

# On the Case, the MWA-NY Newsletter: July 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:

Happy Summer, Dear Writers!

With the advent of 90 degree weather, you may head to the nearest beach or, like me, dive into your ever-growing TBR pile. With the incessant pummeling of politics and sad news, it helps to return to basics: spending time with friends, game nights, sunset walks, visiting historical sights and museums, or simply spending time in nature. Writing under the trees may just surprise you.

Our Local Groups continue to grow, with three more events in the next month--see details below. If you'd like to gather a group of writers at a nearby restaurant, email Carol, at [LocalGroups@MWANY.org](mailto:LocalGroups@MWANY.org).

We have reserved Nov 11 for our annual holiday Revels at The Tailor Public House (505 8th Ave, New York, NY 10018). SAVE THE DATE! We'd love to see you.

Our Leon Burstein/MWANY Award for Unpublished Crime Writers is open until July 15, so polish up those 20 pages and send them in. There are two nice cash prizes to be awarded for a gripping manuscript.

Our CrimeCrafts continue to attract a nice viewership. Next we'll be working to make the YouTube channel more accessible.

Lastly, if you're thinking of joining the board next year, send me a note!

Happy writing!

## **Nev March**

### **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.

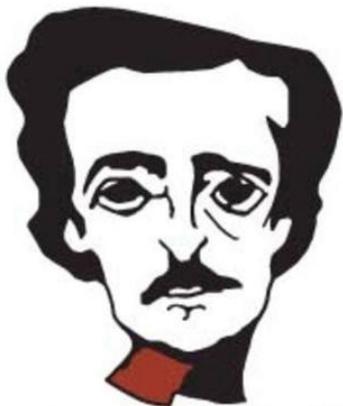
Also, please let us know if there's something you'd like to see in the newsletter.

Email me at [newsletter@mwany.org](mailto:newsletter@mwany.org).

(NOTE: new address for newsletter correspondence).

Doug

### **Upcoming MWA-NY Events**



**MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA**  
NEW YORK CHAPTER

### **The 2025 MWA-NY / Leon Burstein Award for unpublished writers accepting entries until July 15th, 2025**

For over a decade, the Leon Burstein Scholarship supported upcoming writers in all crime genres. Last year, our Chapter board, and our longtime patron Dan Burstein revised the scholarship into a CASH AWARD for ASPIRING crime writers. One winner will be awarded \$4,000, and one runner-up will be awarded \$1,000 at our annual Winter Revels. (The NY Chapter board may vote not to award the prize if no manuscript is

deemed suitable.)

**UPDATED Eligibility:** Affiliate status NY Chapter members are eligible. Active members who have not yet published a crime fiction novel are eligible. (Published crime novelists and previous winners are not eligible.)

You can enter via the MWA-NY website (it says 2024, but it works)

<https://www.mwany.org/leon-burstein-award-2024/>

or use the button below.



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, July 15, 2025**  
**at 6:00pm EST**

USA TODAY best-selling  
author **Rob Hart** leads the  
discussion on the  
**Art of World Building**  
**in Crime Fiction.**



Photo credit: Michael McWeeney

**Crime Craft**  
**July 15, 2025 6:00-7:00 p.m.**

**The Art of World Building in Crime Fiction with Best-Selling Author Rob Hart**

Join us for our upcoming monthly MWA-NY chapter Crime Craft discussion, hosted by **Kate Hohl**, on Tuesday, July 15th. This session features a special conversation with USA TODAY bestselling author **Rob Hart**, exploring the art of world building in crime fiction. This event will offer fresh insights and inspiring techniques to elevate your storytelling and enhance your reading experience. Don't miss this opportunity to

learn from one of the best in the genre—mark your calendar and be part of the conversation!

Rob Hart is the USA TODAY bestselling author of *Assassins Anonymous*, *The Warehouse*, and *The Paradox Hotel*. He also wrote the Ash McKenna crime series, the short story collection *Take-Out*, the novella *Scott Free* with James Patterson, the comic book *Blood Oath* with Alex Segura, and the novel *Dark Space*, also with Segura. His latest book is *The Medusa Protocol*, the sequel to *Assassins Anonymous*. And his next novel is *Detour*, co-written with Jeff Rake, creator and showrunner of TV's *Manifest*, coming in January 2026. He also works as a freelance editor, and a writing mentor in Seton Hill's Writing Popular Fiction MFA program. Find more at [www.robwhart.com](http://www.robwhart.com).

## **Sherlock Holmes**



## **Hercule Poirot**

### **Mystery Quiz**

Test your little gray cells.  
Who Said It: Holmes or Poirot?  
It's elementary...or is it?

Test your knowledge with our new quiz feature at the MWA-NY website. You'll see the results as soon as you hit 'submit.' Look for more quizzes coming your way.

<https://www.mwany.org/quizzes/holmes-or-poirot-who-said-it/>

### **Save the Date**

**Long Island get-together in West Babylon**  
**Saturday July 12, 2025 9-11 a.m.**  
**Panera Bread 1025 Montauk Hwy in West Babylon (Plenty of parking)**

Come one, come all MWA-NY Chapter members to the 3rd Long Island get-together with police procedural technical advisor John Ferriso. Learn the top 3 things writers get wrong about police work!

And bring a plus one or writer friend. They might want to join MWA, too.

**Please note, RSVP is required by July 10th**  
**RSVP email: [michaeljhallvoa@yahoo.com](mailto:michaeljhallvoa@yahoo.com)**

**2nd Central Jersey get-together in Raritan**

**Sunday July 27 @4-6 pm**  
**JUVON Skincare and Wellness**  
**(903 US-202 Ste 2A, Raritan, NJ 08869)**

Hello again!

Come meet colleagues and make new friends, share your writing journey and learn from each other. The event is free, and plus ones are welcome. Light refreshments will be provided. Feel free to go out for dinner together afterwards. Somerville is not far, and has a host of delightful restaurants.

Our Central Jersey local group will meet on 7/27 at JUVON Skincare and Wellness is centrally located, and easy to access from Route 287, Route 202 and Route 22.

RSVP: <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/centraljerseytwo>

**Please note, RSVP is required (the location can accommodate about 30 people).** If you are not able to register, please email [president@mwany.org](mailto:president@mwany.org).

**THERE IS FREE PARKING IN FRONT OF AND BEHIND THE BUILDING.**

If you have questions, email [president@mwany.org](mailto:president@mwany.org).

Neve March and the NY Chapter Board

**Northern New Jersey/Rockland-Westchester NY Area Get-Together and Brunch**  
**Saturday August 2, 11 am - 1 pm**  
**Shannon Rose Restaurant**  
**1200 Route 17 North, Ramsey, NJ**  
**Organizer: Carol Binkowski**

Join us on Saturday, August 2nd to meet and talk with fellow writers

Enjoy a brunch-time meal (separate checks) while you meet your fellow writers and MWA-NY members. You're welcome to bring a plus-one!

**PLEASE RSVP BY JULY 28th.**

RSVP: <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/mwanorthernnj>



**MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA**  
NEW YORK CHAPTER

## Panelists



Rhonda Barnat  
"Prey of New York" short story



Gary Cahill  
"On a Two-Way Street" short story



Lori Robbins  
*On Pointe Mysteries*



Jeff Markowitz, Moderator  
*The Other*

## The Mystery Genre: Its Evolution, Current Trends, and the Future

**FREE EVENT!**

**Hoboken Public Library  
500 Park Avenue  
Saturday, September 13  
1 p.m.-3 p.m.**

## Panel Discussion

**September 13, 2025 1 p.m.-3 p.m.  
Hoboken Public Library  
500 Park Avenue, Hoboken, NJ**

### **The Mystery Genre: Its Evolution, Current Trends, and the Future**

What makes mysteries so tantalizing? Three mystery authors will delve into the genre's history; memorable sleuths and villains; captivating storylines; and what devilish mayhem lies ahead. This free event will be open to MWA members and the public.

**Moderator: Jeff Markowitz**

**Panelists: Rhonda Barnat, Gary Cahill, Lori Robbins**

**Jeff Markowitz** ([www.jeffmarkowitz.com](http://www.jeffmarkowitz.com)) is the author six crime novels set in and around New Jersey, including his latest book, *The Other*, a dual-timeline historical about standing up to hate. Jeff spent more than forty years creating community-based programs and services in New Jersey for children and adults with autism, including twenty-five years as President and Executive Director of the Life Skills Resource Center, before retiring in 2018 to devote more time to writing. In October 2021, an epic late-night puzzle hunt based on Jeff's novella, *Motive for Murder* raised over \$1 million for at-risk children in New York City. Jeff is a past President of the New York Chapter of Mystery Writers of America. He lives in Monmouth Junction, NJ,

with his wife Carol and two cats, Vergil and Aeneas.

**Rhonda Barnat** is a crisis management expert and writes crime fiction under the pen name Rona Bell. Her short story, “Prey of New York” was included in the anthology *Where Crime Never Sleeps: Murder New York Style 4* and cited in the Houghton Mifflin book of Best American Mystery Stories 2018, edited by Louise Penny and Otto Penzler. Her short story “The Call Is Yours” appears in *Me Too Short Stories: An Anthology* of crime writers responding to Me Too issues, edited by Elizabeth Zelvin and published by Level Best Books. She has contributed a number of pieces to *Mystery Readers Journal*.

**Gary Cahill’s** first short story, *That Kind Of Guy*, appeared in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* as an homage to the 1920s and beyond dark and twisty classic *Black Mask Magazine*. Other work has been published in print, e-book, online and audio versions with *Pulp Empire*, *Short Story Me Genre Fiction* (editor-nominated for a storySouth Million Writers Award for best stories on the web); the *Pulp Magazine* anthology *The Kennedy Curse*; *The First Line Literary Journal, Volumes I, II, III*, the print anthology; and as podcast co-founder of *Plan B Magazine*; a featured cover story for *Mystery Weekly* (now *Mystery Magazine*), and *Shotgun Honey*, among others.

He is a two-time, blue-ribbon champion of the Colts Neck Country Fair Great American Apple Pie Contest. Additionally, after 23 years working in Hell’s Kitchen at the height of its most hellishness, he is now a staff member at the Weehawken, NJ, Public Library.

Gary also serves as the “amuse bouche” pizzaiolo for the secret society WWC (Writers Who Cook).

**Lori Robbins** is the Amazon bestselling author of the *On Pointe* and *Master Class* mystery series and a contributor to *The Secret Ingredient: A Mystery Writers Cookbook*. She is the recipient of two Silver Falchions; the Indie Award for Best Mystery; and a silver medal in the Daphne du Maurier Award for Mystery and Suspense. Short stories include “Leading Ladies,” which received Honorable Mention in the 2022 Best American Mystery and Suspense anthology. A former dancer, Lori performed with a number of modern dance and classical ballet companies, but it was her commercial work, for Pavlova Perfume and Macy’s, that paid the bills. After ten lean years onstage, she became an English teacher and now writes full time. Her experiences as a dancer, teacher, and mother of six have made her an expert in the homicidal tendencies everyday life inspires. You can find her at [loriobbins.com](http://loriobbins.com).

## **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**

## **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. This free event will be open to MWA members and the public. The program will include a Q & A, and be followed by a networking mixer.

## **Moderator:**

**Nev March**, MWA-NY Chapter President

**Panelists:**

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

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

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

(More details and bios to follow next month)



**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**

**Non-MWA Events**

**The Book Passage Linda Allen Mystery Scholarship**

**Friday, July 18 - Sunday, July 20, 2025**

Are you a new writer, thinking about the great Book Passage Mystery Writing Conference? Take a look at the Linda Allen scholarship! Registration, many meals, & hotel for 2 nights—or if you're local, registration + a private consultation + the **Hallie Ephron** pre-conference class. Linda agented many amazing writers, who are sponsoring this scholarship in her memory.

The conference:

[www.bookpassage.com/mystery](http://www.bookpassage.com/mystery)

Scholarship details: <https://www.bookpassage.com/mystery-writers-conference-linda-allen-scholarship-donation-page>

## Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers Anthology--Call for Submissions

Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers is currently accepting submissions for the 2026 anthology. Short fiction approximately 1,500 to 4,500 words in any genre is eligible. We cannot accept poetry, erotica, nonfiction, or children's fiction (including young adult.)

The theme of our anthology is *True Story*. Our goal is to compile a collection of short stories that incorporate a real event, local legend, or historic/notorious figure into a work of fiction. Since we are based in the Rocky Mountains, we are particularly interested in stories set in the Rocky Mountain region and western or southwestern states.

We encourage anyone interested in submitting to join us for an information call on May 17 at noon MDT. Registration is free and available here

<https://streamyard.com/watch/WhreCSx4PAwv>

We also will post a recording of the video to the anthology page on the RMFW website. Please visit that page for the full call for submissions and to access the submission portal <https://rmfw.org/publications/>

Submissions are open until 11:59 p.m. on 7/15/2025. We are not charging for submissions. However, in order to have your work published in the anthology, membership in RMFW is required at the time of acceptance. RMFW is a terrific organization based in the beautiful free state of Colorado and membership is well worth the annual fee. You can learn more about joining here <https://rmfw.org/join-rmfw/>

We look forward to reading your work!

Sincerely,

Amy Armstrong and Deb Courtney

## MWA-NY News

### Central New Jersey, Lambertville Historical Tour and Lunch



Lambertville -- About 12 members attended the Lambertville walking tour and many stayed for lunch at a local restaurant Under the Moon! The tour included local sights including the town's old jail, with a holding cell still preserved. Our Tour guide from the Historical Society shared many stories about the origins of the town and some of its famous (and infamous) residents.

## CrimeCONN

This was a fabulous one day conference with about 75 writers and two panels with folks from justice related careers. The Friday dinner was fun filled and friendly, a great time to get to know a few writers better.

Our **Mally Becker** did a superb job, along with **Chris Knopf** and **Jill Fletcher**. The panels were well chosen and articulate, with lots of new and good information.

Loved the panel with **Judge White**, and the PI panel too! **Charles Salzberg's** panel was an eye-opener for me. (When the recordings are ready I will ask whether we can share it here).

See the program here:

<https://www.fergusonlibrary.org/crimeconn-2025>

The library facility is excellent, and the librarians were super gracious hosts. Also a shout out to the Friends of the Library who ran the book-sale (highly discounted copies!) Altogether a fine day! Here are some photos.

### **MANHATTAN MYSTERY READING and get-together**

**June 7, 2025 noon-2 p.m.**

**58th St. Library, 127 E 58 St.**



**Gary Ross, reading aloud.**



**Debbie Babitt reading, with Gary Ross (seated, second from left), Carole Lawrence (standing), and Catherine Maiorisi (seated, far right) among the audience.**

## **Manhattan Mystery Readings June 7 Drew Biggest Crowd Yet**

Twenty people came to the 58<sup>th</sup> St. Library last Saturday to hear MWA-NY authors read from their work.

**Catherine Maiorisi** is an award winning author of romance, mystery, and general fiction. She is a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, and the Golden Crown Literary Society. She writes the NYPD Detective Chiara Corelli mystery series featuring Corelli and her reluctant partner, Detective P.J. Parker. She read from the latest of the five books in that series: *Blood of the Innocents*.

**Gary Ross** was for many years an English professor at the University of Buffalo. He is also a playwright, novelist, short story writer, essayist, audiobook narrator, and—occasionally—an actor and director. His stage play, *Matter of Intent*, won the Edgar Award. He read from the latest novel in his series set in Buffalo (“the Nickel City”), called *Nickel City Monsters*.

**Debbie Babitt** is the author of *Saving Grace* and *First Victim*, and wrote “Adventures in Copywriting” for the non-fiction book: *Making the Perfect Pitch: How to Catch a Literary Agent’s Eye*. Her previous creative incarnations include actress, playwright, drama critic, and Copy Director for two major Manhattan publishing companies. Debbie read from her third novel, *The Man on the Train*, a Hitchcockian thriller set in New York City and the Hamptons.

**Carole Lawrence**, under what she says are “too many pen names,” has published sixteen novels, six novellas and several dozen short stories and poems. Her physics play *Strings Attached* was produced Off Broadway on Theatre Row. Several students who take Carole’s online course in creative writing, came to the reading. She read from her most recent novel, *Cleopatra’s Dagger*, which is set in New York in the 1880s, and which was nominated for an Edgar Award as Best Original Paperback.

## **Call for Manhattan Mystery Readers**

If you are a member of MWA-NY, and would like to read aloud from your work, the next Manhattan Mystery Readings will be on Saturdays August 9, October 4, and December 6, from noon to 2 p.m.

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

For further information, please email

info@mwany.org.

## **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 in author update to the website that never got posted, please resend it. We've had technical difficulties, and we may have missed some.**

## **In Case You Missed It**

**CrimeCraft for June: The First Two Pages with Art Taylor**

**Plus check out earlier CrimeCraft and meeting recordings.  
Links for all event recordings:**

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

**MWA University-2025 Previous Sessions**

<https://mysterywriters.org/2025-mwa-university/>  
click here for [MWA-U sessions held in 2024](#).

**Who to contact for what:**

**ASK DEAR EDGAR - [info@mwan9572.org](mailto:info@mwan9572.org)**

Member support and general questions - [info@mwan9572.org](mailto:info@mwan9572.org)

Programming - [programs@mwan9572.org](mailto:programs@mwan9572.org)

To join readings- [readings@mwan9572.org](mailto:readings@mwan9572.org)

Mentor Program - [mentors@mwan9572.org](mailto:mentors@mwan9572.org)

Bookfairs/ conferences - [info@mwan9572.org](mailto:info@mwan9572.org)

Newsletter - [newsletter@mwan9572.org](mailto:newsletter@mwan9572.org)

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**USEFUL LINKS**

our website: [www.mwan9572.org](http://www.mwan9572.org)