

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

The year is rushing by as usual, so it's time to assess our goals. What do you want to accomplish? Completing your novel? Revising and Editing? Or are you on the search for the next story idea which will envelop you? How can we help?

Yes, my book

[*The Silversmith's Puzzle*](#) launched this month! Details below, in the Member Updates. It's such a poignant feeling when our book babies go out into the world! The time-consuming prep, planning social media posts, writing articles for online mags, setting up and giving interviews, it's stressful, but publicity is part of the author's job, whether traditionally or self published.

Our local groups have taken off in some areas, while we are seeking members to host smaller get together in other areas. We have 28 local groups. The Central Jersey and Long Island groups have already scheduled their second get-together (details below). Typically 8-12 people join the first meetings. I expect more of us will join because members keep asking to connect in smaller groups. If you'd like to host a small gathering in a restaurant, winery, park or library, get in touch with Carol at

localgroups@mwany.org

Lastly, we are looking for a couple of agents to round out our expert panel on Oct 25 in Morristown NJ: How to land an Agent. This panel will discuss what they're looking for and what aspiring authors should expect. If you can connect us with your agent, please email library@mwany.org. Thanks!

The warm weather has arrived in the greater NY area, so get those walking shoes on. Stephen King works out his books on walks--why not try doing the same?

Kindly
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.

(NOTE: new address for newsletter correspondence).

Doug

Meet Our New Board Members



Ken Wishnia

Kenneth Wishnia's novels include *23 Shades of Black*, which was nominated for the Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best First Novel and an Anthony for Best Paperback Original; *Soft Money*, a *Library*

Journal Best Mystery of the Year; and *Red House*, a Washington Post Book World “Rave” Book of the Year. His short stories have appeared in *Ellery Queen*, *Alfred Hitchcock*, *Queens Noir*, *Long Island Noir*, *Send My Love and a Molotov Cocktail*, and elsewhere. His historical novel, *The Fifth Servant*, was an Indie Notable selection, a Best Jewish Book of the Year (*Jewish Press*), and was a finalist for the Sue Feder Memorial Historical Mystery Award.

He edited the Anthony Award-nominated anthology, *Jewish Noir*, and recently co-edited *Jewish Noir II* with Chantelle Aimée Osman. His latest novel, *From Sun to Sun* (PM Press 2024), is a foray into the world of Bible Noir, and has been recommended by the Jewish Book Council and the Yiddish Book Center, and received a 5-star review in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*. He teaches writing, literature and other deviant forms of thought at Suffolk Community College on Long Island.

You can find him online at <https://kennethwishnia.com/>

Upcoming MWA-NY Events



CrimeCONN

Date: May 17, 2025, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Ferguson Library

1 Public Library Plaza, Stamford, CT 06901

Details at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/crimeconn-2025-crime-punishment-tickets-1269133505479>

CrimeCONN, Connecticut’s acclaimed annual mystery writer and mystery fan conference returns to the [Ferguson Library](#) on Saturday, May 17.

Join New York Times bestselling authors **Lauren Willig**, **Reed Farrel Coleman**, **Hallie Ephron** and other preeminent crime fiction writers, as well as experts in the legal field: CSI’s, cops, prosecutors, defense attorneys, even a judge.

This is a hybrid event, with both in-person attendees and those of us joining virtually. Learn more and register [here](#).

CrimeCONN’s theme this year is **Crime & Punishment**, where crime writers and experts look at the law from every angle. You’ll hear from lawyers turned crime writers and a formerly incarcerated writer. You’ll also learn how a murder trial really works from every angle of the law. We’ll discuss the blurred lines between crime writing, non-fiction and general fiction, the guilty pleasures of the revenge novel, and navigating the lives of professional detectives - real and imagined.

Attendees will be inspired by keynote speaker **Lauren Willig** and bestselling author **Hallie Ephron’s** writing workshop.

CrimeCONN is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Ferguson Library and the Mystery Writers of America/
New York Chapter.



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
NEW YORK CHAPTER

Crime Craft
A Series of
Discussions
About Crime
Writing

Please join us on
Tuesday, May 20, 2025
at 6:00pm

Award-winning author
Barb Goffman explores
the Art of the Short Story.



Crime Craft
May 20, 2025 6:00-7:00 p.m.

The Art of the Short Story with Award-Winning Author Barb Goffman

If it's Tuesday it must be time for another Crime Craft: Join award-winning author Barb Goffman on Tuesday, May 20, for a sure-to-be-enlightening look at the art of crafting short stores. This virtual event kicks off at 6:00 p.m. and can be accessed [here](#):

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

Short story author Barb Goffman (www.barbgoffman.com) is the 2024 recipient of the Golden Derringer Award for lifetime achievement, given by the Short Mystery Fiction Society. She has won the Agatha Award four times, the Macavity twice, and the Anthony, Derringer, and the EQMM Readers Award once each. She's been a finalist for major crime-writing honors forty-eight times, including two current nominations for the Anthony Award in the Best Short Story and the Best Anthology categories.

Her stories have appeared in *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, *Black Cat Weekly*, *Black Cat Mystery Magazine*, and many anthologies. She works as a freelance editor, often focusing on cozy and traditional mysteries, and she is an associate editor of *Black Cat Weekly*. Her newest story is "Keep It Dark," published in *In Too Deep: Crime Fiction Inspired by the Songs of Genesis*.

Upcoming: June 17, 2025 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Author Art Taylor on the first two pages

MANHATTAN MYSTERY READING and get-together

June 7, 2025 noon-2 p.m.

58th St. Library, 127 E 58 St.

The New York Chapter of Mystery Writers of America presents

Mystery Authors



Carole
Bugge



Debbie
Babitt



Gary
Ross



Catherine
Maiorisi



Cathi
Stoler

reading to you from their stories
at Noon on Saturday June 7 in the
58th St. Library – 127 East 58th Street

For more information please email: info@mwany.org

Five mystery authors will read from their work at noon on Saturday June 7 at the 58th St. branch of the New York Public Library.

Retired University of Buffalo professor **Gary Earl Ross** is an Edgar-winning playwright, novelist, short story writer (more 100 published), essayist, audiobook narrator, and occasional actor and director.
www.garyearlross.net

Debbie Babitt was Copy Director for two major Manhattan publishing companies. She has worked as an actress, playwright, and drama critic. Her first novel, *Saving Grace*, was named One of the Most Anticipated Thrillers of 2021 by She Reads and voted one of the Best Debuts of 2021 by Suspense magazine. <https://debbiebabitt.com>

Cathi Stoler is an Amazon Best Selling author and Derringer winner for *The Kaluki Kings of Queens*. Her three series include The Nick Donahue Adventures, The Laurel and Helen NY Mysteries, and The Murder On The Rocks Mysteries, all of which have been nominated for awards. www.cathistoler.com

Award winning romance, mystery, and general fiction author **Catherine Maiorisi** writes the NYPD Detective Chiara Corelli mystery series featuring Corelli and her reluctant partner, Detective P.J. Parker. The five books in the series are: *A Matter of Blood*, *The Blood Runs Cold*, *A Message in Blood*, *Legacy in the Blood*, and *Blood of the Innocents*. www.catherinemaiorisi.com.

Carole Buggé (a.k.a. Carole Lawrence, C.E. Lawrence, Elizabeth Blake) has too many pen names. She has published sixteen novels, six novellas and several dozen short stories and poems. Her play *Strings Attached* was produced Off Broadway on Theatre Row by The Pulse Theatre. Her most recent novel, *Cleopatra's Dagger* (under Carole Lawrence) was nominated for an Edgar Award as Best Original Paperback. www.celawrence.com/

The Manhattan Mystery Reading series is hosted by the New York Chapter of Mystery Writers of America. The 58th St. library is at 127 East 58th St. It's near to the 59th/Lex stop on the 4, 5, 6, N and R trains; and to the M57 and M31 crosstown buses on 57th St. For more information: info@mwany.org

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



Mystery Quiz

How well do you know Film Noir?

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/qsm_quiz/film-noir/

Save the Date

Central New Jersey, Lambertville Historical Tour and Lunch



Saturday June 7, 2025

Tour starts 10:30 a.m. sharp - 2 p.m.

Cost \$10 (Limited to 8 with Plus-1 (or 16 total)

Registration is required

Register at: <https://checkout.eventcreate.com/mwanytour/select-buy>

Widely considered one of New Jersey's best small gems, Lambertville has the feeling of a charming small town (it's actually a city), complete with a fascinating history and current delights for locals and tourists alike. **Join up to 8 other MWA-NY members and our plus-1s (or 16 total)** for a private tour led by a guide from the **Lambertville Historical Society**. We're told a recent group was even given a tour of the old stone jailhouse and two of them vanished. Now that's a mystery!

The walking tour is rain or shine, and lasts approximately an hour and 15 minutes, give or take a murder. We'll be following this with lunch at a local restaurant that is happy to provide separate checks, so no one will need to bring a calculator!

For those interested in making a day of it, there's a bridge (also a main attraction) we can walk across to New Hope, PA, for more sightseeing in that equally marvelous town, home to the renowned Bucks County Playhouse, and a rich historical town on its own.

The tour is \$10 per person (\$5 for the Historical Society and \$5 as a gratuity for the guide). There is a minimal credit charge fee when you register. **PLEASE INDICATE ON THE INTAKE FORM IF YOU WILL BE COMING TO LUNCH (SEPARATE CHECKS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE RESTAURANT). Charge includes 0.61 cent credit card fee for 1 ticket, 0.91 cents for 2. PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE NO REFUNDS FOR THE TOUR TICKETS.**

THERE IS PLENTY OF FREE PARKING! LOOK FOR DETAILS ON WHERE YOU CAN PARK, AND WHERE WE'LL BE MEETING IN AN EMAIL CLOSE TO THE DATE.

If the event is sold out and you'd like to be added to a wait list for future events, please email: comms@mwany.org

**Long Island get-together in Merrick
Saturday June 7, 2025 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Outback Steakhouse, Merrick Mall**

2124 Merrick Mall, Merrick, NY 11566

Welcome Mystery Writers Of America to the 2nd Long Island group get-together. We had so much fun the first time, we decided to do it again. Bring a writer friend. You never can tell, they might want to join MWA.

The Merrick Mall is just 2 blocks north of the Merrick train station, and has plenty of parking.

Please note, RSVP is required by June 5th

RSVP email: michaeljhallvoa@yahoo.com

Central Jersey get-together in Raritan

Sunday July 27 @4-6 pm

JUVON Skincare and Wellness

(903 US-202 Ste 2A, Raritan, NJ 08869)

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.

JUVON Skincare and Wellness has offered us meeting space free of cost. It is centrally located, and easy to access from Route 287, Route 202 and Route 22.

There is free parking in front and behind the building.

Please note, RSVP is required (the location can accommodate about 30 people).

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

If you are not able to register, please email president@myany.org



REVELS 2025

Get a jump on the Holiday Season. MWA-NY's annual Revels party will be held in early November for 2025!

Keep an eye out for the date.

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

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

2025 MWA-NY Mentor Program a Success!

The 202 MWA-NY Mentor Program has wrapped up after providing feedback on their first 35 pages to 33 mentees. Thank you mentors!

Criminal Intent: Talking Motive in Philadelphia

MWA members, mystery aficionados, and aspiring writers gathered on March 29 at the Parkway Central Library in Philadelphia for “**Motive: The Essence of Mystery,**” a panel discussion moderated by MWA Board Member **Douglas Harrell**. The panel, comprising **Nancy A. Hughes, Jane Kelly** and **James McCrone**, explored how to establish motive from the sleuth’s and the criminal’s perspectives to create an intriguing story to keep readers turning pages. The audience hung on the panelists’ every word and asked intelligent questions. The event also provided a networking opportunity for local authors after the discussion.





MANHATTAN MYSTERY READING and get-together



MORALITY AND OTHER HOT TOPICS

While our April 5 Manhattan Mystery Reading lacked a big audience, it triggered an invigorating dialog. Burstein Award runner-up **Christal Roberts** led off the Reading with a post from her Substack *Doing the Time, Writing the Crime*, called "Stepping Aside in the Query Trenches: How agents reject you with a tricky turn of phrase." **Ann Aptecker** (in the photo) read her short story, *The Alley*, which appeared in *Black Cat Mystery Magazine*. MWA-NY Board member **David Bushman** read an excerpt from the book he is co-authoring with **Mark Givens** on unsolved murders in New York State between 1900 and 1950. And MWA-NY Vice President **Hal Glatzer** read the opening chapter of his latest "cozy-with-a-twist," *The Office Wife*.

Although attendance topped out at ten, the post-reading discussion was lively. Roberts's dilemma over finding an agent for her publication-ready manuscript led to complaints about agents and publishers whose policy is: "No response means 'No.'" But Aptecker said she had worked as an art curator who had to turn down many unsuitable submissions; so she expressed sympathy for overworked agents and acquisitions editors who might not have time to respond when swamped with queries.

The case that Bushman highlighted is the early 20th century murder of a well-known but not well-liked *bon vivant* in Manhattan. Though still unsolved, it likely inspired the first Philo Vance novel, *The Benson Murder Case*. Bushman pointed out that in about half of all murders, the perpetrators are never caught. This, he said, is especially true in towns and small cities where police can be lured by bribes or favors or friendships to cover up local crimes. Aptecker pointed out that, in many such places, the people who become police officers and criminals often have the same socioeconomic backgrounds; and any place where regular jobs are scarce or low-paying, criminal enterprises may be someone's only way to earn a living.

That, in turn, led to issues of "morality" in crime fiction. Readers can and do sympathize with protagonists who are professional criminals, like the grifters in *The Sting*; also with mortal sinners--even sociopathic killers, like *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. Aptecker's story centers on a hit-man pursued by another hit-man--his rival in the gang. But what about venial sinners? Glatzer's accidental detectives are having an affair; he quoted from a one-star (amazon) reviewer of the preceding book in the series, *The Nest*, who complained about the adultery but nonetheless skipped to the ending to find out whodunit!

Character is king, of course, but setting looms large. Bushman's work-in-progress tracks real cases in real places; and he acknowledged that it can be risky and uncomfortable to do research and interview residents there. The alley where Aptecker's hit-men face off could be anywhere, but many of her other books and stories are set in New York. Roberts sent her Black journalist-heroine into a largely Black seaside town near Newport, RI, much like those on Long Island and Martha's Vineyard, to solve the murder of a discredited source. And Glatzer felt he had to invent a city for his friends-with-benefits to inhabit, so he could "control all the variables."

Our New York chapter of MWA is actively encouraging members and fans to get together in person, like this; so our Manhattan Mystery Readings include time for informal get-togethers.

The next Reading in the series will start at noon on Saturday June 7, in the 58th St. branch of the New York Public Library, and will feature authors Gary Ross, Debbie Babitt, Cathi Stoler, Catherine Maiorisi, and Carole Bugge.

Call for Manhattan Mystery Readers

Want to read from your work? Want to meet your fellow authors?
MWA-NY's Manhattan Mystery Readings provide opportunities for authors to read aloud.

They are held on designated Saturdays from noon to 2 p.m. in the NYC 58th St. Library branch, at 127 E. 58th St, between Park and Lexington Aves. (Take the N, R, W, 4, 5 or 6 trains to the 59th St/Lex stop; or take the M57 or M31 crosstown bus on 57th St. to Lex. Ave.)

After our authors read, we have an informal get-together. Light refreshments are provided. For more information, or to sign up to read, email MWA-NY Vice President Hal Glatzer at

info@mwany.org.

Member Updates

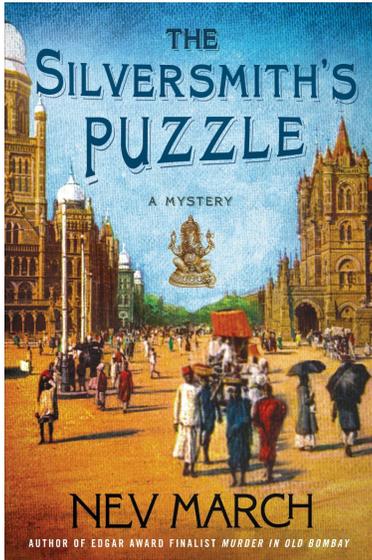
2025 Edgar Award Best Television Episode Teleplay

MWA-NY member Scott Frank for "Monsieur Spade Episode 1" TV Episode
(co-written w/Tom Fontana - not MWA-NY)
asfrank@mac.com

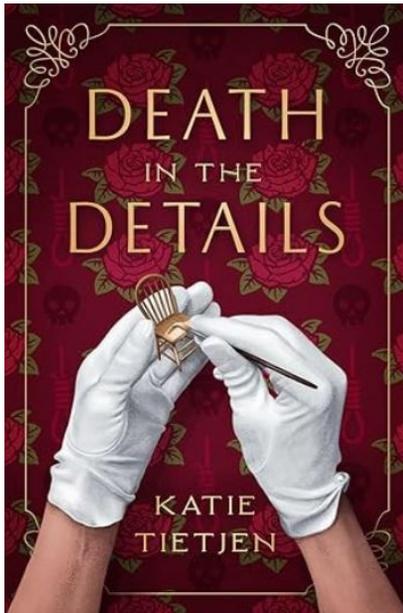
CONGRATULATIONS!!!!



MWA-NY President Nev March's Captain Jim and Lady Diana mystery Book 4, *The Silversmith's Puzzle*, came out in hardback on May 13. <https://nevmonth.com/>



Katie Tietjen's debut novel, *Death in the Details*, was the *Deadly Pleasures Mystery Magazine* best mystery/crime debut of 2024, and one of five finalists for the 2025 Mary Higgins Clark Award. <https://www.katietietjen.com/>



In Case You Missed It

MWA-NY Event Recordings

CrimeCraft for April: Making It a Page Turner Hallie Ephron

Enjoy this discussion on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSdObJhq3FY>

Plus 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

Member support and general questions - info@mwan9572.org

Programming - programs@mwan9572.org

To join readings- readings@mwan9572.org

Mentor Program - mentors@mwan9572.org

Bookfairs/ conferences - info@mwan9572.org

Newsletter - newsletter@mwan9572.org

Other: President@mwan9572.org

USEFUL LINKS

our website: www.mwan9572.org