

On the Case, the MWA-NY Newsletter: October 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,

I'm so proud of what we've achieved this year. We are the largest MWA chapter, and one of the most active, with 10 CrimeCraft presentations, a half dozen panels in libraries, and 30+ entries in both the Mentor Program and Leon Burstein Award. Our local groups are growing, and our Manhattan Mystery Readings offer writers a venue to share their work. Our newsletter and groups.io pages keep you updated and provide a forum to interact with each other, and our website continues to promote your new books and your achievements.

None of this happens without the enthusiasm and contributions of our board members, and here's your chance to get involved. We have an opening for a library panel lead starting in January. This person coordinates with libraries to hold panel discussions on a topic of interest. Once the library determines the date and time, the panel lead offers this opportunity to members on groups.io. The first 3 active members are usually selected to be on the panel unless the library has specific requests. Active, affiliate, and associate members are all eligible to moderate panels.

Lastly, please remember that board members are all volunteers and maintain their own independence and public voices. We live in difficult times, and we are a no-censoring zone. We respect everyone's right to express their opinions, while decrying hate speech and fascism.

Decades ago, Issac Asimov wrote, "It was a sign of decaying culture that people were losing the ability to distinguish between fact and opinion," while Albert Camus even more keenly observed, "The purpose of a writer is to keep civilization from destroying itself."

Keep writing, the world needs your voice.

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:

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

Your information will go up on the website, and we'll include it in the following month's newsletter.

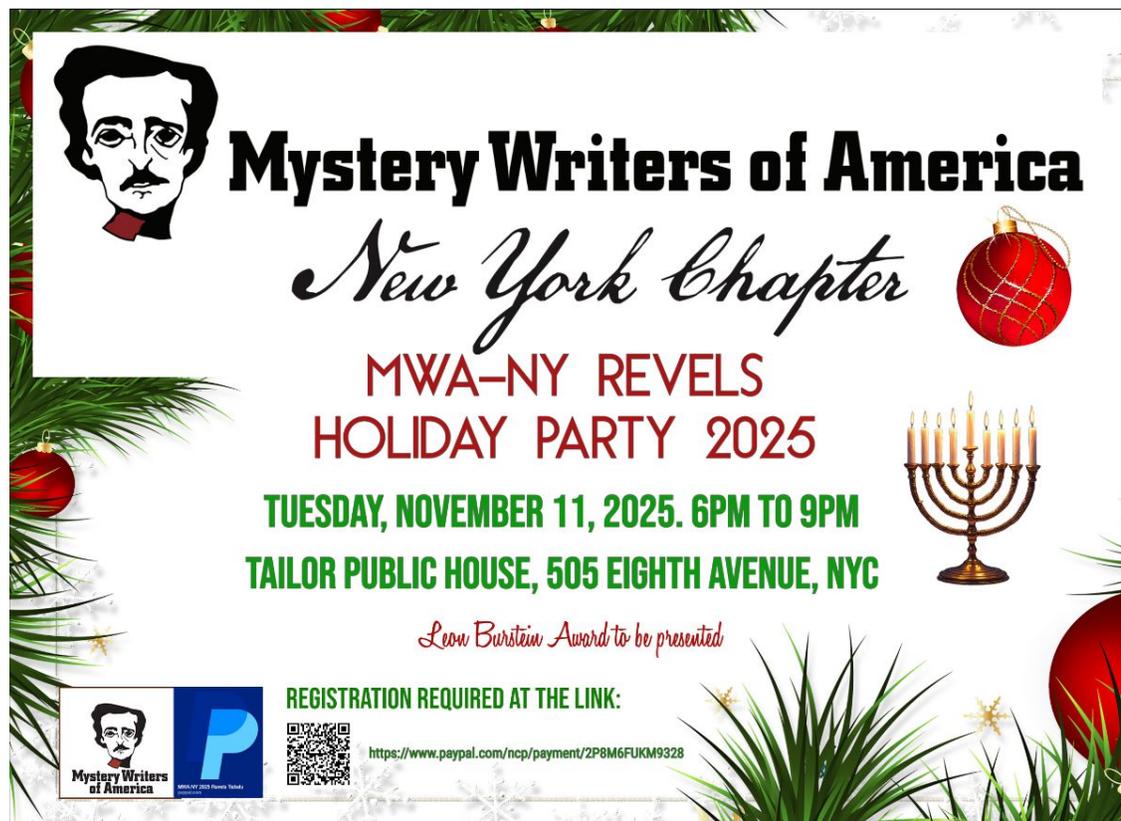
Also, please let us know if there's something you'd like to see in the newsletter.

Email me at newsletter@mwany.org.

(NOTE: new address for newsletter correspondence).

Doug

REVELS IS ALMOST HERE!



The poster features a black and white illustration of a man's head with a mustache and a red bow tie. The text is arranged in a festive, holiday-themed layout with green and red accents. A red Christmas ornament and a gold candelabra are also visible. The bottom left corner includes logos for the Mystery Writers of America and PayPal, along with a QR code and a registration link.

Mystery Writers of America
New York Chapter
MWA-NY REVELS
HOLIDAY PARTY 2025
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025. 6PM TO 9PM
TAILOR PUBLIC HOUSE, 505 EIGHTH AVENUE, NYC
Leon Burstein Award to be presented

REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT THE LINK:
<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/2P8M6FUKM9328>

REVELS 2025

MWA-NY's annual Revels party will be held

Date: November 11, 2025

The Tailor Public House

505 8th Ave, New York, NY 10018

Revels is only a month away, and plus-ones are welcome. Don't miss the fun. It's only \$35.70 per person, but spots are limited. Reserve yours today!



Registration Link: <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/2P8M6FUKM9328>

Upcoming MWA-NY Events



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
NEW YORK CHAPTER

Panelists



Tom Coffey
The Devine Trilogy



Peggy Ehrhart
Knit & Nibble Mysteries



Charles Salzberg
Second Story Man

Red Herrings: The Twist in the Tale

FREE EVENT

Saturday, October 18
1:00 - 3:00 PM
Lee Memorial Public Library
500 Crescent Avenue
Allendale, NJ

Moderator

Carol Binkowski
(aka Caryl Janis)
MWA-NY Board Member
To Sketch A Killer



Panel Discussion
October 18, 2025 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Lee Memorial Public Library

500 Crescent Avenue, Allendale, NJ

Registration Link: <https://bccls.libcal.com/event/15336240>

Red Herrings: The Twist in the Tale

Deception, a web of lies, and the chase for clues are at the core of a mystery. How do you use red herrings to heighten tension and suspense to keep readers turning pages? What challenges do red herrings pose as a tool to propel the story? This panel discussion with three mystery authors will delve into the art of misdirection. This free event will be open to MWA members and the public.

Moderator: Carol Binkowski

Carol Binkowski writes mysteries under the pen name Caryl Janis, most recently including *To Sketch a Killer* and *Research Can Be Murder* -- both urban cozies set in New York. Carol is also a musician and author of nonfiction books about music and history.

Panelists:

Tom Coffey has written numerous novels since his debut in 1999 with *The Serpent Club*. He is currently working on the third installment of a series that examines the arc of law enforcement in New York from the 1980s to the present, *The Devine Trilogy*. He worked as a journalist, most recently at *The New York Times*, before retiring in 2023.

Peggy Ehrhart is a former English professor with a doctorate in Medieval Literature. Her *Maxx Maxwell* mysteries, *Sweet Man Is Gone* (2008) and *Got No Friend Anyhow* (2011) feature a blues-singer sleuth. Peggy is currently writing the *Knit & Nibble* mysteries featuring an amateur sleuth who is a knitting aficionado.

Charles Salzberg is a former magazine journalist, and author of two nonfiction books. He has written several novels, including *Devil in the Hole*, which was named one of the best crime novels of 2013 by *Suspense* magazine. His latest novel is *Man on the Run*. He has taught at Syracuse University, Sarah Lawrence College, Hunter College, and a various writing workshops.



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
NEW YORK CHAPTER

Crime Craft

A series of discussions about
Crime Writing

Hosted by Kate Hohl

Please join us on

Tuesday

October 21, 2025

at 6:00pm EST

Acclaimed author

Wanda M. Morris

will lead a discussion on

“The Craft of the
Historical Crime Novel”



Crime Craft

October 21, 2025 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83794864332?pwd=sZ4GSNGYygUCr6hySlym6Y0P9i9pM4.1>

The Craft of Historical Crime Fiction with acclaimed author Wanda M. Morris

Mark your calendar and join the conversation! While we try to record each CrimeCraft, occasionally that is not possible, so please attend online.

Wanda M. Morris

Wanda M. Morris is the acclaimed author of several legal thrillers including *All Her Little Secrets*, *Anywhere*

You Run, and *What You Leave Behind*. Her debut novel, *All Her Little Secrets* has been optioned for a limited series, starring and executive produced by three-time Emmy winner Uzo Aduba with Wanda serving as an executive producer.

Her second book, *Anywhere You Run*, has won numerous awards (2023 Lefty Award for Best Historical Novel; 2023 Georgia Author of the Year Award for Best Mystery; 2023 Anthony Award for Best Historical Novel) as well as making a number of prestigious lists (*The New York Times* Top Ten Crime Fiction Books of 2022; Best Books of 2022, by NPR, Publisher’s Weekly, and Amazon; and Fifteen Standout Historical Fiction Books to Read This Year by Oprah Daily.).

Wanda is a former corporate lawyer and now writes full-time. She is married, the mother of three and lives in Atlanta, Georgia.



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
NEW YORK CHAPTER

Panelists



Unlocking the Secrets of the Dead: Forensics

FREE EVENT

Morristown & Morris Township Public Library
1 Miller Road Morristown, NJ
October 25, 2025
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Dr. Lauren Thoma, M.D.
Deputy County Medical Examiner
Middlesex Regional Medical Examiner’s Office



Kimberlee Moran
Associate Teaching Professor
Rutgers-Camden Dept. of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice



Moderator
Nev March
MWA-NY President

Panel Discussion
October 25, 2025 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. (networking mixer 3 - 4 p.m.)
Morristown & Morris Township Library
1 Miller Rd, Morristown, NJ 07960, Morristown, NJ
(Refreshments will be served)

Unlocking the Secrets of the Dead: Forensics

This expert panel will explore the fascinating world of forensics and how scientific methods are used to help solve crimes. The discussion also will look at how forensics are portrayed in books. The event will feature a Q&A and a networking opportunity. This free event will be open to MWA members and the public.

Moderator:

Nev March, MWA-NY Chapter President

Nev is the first Indian-born author to receive the Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America Award for Best First Crime Fiction. Her debut novel, *Murder in Old Bombay* also won an Audiofile award and was an Edgar and Anthony finalist. With an adventurous immigrant duo as sleuths, her books deal with issues of identity, race and moral boundaries. After a long corporate career, Nev returned to her passion—writing fiction, and now teaches creative writing at the Rutgers-Osher Institute. She is a member of Crime Writers of Color and president of New York chapter of Mystery Writers of America.

Panelists:

Lieutenant Art Weisgerber, Crime Scene/I.D. Unit, Norwalk Police Department

Lt. Weisgerber has been the commanding officer of the Crime Scene/Identification Unit at the Norwalk, Connecticut, Police Department since 2011. The Unit is responsible for the processing of forensic evidence at major crime scenes and fatal crash scenes along with evidence collected by other divisions. He also is an adjunct police instructor for the State of Connecticut Municipal Police Officer Academy, as well as teaching crime scene procedure/investigation privately for the Spector Criminal Justice Training Network.

Dr. Lauren Thoma, Middlesex Regional Medical Examiner's Office

Dr. Thoma, M.D. is a forensic pathologist working in central New Jersey who has performed nearly 2,500 autopsies and testified over 65 times in Superior Court in New Jersey and New York and in federal court. Dr. Thoma holds board certifications in Anatomic, Clinical, and Forensic Pathology and has lectured at the New Jersey State Police Academy and NJSP Crime Scene Investigation School. She has a special interest in long-term unidentified cases, overdose fatalities, and quality improvement in death investigation.

Kimberlee Sue Moran, Associate Teaching Professor of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice at Rutgers University - Camden

Assoc. Prof. Moran has over 20 years of experience as a forensic consultant and educator, both in the UK and United States. She has worked on several cases in a range of capacities, and runs training workshops for local law enforcement that include blowing up transit buses and digging up dead animals. Her doctoral research was in the field of ancient fingerprints and her current research is in taphonomy, the process of decomposition. She is the co-editor of *Forensic Archaeology: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, and has served on the Crime Scene Investigation subcommittee of the NIST-OSAC.



Mystery Quiz

Test your knowledge of
True Crime

Try this month's quiz at:

<https://www.mwany.org/quizzes/true-crime/>

You'll see the results as soon as you hit 'submit.' Look for more quizzes coming your way, or do the ones you missed at

<https://www.mwany.org/quizzes/>

MWA-NY News

Call for Manhattan Mystery Readers

If you are a member of MWA-NY, and would like to read aloud from your work, upcoming Manhattan Mystery Readings will be on Saturday December 6, from noon to 2 p.m.

The 58th St. Library is at 127 East 58th St, between Park and Lexington Aves. Getting there is easy by transit: the #4, 5, 6, N and R trains stop at 59th St. and Lex. Uptown buses run on Third Ave.; downtown buses on Lex. The M31 and M57 buses run crosstown on 57th St. The Library's meeting room is on the second floor and there is no elevator.

For further information, please email

info@mwany.org.

Exploring the Tantalizing World of Mysteries

MWA members, mystery aficionados, and aspiring writers gathered on September 13 at the Hoboken Public Library in Hoboken, NJ, for **The Mystery Genre: Its Evolution, Current Trends and The Future**, a panel discussion moderated by **Jeff Markowitz**. The panel, comprising **Rhonda Barnat**, **Gary Cahill**, and **Lori Robbins**, delved into the genre's history; memorable sleuths and villains; captivating storylines; and what devilish mayhem lies ahead. The lively exchange of ideas triggered intelligent questions from the highly engaged and enthusiastic audience. Many lingered after the event to continue the intriguing conversation.



Member Updates

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

Programing - 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