

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

Hello all,

Yes it's that time again, time for REVELS! This year it's a bit earlier (Nov. 11) so we'll have reasonably good weather (fingers crossed) to celebrate and enjoy a buffet dinner together. There are a few tickets remaining, so please register soon (details below).

I also want to announce the finalists for our

2025 Leon Burstein Award.

The winner and Runner up will be announced at REVELS!

Our three finalists are:

Margaret Ryan
Jonathan David Liss
John Dziuban

Congratulations!

It was a tough contest with 32 excellent entries. The Leon Burstein Award was created to encourage members to polish up their work and get it submission ready. Our results show that aim is clearly being achieved.

Folks, if you have received an email saying that your MWA membership is expiring, please do renew. Your chapter board is working hard to help you improve your craft, meet other writers, and learn about the industry and further your career.

Check out our benefits page at

<https://www.mwany.org/> in the About Us section.

Enjoy the rest of Fall, and as always, happy 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 to get your information on the website.

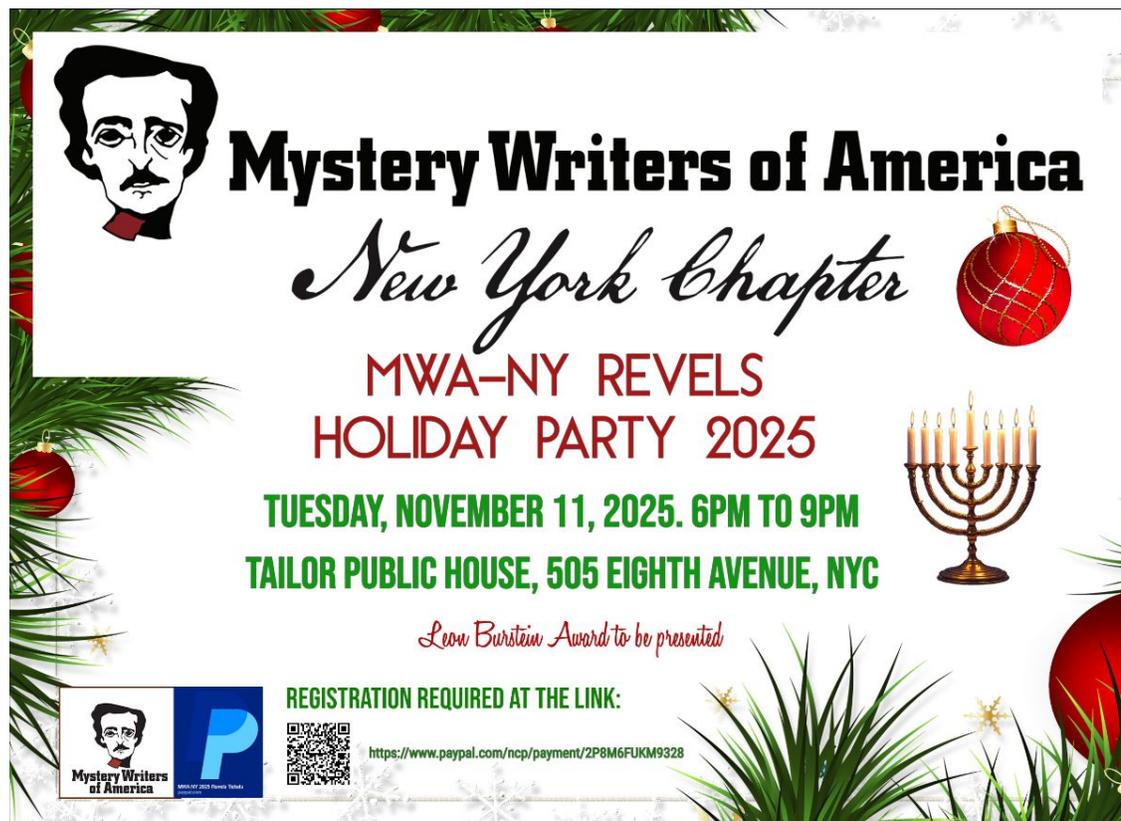
<https://www.mwany.org/submit-an-author-update/>

If you want it to also go in the newsletter, email me at newsletter@mwany.org to let me know to grab it.

Also, if there's something you'd like to see in the newsletter email me at that address.

Doug

LAST CALL--ONLY A FEW TIX LEFT!

A festive poster for the MWA-NY Revels Holiday Party 2025. The poster features a black and white illustration of a man's face in the top left corner. The main text reads "Mystery Writers of America" in a bold, black serif font, followed by "New York Chapter" in a black cursive font. Below this, "MWA-NY REVELS HOLIDAY PARTY 2025" is written in a red, sans-serif font. The date and time, "TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025. 6PM TO 9PM", and the location, "TAILOR PUBLIC HOUSE, 505 EIGHTH AVENUE, NYC", are in a green, sans-serif font. A red Christmas ornament and a brass candelabra with lit candles are also depicted. At the bottom, it says "Leon Burstein Award to be presented" in a red cursive font. In the bottom left corner, there is a small logo for the Mystery Writers of America and a QR code. To the right of the QR code, it says "REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT THE LINK:" followed by the URL "https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/2P8M6FUKM9328". The background is decorated with green pine branches and red ornaments.

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 WEEK away, and plus-ones are welcome. It's only \$35.70 per person. Act NOW to grab one of the remaining spots.



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

Upcoming MWA-NY Events

MWA-NY CHAPTER--LOCAL GROUPS COMMITTEE NEWS

Contact email: localgroups@mwany.org

UPCOMING

Long Island Michael Hall will be hosting the 6th Long Island meeting--a members' read and critique session--on November 15th at Panera in West Babylon. (See flyer below for details).

**WELCOME MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA N.Y. CHAPTER
TO THE 6th LONG ISLAND MWA-NY GROUP GET-TOGETHER
AT PANERA BREAD IN WEST BABYLON.**



OPEN TO ALL MEMEBERS IN MANHATTAN, BRONX, BROOKLYN & QUEENS



HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYBODY

OUR LAST GROUP MEETING BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS

Those interested, please bring 3-5 pages of your latest work. Be it your Novel, Short Story Fiction, Screenwriting, Play writing or Poetry.

JOIN US ON SATURDAY November 15th, 2PM – 5PM. AT PANERA BREAD 1025 MONTAUK HWY. WEST BABYLON. Located in the Great South Bay Shopping Center. PLENTY OF PARKING

PLUS ONES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

RSVP IS A MUST BY THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13TH

RECAP--Local Groups have been busy!

Buffalo Ken Foit and Gary Ross hosted the first get-together of the new Buffalo local group on October 18th. Ken graciously offered his office space as a meeting place. (Photo attached)

Long Island Michael Hall hosted the 5th Long Island meeting--a members' read and critique session--on October 18th at Panera in West Babylon. (Photos attached)

Central New Jersey Nev March hosted a meeting at the Princeton Library on October 4th. (The group was camera shy.)

Metro & Northern NJ/Rockland County NY Carol Binkowski hosted a Barnes & Noble book browse and lunch at Applebee's in Clifton NJ on November 1st. (Photo at bottom).



Save the Date



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
NEW YORK CHAPTER

Crime Craft

A Series of Discussions
About Crime Writing

Join host Kate Hohl
Tuesday, December 16th at 6:00pm

“The Muddle in the Middle”

with USA Today best-selling author

Hank Phillipi Ryan!



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
NEW YORK CHAPTER

The New York Chapter of Mystery Writers of America presents

Mystery Authors



Tom
Coffey



Andrea
Clark



Andrew
Kass

reading to you from their stories
at Noon on Saturday December 6 in the
58th St. Library – 127 East 58th Street

For more information please email: info@mwany.org

MANHATTAN MYSTERY READING

December 6, 2025 noon-2 p.m.

58th St. Library, 127 E 58 St.

Three members of Mystery Writers of America (MWA) will read aloud from their work from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday December 6, at the 58th St. branch of the New York Public Library.

Tom Coffey

is a native of Staten Island and a longtime journalist, having worked for The Miami Herald, the Los Angeles Herald Examiner, New York Newsday, and The New York Times. Two of his novels, *The Serpent Club* and *Blood Alley*, have earned starred reviews from Publishers Weekly. The first two books in his current series, The Devine Trilogy (named for the family at its center), have earned four- and five-star reviews on amazon and Goodreads. Tom will read from the third book in the trilogy, which will be published in 2026.

Andrea Clark in her varied career has re-translated E.T.A. Hoffmann's *Nutcracker* for Alfred A. Knopf, and analyzed scripts for TV producer David Susskind. At 40, her thesis film for an MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, "My Divorce," won an Academy Award in the Student Film Category. She studied writing with Elizabeth Hardwick and Hallie Ephron. Andrea will read from the opening chapter of her work-in-progress, *Kate's Dilemma*.

Andrew Kass's short work has appeared in the magazines *Glimmer Train* and *Central Park*, and in The New York Times. He'll soon be published in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*. His novella *Deadline* received an Honorable Mention in the 2024 Black Orchid Novella Award, and his feminist Civil War spy thriller *A Woman of Agency*, is due out next year. Andrew will read from *Hotel Room*—a noir story inspired by a 1931 painting by Edward Hopper.

The room for the Authors' Readings is up one flight of stairs; there is no elevator.

The library is at 127 East 58th St., between Park and Lexington Aves. The 4, 5, N, and R trains stop at 59th/Lex; the E at 53rd/Lex. Buses run north on Third Ave. and South on Lex. The M57 and M31 buses run crosstown on 57th St. There is also a parking garage under the library.

For more information email the New York chapter of MWA:

info@mwany.org

MWA-NY News

MWA-NY Chapter Elections

Stay Tuned: Once MWA National elections are completed in November, our chapter can cast ballots for our 2026 board.

Active members will receive an email with the ballot link.

Panel Discussion on Misdirection--October 18th Recap

Lee Memorial Public Library

Allendale, NJ

Red Herrings: The Twist in the Tale

MWA members and mystery lovers gathered on October 18th for a panel discussion on misdirection moderated by MWA Board Member **Carol Binkowski**. The panel, comprising **Tom Coffey**, **Peggy Ehrhart**, and **Charles Salzberg** explored employing red herrings to heighten suspense and captivate readers. The discussion also delved into the challenges red herrings pose as a tool to propel the story. The panelists reveled in the lively exchange of ideas, and responding to insightful questions from the audience. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Panel Discussion on Forensics--October 25th Recap

Morristown & Morris Township Library

Unlocking the Secrets of the Dead: Forensics

MWA members, mystery aficionados and the intellectually curious gathered on October 25th in Morristown, NJ, for a panel discussion on forensics moderated by **MWA-NY President Nev March**.

The expert panel featured **Lt. Art Weisgerber**, the Commanding Officer of the Crime Scene/Identification Unit at the Norwalk, CT, Police Department; **Dr. Lauren Thoma, M.D.** the Deputy County Medical Examiner, Middlesex Regional Medical Examiner's Office; and **Associate Teaching Prof. Kimberlee Moran**, Rutgers-Camden Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice.

The event explored the fascinating world of forensics: how scientific methods help solve crimes, and how they are portrayed in books. The panel covered the inquest process, police and medical investigations, as well as discussing cold cases, autopsies, and poisons, and the astonishing advancements in fingerprint identification.

It was a lively panel, and the slide presentation by Lt. Weisgerber was entertaining and kept everyone engaged. The audience was fascinated by Dr. Thoma's descriptions of the preservation of evidence, and riveted by the cold case investigations that Prof. Moran described.

Attendees learned that time of death is grossly mischaracterized in fiction, and many factors must be considered to arrive at an accurate estimate. Unfortunately, the local funding of forensics creates a wide

disparity in capability among jurisdictions, which may contribute to only a fifty percent solution rate for homicides.

However, advances continue to be made, and phone records, ATM and bank records, video footage, fingerprinting, vast advances in DNA technology, among other developments are increasing the odds daily that that culprits will be apprehended, and victims will receive justice.

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

Programming - 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