

On the Case, the MWA-NY Newsletter: February 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 Friends,

Hope you are having a good Valentine's weekend! Your new chapter board is speeding ahead with plans for the year.

Our Groups.io page (

<https://groups.io/g/MWA-NY>) has been happily active. Carol Binkowski, our lead for the new Local Groups committee, is seeking those with interest in local groups!

We already have plans to get-together in Manhattan after the Mystery Reading on 2/22 (led by VP Hal Glatzer) and also in Philly in April! Other groups will meet in Albany, Syracuse, Northeast PA, Hartford CT, Long Island, Hudson Valley, Middlesex NJ and Ulster-Poughkeepsie areas. If none of these are near you, respond to Carol, and create a group!

Mentor Lead Lev Rosen will open our Mentor program soon, so if you have 35 pages you want critiqued by a published writer, get it ready! We also have an exciting panel at the Montclair Women's Club on 2/21 (info below) and much more!

If you'd like to attend the Edgars, keep an eye on the MWA national website. Next Tuesday at 6 p.m., program lead Kate Hohl has a useful CrimeCraft to help you gain publicity for your work.

Writing can be a solitary business, but we are here to support and cheer you on.
Stay warm,

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

Meet Our New Board Members



Carol Binkowski has loved mysteries ever since discovering Nancy Drew. She now writes her own under the pen name Caryl Janis. A relative newcomer to mystery writing, her first, *To Sketch a Killer*, and her latest, *Research Can Be Murder* ([Amazon.com: Research Can Be Murder: 9781509254477](https://www.amazon.com/Research-Can-Be-Murder-9781509254477/)), are both urban cozies set in Manhattan and the surrounding areas. A freelance musician, she is also the author of nonfiction books about music and history. You can find her online at: www.caroljbinkowski.com and www.caryljanis.com.



Lev Rosen writes books for people of all ages, including the Evander Mills series, which began with the Macavity Award winning *Lavender House* (Anthony finalist, Lambda finalist, Best Book of the Year from BuzzFeed, Library Journal, Amazon, Bookpage, and others) and continues with *The Bell in the Fog*, (Publisher's Weekly Editor's Choice, Best Book of the year from Amazon, CrimeReads and Autostraddle) and *Rough Pages* (Amazon editor's choice, Autostraddle Best of the Year). His most recent YA novels are *Emmett* (Best Book of the year from Kirkus and Amazon), *Lion's Legacy* (Best Book of the year from Booklist and the New York Public Library) and *Camp* (Best Book of the year from Forbes, Elle, and The Today Show and others). Out in 2025: The second Tennessee Russo adventure, *King's Legacy*, the fourth Evander Mills mystery, *Mirage City*, and another YA rom-com, *You've Got My Heart*. (You can find Lev's books on Bookshop.org). He is a born and raised New Yorker who still lives in NYC with his husband and a very small cat. You can find him online at LevACRosen.com and @LevACRosen (photo credit: Rachael Shane).

Upcoming MWA-NY Events



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
NEW YORK CHAPTER

Join us for a **CRIME CRAFT** discussion

Tuesday February 18, 2025
at **6:00pm**

Publicity for Crime Writers
With Terena Bell



CRIME CRAFT
February 18, 2025 6:00 p.m.

Publicity for Crime Writers with Terena Bell

Terena Bell is a book publicist and fiction writer. As a publicist, she's secured clients coverage with *The Today Show*, *Good Housekeeping*, NPR, and *BookRiot*, among others. Her debut short fiction collection, *Tell Me What You See* (published by Whiskey Tit in December 2022) was recently named one of "the best books of the 21st century (so far)" by New York Society Library. Learn more at terenabellpr.wordpress.com.

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83794864332?pwd=sZ4GSNGYygUCr6hySlym6YoP9i9pM4.1>



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
NEW YORK CHAPTER



Peggy Ehrhart
Knit and Nibble Mysteries



Linda Rawlins
Misty Point Mysteries



Suzanne Trauth
Dodie O'Dell Mysteries

Crime Without the Blood: Cozy Mysteries

Friday, February 21
Montclair Women's Club
82 Union Street, Montclair NJ

1:30 - 3:30 PM



Moderated by Carole Bugge
aka Elizabeth Blake
Jane Austen Society Mysteries

Panel Discussion

February 21, 2025 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Montclair Women's Club
82 Union Street, Montclair NJ

Crime Without the Blood: Cozy Mysteries

How do you conceive a diverting puzzle without explicit violence? How do you create a sense of danger and build suspense? What is the secret to sprinkling red herrings to keep readers guessing? Three mystery authors will spin a web of intrigue. Event free for women's club members and suggested \$10 donation for non-members.

Parking is available behind the club and refreshments will be served.

Registration link:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ednhh4f>

Carole Bugge (C.E. Lawrence, Carole Lawrence, Elizabeth Blake) has too many pen names. She is the author of fifteen published novels, award-winning plays, musicals, poetry and short fiction. Her most recent novel, *Cleopatra's Dagger*, was nominated for an Edgar Award for Best Original Paperback. Her play *Strings Attached* was recently produced Off Broadway on Theatre Row by the Pulse Theatre.

Her most recent musical is *Murder on Bond Street*, based on a true story. In another life, she was a professional actor, singer, and improvisational comedian. A self-described science geek, she likes to hunt wild mushrooms and play Bach on the piano when no one is listening. Her website is www.celawrence.com

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), were published by Five Star/Gale/Cengage and feature a blues-singer sleuth.

Peggy is currently writing the *Knit & Nibble* mysteries for Kensington Books. Her amateur sleuth, Pamela Paterson, is the founder and mainstay of the Arborville, New Jersey, knitting club, nicknamed Knit and Nibble. *Knit & Nibble #10, Knitmare on Beech Street*, was released December 2023; *Murder Most Irish* appeared in Kensington's 2024 St. Patrick's Day novella anthology, *Irish Milkshake Murder*; and *A Dark and Stormy Knit* was released in fall 2024.

Linda Rawlins is best known for her *Misty Point Mystery Series*, including *Misty Manor*, *Misty Point*, *Misty Winter*, *Misty Treasure*, *Misty Revenge*, and *Misty Retreat*. She is also known for her *Rocky Meadow Mystery Series*, including *The Bench*, *Fatal Breach*, *Sacred Gold*, as well as stand-alone novels, *Midnight Shift* and *Mystery of Heather House*. Rawlins loved to read as a child and started writing her first mystery novel in fifth grade. She studied science, medicine, and literature, eventually graduating from medical school and establishing her career in medicine.

Rawlins lives in New Jersey with her husband, her family and spoiled dog. She loves spending time at the beach, as well as visiting the mountains of Vermont. She is an active member of Mystery Writers of America. In addition, Rawlins served as the president of the Sisters in Crime Central Jersey Chapter in 2019, 2020 and 2022, and vice president in 2018. You can visit Rawlins at her website at www.lindarawlins.com.

Suzanne Trauth is the author of the novel *What Remains of Love*, a first-place winner in Women's Fiction, Firebird Book Awards; a finalist in General Fiction, American Book Festival; and a finalist for the Hemingway Prize. She authored the *Dodie O'Dell* mystery series—*Show Time*, *Time Out*, *Running Out of Time*, *Just in Time*, *No More Time*, and *Killing Time*. Her plays and screenplays have won awards in contests and festivals, and been developed in a variety of theatres. She is a member of Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, the Dramatists Guild, and the League of Professional Theatre Women. After receiving her Ph.D. in Theatre, she taught in university theatre programs and now lives in Woodland Park, NJ.

The New York Chapter of Mystery Writers of America presents

Mystery Authors



Gary Cahill



Carol Binkowski



John Ferriso

reading to you from their stories
at Noon on Saturday February 22 in the
58th St. Library – 127 East 58th Street

For more information please email: info@mwany.org

MANHATTAN MYSTERY READING and get-together

February 22, 2025 noon-2 p.m.

58th St. Library, 127 E 58 St.

Let's meet up in person! Come to the next Manhattan Mystery Reading. MWA-NY authors **Carol Binkowski**, **John Ferriso** and **Gary Cahill**, will read from their work, starting at noon. Then we will have the chapter's first in-person get-together of the year. Water and light refreshments will be provided. We have the room until 2 p.m. So, come for the reading and stay for the schmoozing.

The library is at 127 E. 58th St., between Park and Lexington Aves. The N, R, and #6 trains all stop nearby at 59th/Lex, and the crosstown M57 and M31 buses run on 57th St. (Note: our function-room is up one short flight of stairs; there is no elevator).

John Ferriso is a former member of the New York Police Dept., with experience as a sergeant in the Internal Affairs Bureau and the missing person's squad. *All in a Day's Work: an Officer Account's 20 years NYPD*, was published on Amazon Kindle. And a short story, "In a New York Minute: An Officer's eyewitness account of the events of September 11, 2001," was published online. He is currently writing a book designed for authors and screenwriters to accurately portray a missing person investigation in their stories accurately. John will read a short story from his book, "Even a Little Incident Can Go a Long Way," about supervising an unidentified person investigation in Manhattan that became national news. Visit him at

<https://ferrisinvestigations.org/>.

Carol Binkowski is a nonfiction author and freelance musician, but she's loved mysteries ever since discovering Nancy Drew and now writes her own under the pen name Caryl Janis. So far, they include two urban cozies—*To Sketch a Killer* and *Research Can Be Murder*—set in Manhattan

and surrounding areas. She is currently working on a sequel to *Sketch* and will read a small excerpt from this work-in-progress, titled *A Sketch to Die For*. You can find her online at: www.caroljbinkowski.com and www.caryljanis.com.

Gary Cahill is a member of the International Thriller Writers, Irish American Writers & Artists, and the Keep Your Mouth Shut division of the Manhattan/North Jersey Cooperative Crime Council, chaired by none of your business, Jocko. His crime short stories have been published in magazines and anthologies including *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, *Pulp Empire*, *The First Line Literary Journal*, *The Kennedy Curse*, *Shotgun Honey*, and *Mystery Weekly*—now called *Mystery Magazine*—and print, e- and audio at *Plan B Magazine*.

The story he will read from tells of an exceedingly rare Italian cheese-napping. So he says, “Let your imagination take a taste.” Contact him at garycahill66nj@yahoo.com.

If you would like to read aloud from one of your books, from an upcoming book, or from a work-in-progress, please email MWA-NY Vice President Hal Glatzer at Hal@halglatzer.com.

2025 Readings: April 5, June 7, August 9, October 4, and December 6.
(All readings noon - 2 p.m.)

Call for Local Group Participants

Local Meet-ups--meet face-to-face all over the place

Our chapter covers a large geographic area, and many of our members have expressed an interest in local, in-person get-togethers.

Please give us your input as we plan to launch local events. What are you interested in: informal meet-and-greets, craft workshops, panels, guest speakers, other?

Also: type of venue preferred, frequency of meetings, and how far you're willing to travel.

Please put your suggestions into the MWA-NY Groups.IO forum.
Any and all suggestions are welcome and much appreciated!

Carol Binkowski

Local Groups Committee

Montclair Women's Club

MWA members and the public gathered February 7 at the Montclair Women's Club in New Jersey for "**Behind The Darkness: True Crime**," a panel discussion moderated by **Dawn Barclay**. The panel was comprised of **Elizabeth Kerri Mahon**, **David Bushman** and **Russ Colchamiro**. The panel peeled back the layers on this terrifying and addictive genre. There was a wonderful exchange of ideas with the enthusiastic audience.

Save the Date

Panel Discussion

March 29, 2025 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Parkway Central Library

1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia PA

Motive: The Essence of Mystery

CrimeConn

May 17, 2025

Ferguson Library

1 Public Library Plaza, Stamford, CT 06901

Details at: <https://mysterywriters.org/edgars/currentsubmissions/>

Non-MWA Events

Malice Domestic

April 25-27, 2025

Details at: <https://www.malicedomestic.net>

Member Updates

Pamela Ruth Meyer's novel: *Death in Miniature* has been chosen runner-up for the 2024 Book Pipeline Unpublished Award in the mystery/thriller category (<https://bookpipeline.com/2024-unpublished-results>). *Death in Miniature* also won the Romance Writers of America–Chesapeake Romance Writers 2024 Rudy Award in the suspense category.



On January 16, Crystal Noll and Heather Holloway, of the ACD [Arthur Conan Doyle] Society, awarded the Doylean Honors for Performing Arts to MWA-NY Vice President **Hal Glatzer**, for his Sherlock Holmes audio-play *FlatFinders, 1881*. The ceremony was held in Manhattan at The Mysterious Bookshop, for which the award included a generous gift certificate. Photo by Elizabeth Crowens.

To watch the award-winning play, go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_5jMLXZHPU&t=1s

New Feature: Interviews of Members

Link:<https://www.mwany.org/category/interviews/>

Ann Aptaker, Award Winning Author of the Cantor Gold Series

Fasten your headphones for another MWA-NY member interview. Ann Aptaker is the author of the [Cantor Gold series](#), featuring the irrepressible Cantor Gold, art smuggler and rebel living on the edges in late-1940s New York City. The series currently includes [Criminal Gold](#), [Tarnished Gold](#), [Genuine Gold](#), [Flesh and Gold](#), and [Murder and Gold](#).

A Conversation with Pamela Ruth Meyer, 2024 Leon Burstein Award Winner

Pamela Ruth Meyer is the recipient of MWA-NY's 2024 Leon Burstein Award. She's as delightful as her fiction, so fasten your headphones for this casual chat about her life, writing and hopes for the future.

If you're a chapter member and would like to be interviewed for this feature, contact: interviews @ mwany.org – Mark McNease

In Case You Missed It

MWA-NY Event Recordings

CrimeCraft for January: Self Publishing with Author Sharon Ward

Sharon Ward is the author of the Fin Fleming Scuba Diving Mystery Series, which includes *In Deep, Sunken Death, Dark Tide, Killer Storm, Hidden Depths, Sea Stars, Rip Current, and Sea Monsters*. *Ice Water* the ninth book, will be released in early 2025.

Sharon was a marketing executive before becoming a novelist. She was a PADI certified divemaster who has hundreds of dives under her weight belt. She is a member of Sisters in Crime, MWA, ITW, and several other writing organizations. She lives near Cape Cod with her husband Jack and their miniature long-haired dachshund Molly, the actual head of the Ward household.

Plus earlier CrimeCraft and meeting recordings.

Links for all event recordings:

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

MWA University-Previous Sessions

Tracy Clark: Character – Tips for creative engaging book people

Meg Gardiner: Plotting to Kill: Writing Mysteries & Thrillers

Donna Andrews: Dialogue

Daniels Stashower: Setting

Jeffery Deaver: Writing a Commercial Thriller

Sheri Lewis-Wohl: Forensics

Here's the link...<https://mysterywriters.org/mwa-literacy-programs/2024-mwa-university/>

We're looking for venues where we can hold in person meetings / readings / events

Do you have a personal contact at a bar or restaurant in New York City? If so, please contact them

to see if they have an **affordable** space where we could hold events for 25-35 participants.
Pass along contact info of promising establishments to President@mwany.org.

Who to contact for what:

ASK DEAR EDGAR - info@mwany.org

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

Other: President@mwany.org

USEFUL LINKS

our website: www.mwany.org