of chapter membership here.](#)

Thank you for supporting our efforts. I'm happy to report, we have excellent candidates for the open positions in 2026: **Daniella Bernett** for President, **Richard Koreto**, **John O'Rourke**, **Yvonne Ventresca** and **Suzanne Trauth**. (Per MWA rules, active members were invited to vote for our Chapter's new board members for 2026 by December 12, 2025.)

I wish you and your families the best of the season and a safe and joyous 2026. Thank you for the opportunity to serve my fellow writers! It's been a privilege.

Nev

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

Leon Burnstein Award Winners



Three unpublished authors each won the prestigious Leon Burstein Award—and \$2,000—for their mystery manuscripts. The award is judged and presented by the New York Chapter of Mystery Writers of America (MWA-NY).

***Rain in Pittsburgh*, by John Dziuban** “is unlike anything I’ve ever read! This noir work kept me off balance and transported me to a different world! It is wholly original, surreal and creative.”

***Gorgeous*, by Margaret Ryan** is “a very easy read,” said another judge. “It takes a great deal of work to make the writing that smooth and readable! I really enjoyed the voice of this narrator. With relatable characters, and deep internal reflections about the past, it felt immediate, real and engaging.”

Set in the contemporary world of journalism and media,

***The Hacker Murders* by J David Liss** impressed the judges with “characters that are unusual and well-drawn. The twisty plot gave tech details which were timely and credible. It was fast paced and interesting to the last page.”

The 2024 Leon Burstein Award was presented to one winner and one runner-up. However, this year the judges felt that all three manuscripts were equally worthy and each author received a \$2,000 prize. The prize is named for the late Leon Burstein, an ardent fan of mystery fiction. The Burstein family created the award, to be given to an unpublished author for a completed manuscript deemed worthy of—and ready for—publication.

Chapter President Nev March said that the competition will be held again in 2026. Contestants must be previously unpublished in the mystery field, and members of Mystery Writers of America’s New York chapter. For more information, please see

www.mwany.org

Upcoming MWA-NY Events



Crime Craft

A Series of Discussions
About Crime Writing

Join host Kate Hohl
Tuesday, December 16th at 6:00pm

“The Muddle in the Middle”

with USA Today best-selling author

Hank Phillipi Ryan!



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
NEW YORK CHAPTER

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

Including:

Stephanie Scott-Snyder: Inside the Criminal Mind

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6P2C-IuunHI>

Ayla Zuraw-Friedland: How to Write an Agent Query Letter
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyEY7XRRozs>

Art Taylor: The First Two Pages
<https://youtu.be/JaytNcjEd4A>

Barb Goffman: Short Stories
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BE_a6Msajoo

Hallie Ephron: How to Write a Page-Turner
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSdObJhq3FY>

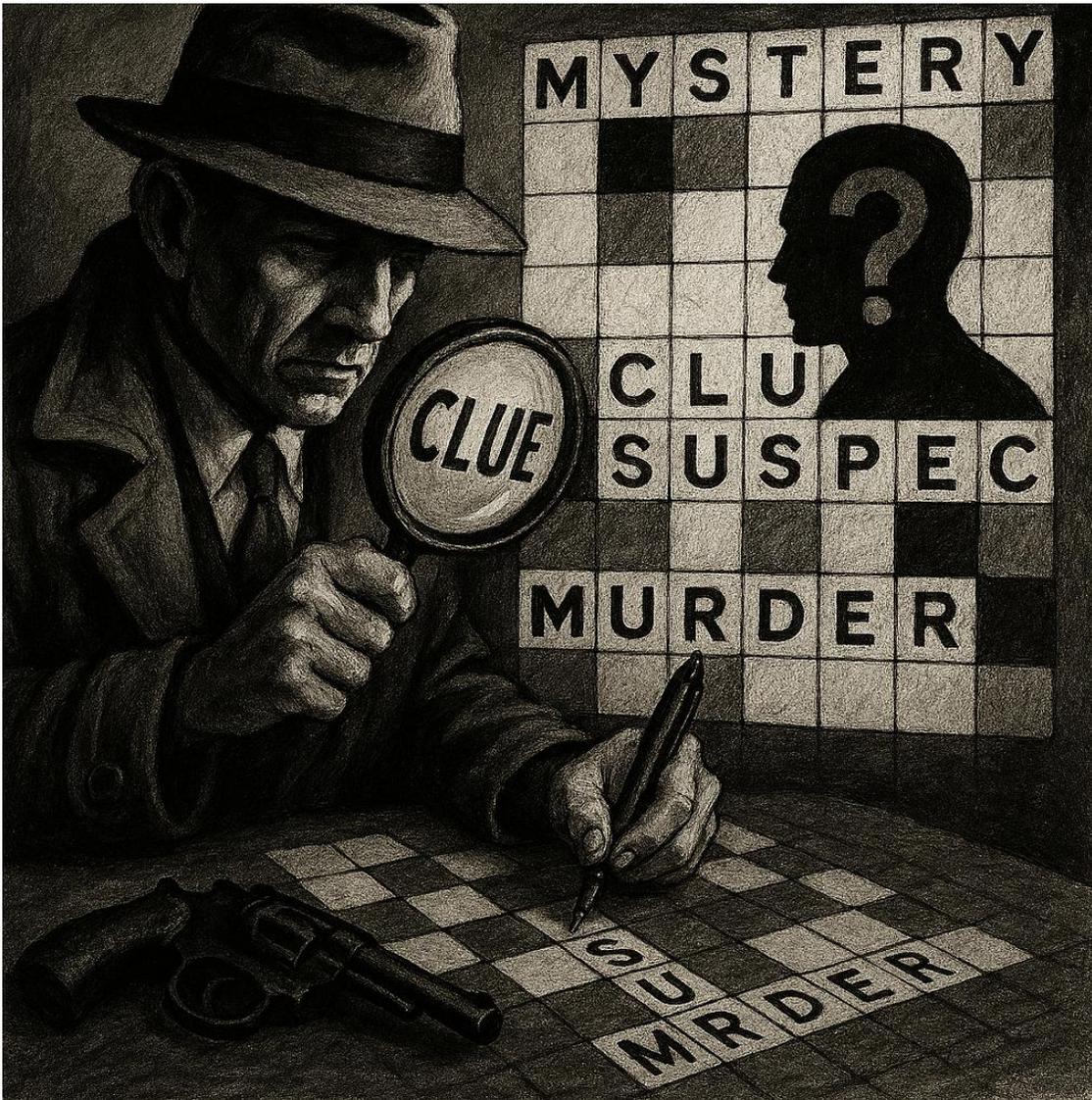
MWA-NY CHAPTER--LOCAL GROUPS COMMITTEE NEWS

Contact email: localgroups@mwany.org

UPCOMING--Stay Tuned

RECAP--Local Group Meet-Ups

Long Island had a very good meeting on November 15th before their holiday break. Five members read from their works and gave and received great feedback. Michael Hall, the group's coordinator, says he feels lucky to have met such wonderful people(writers) who want to see everyone in the group get better and succeed.



Mystery Crossword

Our first-ever MWA-NY crossword puzzle! It's absolutely ... puzzling. Follow the link and see if you're stumped. Stay tuned for the solution our January newsletter!

Try this month's crossword at:

<https://www.mwany.org/2025/11/first-ever-mwa-ny-crossword-puzzle/>

Here's the link for past quizzes:
<https://www.mwany.org/quizzes/>

MWA-NY News

MWA-NY Chapter Elections

Emails have gone out to active members for our MWA New York chapter elections for our 2026 board. Per NWA National rules, active members were emailed the ballot link.

Upcoming newsletters will include the bio and pictures of our new board members

Daniella Bernett for President, **Richard Koreto**, **John O'Rourke**, **Yvonne Ventresca** and **Suzanne Trauth**.

Panel Discussion on Forensics--October 25th Recap

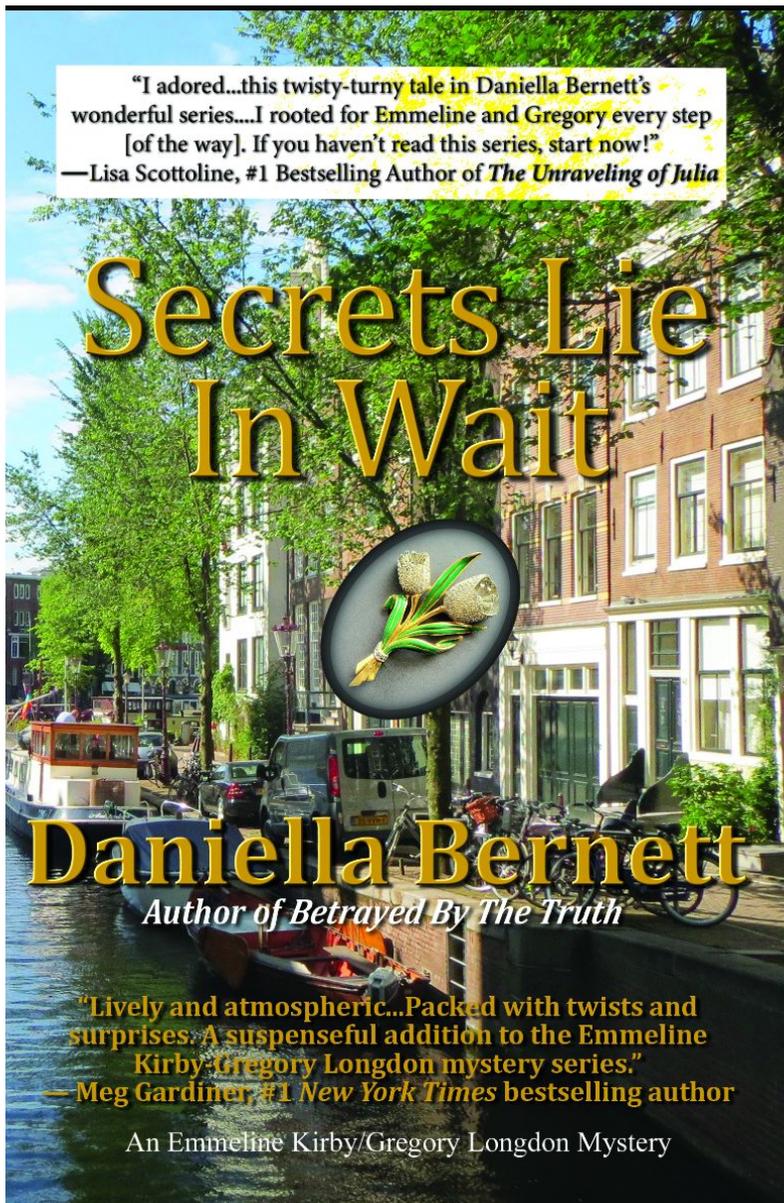
Stay Tuned: Videos of our Expert Panel in October 2025 will be posted to our You-Tube channel shortly.

<https://www.youtube.com/@mwany9572>

Member Updates

Daniella Bernett's *Secrets Lie In Wait* was released on December 6. It's the latest in her Emmeline Kirby-Gregory Longdon mystery series about a journalist and a jewel thief.

Lost, found, stolen, dead...In a den of enemies, there's nowhere to hide. When Gregory Longdon is kidnapped and framed for murder in Amsterdam by Russian mafia boss Bogdan Kozlov, living on a knife's edge stops being a game. Meanwhile, his wife, journalist Emmeline Kirby, is stirring up trouble with articles about Kozlov's diamond smuggling operation and the Golden Tulip, a looted 130-carat yellow diamond. Emmeline and Gregory soon learn that running into danger means running for their lives.



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

Bookfairs/ conferences - info@mwany.org

Newsletter - newsletter@mwany.org

Local Groups - localgroups@mwany.org

Other: President@mwany.org

USEFUL LINKS

our website: www.mwany.org