

On the Case, the MWA-NY Newsletter: January 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,
Happy New Year.

I believe writers are the heartbeat of a culture, the voice of its conscience, with a duty to speak for future generations. More than ever, people need meaningful stories that explore deeper truths—tales that surprise, inspire, and sometimes shock as we explore what it means to be human. Let's make them laugh and sigh and weep. What people read is every bit as important as what they eat!

Our chapter includes both established and aspiring writers. For the latter we have the mentor program, a series of MWA university webinars, the new Leon Burstein award and a slew of other resources. For active status members we offer opportunities for exposure such as the Manhattan Mystery Readings, Crimecraft online chats and promotional opportunities with library panels, book festivals and more.

This year we also want to create local groups where our members can support and energize each other at in-person meetings.

If this interests you, please send an email to info@mwany.org and let us know so we can put you in touch with fellow MWA-NY members in your area.

Lastly I want to welcome our new board members! We are delighted to have you onboard!
Carol Binkowski--Kate Hohl--Lev Rosen--Ken Wishnia

As always, stay safe and keep writing!
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 next month's newsletter.

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

info@mwany.org.

Doug





Longstanding [MWA](#) member Dan Burstein presenting the Leon Burstein award to Pamela Ruth Meyer (right) , and the runner-up prize to Christal Roberts (left).

Leon Burstein Award Winners

Open to members of the New York chapter of [Mystery Writers of America](#), the new contest encourages aspiring authors and rewards efforts toward their publication-ready novels.

This year Pamela Ruth Meyer’s manuscript “Death in Miniature” won first place with Christal Roberts’s “A Killing in Black Newport” taking runner-up.

Meyers said, “As an unpublished author, I often felt lost and alone, struggling around in the dark, picking

myself up and cheering myself on to get better and try again after being toppled again and again and again by rejections. It would be so easy to give up. But an award like this is a ginormous vote of confidence. With it, the dreamer in me is inspired to dream on.”

“This award—it’s like uncovering a plot twist I never saw coming. This recognition inspires me to continue to craft stories that keep readers guessing until the very last page” said Roberts.

Our chapter congratulates these upcoming authors! Details of the 2025 contest will be posted at www.mwany.org.

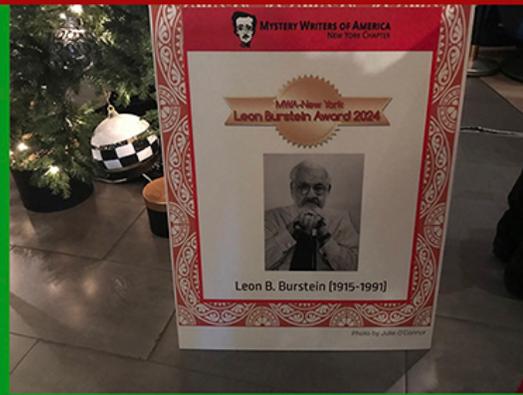
REVELS Party 2024

We had a blast. See you next year!



Mystery Writers of America *New York Chapter*

2024 Revels Holiday Party!



Upcoming MWA-NY Events



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
NEW YORK CHAPTER



Elizabeth Kerri Mahon

Pretty Evil New York:
True Stories of Mobster Molls,
Violent Vixens, and
Murderous Matriarchs



David Bushman

Murder at Teal's Pond:
Hazel Drew and the
Mystery That Inspired
Twin Peaks



Russ Colchamino

Murder in Montague Falls



Behind the Darkness: True Crime

Friday, February 7
Montclair Women's Club
82 Union Street
Montclair, NJ
1:30 - 3:30 PM



Dawn Barclay, Moderator

Vacations Can Be Murder:
A True Crime Lover's Travel Guide

Panel Discussion

February 7, 2025 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Montclair Women's Club
82 Union Street, Montclair NJ

Behind the Darkness: True Crime

What is the appeal of this type of story? How does an author select the real-life tragedy and conduct research? What are the moral considerations in opening old wounds? Hear how three authors peel back the layers on this terrifying and addictive genre. 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/k5x3j2y>

Dawn M. Barclay is an award-winning author who writes psychological and romantic suspense as D.M. Barr and non-fiction under her own name. Her eight published books include *Expired Listings*, *Murder Worth the Weight*, and *Saving Grace: A Psychological Thriller*. Her newest release, *Deadly When Disturbed*, was released by Level Best Books in January 2025. LBB will also publish her upcoming multi-volume

series, *Vacations Can Be Murder: A True Crime Lover's Travel Guide*. Dawn recently finished her second stint co-editing a Sisters in Crime NY/Tri-State anthology. New York State of Crime, published by Down & Out Books in the fall of 2024, which includes her third published short story, "Orchestral Removals in the Dark."

Dawn offers developmental and copy editing through SuggestedDevelopment.com, and ghostwrites personal histories and corporate profiles through LegacyQuest.net. A member of the International Thriller Writers, she has served as president of Hudson Valley Scribes, vice president of Sisters in Crime-NY (still a board member), and the newsletter author/board member of the NY chapter of Mystery Writers of America. Follow her at www.dmbarr.com.

Elizabeth Kerri Mahon is a native New Yorker, actress and history geek. Her book *Scandalous Women* was an RT Book Review Non-Fiction Pick for April 2011. She has been featured in the H2 show *How Sex Changed the World*, as well as The Travel Channel's *Monumental Mysteries*, and the ID show *Tabloid*. A pop culture diva, Elizabeth has written for *The Royal Representative*, *Heroes and Heartbreakers*, *Ever After Romance*, *Romance Daily News* and *Criminal Element*, *Pretty Evil New York: True Stories of Mobster Molls*, *Violent Vixens*, and *Murderous Matriarchs* (Globe Pequot Press), her first foray into historical true crime came out in October 2021.

David Bushman is the author of five nonfiction books, two on true crime: *Murder at Teal's Pond: Hazel Drew and the Mystery That Inspired Twin Peaks*; and *Forget It, Jake: It's Schenectady: The True Story Behind "The Place Beyond the Pines."* He is a former TV curator at The Paley Center of Media, TV editor at Variety, and program director at TV Land.

Russ Colchamiro is author of the Sci-Fi mysteries *Crackle and Fire*, *Fractured Lives*, *Hot Ash*, and *Blunt Force Rising*, and *Trigger Point*, the ongoing series featuring hardboiled private eye Angela Hardwicke. Russ also is the author of the rollicking time travel/space adventure, *Crossline*; the editor of the Sci-Fi mystery anthology *Love, Murder & Mayhem*; co-author and -editor of the noir anthology *Murder in Montague Falls*; and has contributed to various other anthologies.

A member of the Mystery Writers Association, the Private Eye Writers of America, Horror Writers Association, and the author collective Crazy 8 Press, Russ hosts and produces his Russ's Rockin' Rollercoaster podcast, where he interviews bestselling and up-and-coming Sci-Fi, fantasy, crime, mystery, thriller, and horror authors. He lives in New Jersey with his wife, twin ninjas, black lab, Jinx, and precocious cat, Callie.

Social Media:

Web site: russcolchamiro.com (

<http://www.russcolchamiro.com>)

Instagram, Twitter/X, Threads: @AuthorDudeRuss (<http://instagram.com/crazy8press>)

Blue Sky: @AuthorDudeRuss.bsky.social

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@authorduderuss/featured>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/russ.colchamiro>



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>

MANHATTAN MYSTERY READING

February 22, 2025 noon-2 p.m.
58th St. Library, 127 E 58 St.

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.)

New Feature: Interviews of Members

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

True Crime Specialist David Bushman

Fasten your headphones for an audio interview with David Bushman, MWA-NY Board Member and true crime specialist. David is the author of five books, and is also the the editor of a series of *Doctor Who* essay books. David is a former television curator at The Paley Center for Media and TV editor at Variety. He's a cofounder and co-president of Fayetteville Mafia Press and Tucker DS Press.

MWA-NY Board President Nev March

I'm delighted to start this new interview feature having a chat with author and fellow Mystery Writers of America-NY board member Nev March. After a successful business career, Nev picked up her passion where she'd left off: writing superb historical fiction steeped in the sounds, sights and sensations of old Bombay. Join us for a conversation about her books, her writing, and her plans for the future.

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

Save the Date

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>

Book Fairs / Conferences

Book Fairs 2025

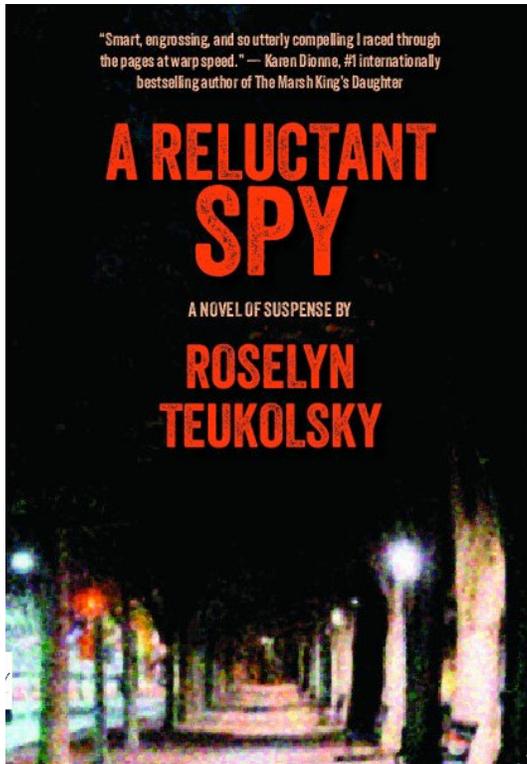
Watch this space

Member Updates

Pamela Ruth Meyer's novel: *Death in Miniature* won the MWA-NY Leon Burstein Award for 2024 (see above). It has also been chosen as a runner-up for the 2024 Book Pipeline Unpublished Award in the

mystery/thriller category (<https://bookpipeline.com/2024-unpublished-results>). It also won the Romance Writers of America–Chesapeake Romance Writers 2024 Rudy Award in the suspense category.

Roselyn Teukolsky's novel: *A Reluctant Spy* will be released in paperback, audiobook, and e-book on January 21 by The Story Plant.



In Case You Missed It

MWA-NY Event Recordings CrimeCraft for November

Elizabeth Mannion and Brian Cliff discuss reviewing crime writing, the state of crime writing scholarship, and publishing trends. (And Nev shares plans for the annual holiday Revels and 2025 in person meetings).

October 26 Panel: The Road to Publication

The expert panel was moderated by MWA-NY President Nev March, and comprised of Verena Rose, co-owner, CFO and acquisitions editor of Level Best Books; Hannah O'Grady, senior editor at St. Martin's Press and Minotaur Books; and Susan Hubbard, a self-published author. The panel provided insight on how to get your manuscript from the dream stage to a book in a reader's hands.

Plus earlier CrimeCraft and meeting recordings link for all event recordings:

<https://www.youtube.com/@mwan9572>

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 - festivals@mwany.org

Newsletter - info@mwany.org

Other: President@mwany.org

USEFUL LINKS

our website: www.mwany.org