

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

Fall is almost upon us. While I love 'forest bathing' in summer, the glorious colors of autumn are especially precious. My mother adored trees in their fall formals. The *AuthorsPublish* newsletter recently carried a free ebook link - [Writing While the World Burns](#). *How to Stay Sane, Keep Writing, and Love Every Glorious Minute of It All*.

How well I remember sitting by my mother's hospital bed. I had hours to write, but the immediacy of her illness, test results, medications often made fiction unreachable, even irrelevant. But journaling, that I could do. In hindsight, it made all the difference, keeping me present, calm, and loving during a terrifying time. Chats with mum, and singing along together to music from my phone, those were glorious minutes. Writing creates more than entertainment.

Your board has been busy, as usual. Delivering on our commitment to **craft education**, we have scheduled expert panels and talks in Hoboken, Morristown, Allendale NJ and online (CrimeCrafts). In our online webinar on Sep 13 you can learn directly from an agent how to write a query letter that works. Participants will have an opportunity to partner up after the talk, to work on their own queries. This furthers our goal of **enhancing members' business skills**.

Lastly, to move forward on **connecting members**, our local groups continue to grow (details below). We've also added a networking hour to the Oct 25 Annual Expert Panel (Industry heavy hitters will discuss Forensics this year).

This year's holiday Revels is on Nov 11 in midtown Manhattan. Plus-ones are welcome. Register soon, because space is limited. Once we reach the max, the registration link will be taken down. Do join us to

celebrate each other and the newest winners of the Leon Burstein Award for 2025.

Stay safe, and stay 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.

(NOTE: new address for newsletter correspondence).

Doug

Upcoming MWA-NY Events



The 2025 Leon Burstein Award Status Report

Three manuscripts have been selected for Round 2.

The winner and runner-up will be announced at our REVELS Holiday Party on November 11.

Good luck!



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
NEW YORK CHAPTER

How To Write an Agent Query Letter

Please join us on

Saturday,

September 13th 2025

at 4:00pm EST

**Literary Agent Ayla Zuraw-Friedland
will lead a discussion on how to craft
a compelling query letter that will
help your submission stand out and
catch the attention of agents!**

There will be an opportunity to
workshop your query letters with other attendees.



Special Zoom Event

September 13, 2025 4:00 p.m.

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83794864332?pwd=sZ4GSNGYygUCr6hySlYM6Y0P9i9pM4.1>

Learn How to Write An Agent Query Letter

Join Literary Agent **Ayla Zuraw-Friedland** who will lead a discussion on how to craft a compelling query letter that will help your submission stand out and catch the attention of agents!



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

Registration Link: <https://hobokenlibrary.libnet.info/event/13849398>

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) 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. 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.

Rhonda Barnat is a crisis management expert and writes crime fiction under the pen name Rona Bell. Her

short stories have appeared in several anthologies, the latest, "The Call is Yours" appears in *Me Too Short Stories*. She has contributed a number of pieces to *Mystery Readers Journal*.

Gary Cahill is a prolific short story writer whose work has appeared in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, *Mystery Weekly Magazine*, and *Shotgun Honey*, among others. He is a co-founder of *Plan B Magazine* podcast. He is a staff member of the Weehawken, NJ public library, and the "amuse bouche" for the secret society Writers Who Cook.

Lori Robbins is the Amazon bestselling author of the *On Pointe* and *Master Class* mystery series. Lori has won multiple awards for her both her novels and short stories. 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.



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

September 16, 2025

at 6:00pm EST

**Forensic Psychologist
and Author**

**Stephanie Scott-Snyder will
lead a discussion on
“Inside the Criminal Mind”**



Crime Craft

September 16, 2025 6:00-7:00 p.m.

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

Inside the Criminal Mind with forensic psychologist and author Stephanie Scott-Snyder

In addition to discussions of writing craft, we seek to bring you conversations with real world specialists in criminal investigation. This research can elevate your storytelling with accuracy and credibility—mark your calendar and join the conversation! While we try to record each CrimeCraft, occasionally that is not possible, so please attend online.

Stephanie Scott-Snyder is a forensic mental health clinician and criminal behavior expert with fifteen years

of experience conducting psychological risk assessments and providing court-ordered therapy to violent offenders. She specializes in issues related to sexual and domestic violence as well as violence committed by women and has consulted on both serial rape and homicide cases.

Scott-Snyder is a member of The Vidocq Society through which she profiles cold case homicides to assist law enforcement. She is also a behavioral science expert with the Cold Case Investigative Research Institute, where she was recently part of the team that closed a 25-year-old homicide. Additionally, she works with the Cold Case Foundation to train federal law enforcement as part of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women initiative. She also frequently trains mental health practitioners, victim advocates, and court personnel.

LAST LINES OF MOVIES	
LOUIS, I THINK THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP	ROAD? WHERE WE'RE GOING WE DON'T NEED ROADS.
THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.	I'LL BE RIGHT HERE.
AFTER ALL, TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY	I DO WISH WE COULD CHAT LONGER, BUT I'M HAVING AN OLD FRIEND FOR DINNER.
THE STUFF THAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF	I'M SO GLAD I FOUND YOU. KISS ME. KISS ME AS IF IT WERE THE LAST TIME.

Mystery Quiz

**Louis, I think this is the end of a beautiful movie?
Test your knowledge of famous last lines.**

Try this month's quiz at:

<https://www.mwany.org/quizzes/famous-last-lines-from-movies/>

You'll see the results as soon as you hit 'submit.' Look for more quizzes coming your way, or do the ones you missed at

<https://www.mwany.org/quizzes/>

MWA-NY CHAPTER--LOCAL GROUPS COMMITTEE NEWS

UPCOMING

Long Island will meet on September 6th at Panera in West Babylon. English Professor Gregory Cioffi will

be the guest speaker.

Central New Jersey will have a get-together on October 4 from 3 - 5 p.m. in Princeton. The location has not yet been finalized.

RECAP

Local Groups have had a busy time in the final weeks of August.

Pittsburgh hosted a browsing session at the Mystery Lovers Bookshop in Oakmont, followed by a get-together at a local Panera (8/20/25).

Philadelphia met at Moriarty's on 8/23/25. (Sounds like an appropriate place for mystery writers)!

Metro New Jersey got together for an early dinner at Veggie Heaven in Montclair (8/24/25) to discuss all things writing.

More to come! If anyone would like additional information about hosting or joining a group, please contact me (Carol Binkowski) at localgroups@mwany.org

Shown below: Pittsburgh and Metro New Jersey Groups

Save the Date



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA NEW YORK CHAPTER

Panelists



Tom Coffey
The Devine Trilogy



Peggy Ehrhart
Knit & Nibble Mysteries



Charles Salzberg
Second Story Man

Red Herrings: The Twist in the Tale

FREE EVENT

Saturday, October 18

1:00 - 3:00 PM

Lee Memorial Public Library
500 Crescent Avenue
Allendale, NJ

Moderator

Carol Binkowski
(aka Caryl Janis)
MWA-NY Board Member
To Sketch A Killer



Panel Discussion

October 18, 2025 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Lee Memorial Public Library
500 Crescent Avenue, Allendale, NJ

Red Herrings: The Twist in the Tale

Deception, a web of lies, and the chase for clues are at the core of a mystery. How do you use red herrings to heighten tension and suspense to keep readers turning pages? What challenges do red herrings pose as a tool to propel the story? This panel discussion with three mystery authors will delve into the art of misdirection. This free event will be open to MWA members and the public.

Moderator: Carol Binkowski

Carol Binkowski writes mysteries under the pen name Caryl Janis, most recently including *To Sketch a Killer* and *Research Can Be Murder* -- both urban cozies set in New York. Carol is also a musician and author of nonfiction books about music and history.

Panelists:

Tom Coffey has written numerous novels since his debut in 1999 with *The Serpent Club*. He is currently working on the third installment of a series that examines the arc of law enforcement in New York from the 1980s to the present, *The Devine Trilogy*. He worked as a journalist, most recently at *The New York Times*,

before retiring in 2023.

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) feature a blues-singer sleuth. Peggy is currently writing the *Knit & Nibble* mysteries featuring an amateur sleuth who is a knitting aficionado.

Charles Salzberg is a former magazine journalist, and author of two nonfiction books. He has written several novels, including *Devil in the Hole*, which was named one of the best crime novels of 2013 by *Suspense* magazine. His latest novel is *Man on the Run*. He has taught at Syracuse University, Sarah Lawrence College, Hunter College, and a various writing workshops.



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
NEW YORK CHAPTER

Panelists
UK, Connecticut



Unlocking the Secrets of the Dead: Forensics

FREE EVENT

Morristown & Morris Township Public Library
1 Miller Road Morristown, NJ
October 25, 2025
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Dr. Lauren Thoma, M.D.
Deputy County Medical Examiner
Middlesex Regional Medical Examiner's Office



Kimberlee Moran
Associate Teaching Professor
Rutgers-Camden Dept. of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice

Moderator
Nev March
MWA-NY President



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
(Refreshments will be served)

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. The event will feature a Q&A and a networking opportunity. This free event will be open to MWA members and the public.

Moderator:

Nev March, MWA-NY Chapter President

Nev is the first Indian-born author to receive the Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America Award for Best First Crime Fiction. Her debut novel, *Murder in Old Bombay* also won an Audiofile award and was an Edgar and Anthony finalist. With an adventurous immigrant duo as sleuths, her books deal with issues of identity, race and moral boundaries. After a long corporate career, Nev returned to her passion—writing fiction, and now teaches creative writing at the Rutgers-Osher Institute. She is a member of Crime Writers of Color and president of New York chapter of Mystery Writers of America.

Panelists:

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

Lt. Weisgerber has been the commanding officer of the Crime Scene/Identification Unit at the Norwalk, Connecticut, Police Department since 2011. The Unit is responsible for the processing of forensic evidence at major crime scenes and fatal crash scenes along with evidence collected by other divisions. He also is an adjunct police instructor for the State of Connecticut Municipal Police Officer Academy, as well as teaching crime scene procedure/investigation privately for the Spector Criminal Justice Training Network.

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

Dr. Thoma, M.D. is a forensic pathologist working in central New Jersey who has performed nearly 2,500 autopsies and testified over 65 times in Superior Court in New Jersey and New York and in federal court. Dr. Thoma holds board certifications in Anatomic, Clinical, and Forensic Pathology and has lectured at the New Jersey State Police Academy and NJSP Crime Scene Investigation School. She has a special interest in long-term unidentified cases, overdose fatalities, and quality improvement in death investigation.

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

Assoc. Prof. Moran has over 20 years of experience as a forensic consultant and educator, both in the UK and United States. She has worked on several cases in a range of capacities, and runs training workshops for local law enforcement that include blowing up transit buses and digging up dead animals. Her doctoral research was in the field of ancient fingerprints and her current research is in taphonomy, the process of decomposition. She is the co-editor of *Forensic Archaeology: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, and has served on the Crime Scene Investigation subcommittee of the NIST-OSAC.



Mystery Writers of America

New York Chapter

**MWA-NY REVELS
HOLIDAY PARTY 2025**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025. 6PM TO 9PM
TAILOR PUBLIC HOUSE, 505 EIGHTH AVENUE, NYC

Leon Burstein Award to be presented



REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT THE LINK:
<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/2P8M6FUKM9328>



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

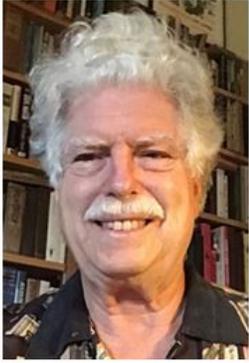


Registration Link: <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/2P8M6FUKM9328>

MWA-NY News

Mahattan Mystery Reading--August 9th Recap

A small but lively audience came to the 58th St. Library August 9 to hear MWA-NY members read.



Hal
Glatzer



Joanna
Margaret



Katie
Tietjen



Michael
Northrop

Hal Glatzer is best known for historicals, including Sherlock Holmes pastiches, but his Friends with Benefits series is contemporary. He read the opening chapter of book 2: The Office Wife. www.halglatzer.com

Joanna Margaret earned a Ph.D. in history with a focus on Florentine aristocrats in sixteenth-century France. She read from her novel, The Bequest, which follows a group of young scholars in Europe as they unravel a five-hundred-year-old mystery with eerie repercussions in the present. info@joanna-margaret.com

Katie Tietjen is an enthusiast for the crime scene dioramas of Frances Glessner Lee, one of the founders of forensic science. Katie has traveled thousands of miles to visit Lee's homes, see her "nutshells. Katie read from her next book in the Maple Bishop series, Murder in Miniature, which is due out in September. katie@katietietjen.com

Michael Northrop's previous books were for children and teens. Now he has begun writing a mystery series for adults, called The Figman Files, and read from the first: A Brush with Death, which he called "a cozy mystery with a spy history." michael.northrop@yahoo.com

The main topic of discussion afterward was backups: cloud vs. physical storage device. The consensus was that any backup is better than no backup, and multiple backups are best—also, that safest procedure is to use physical storage devices such as USB "thumb" drives and/or external hard disk drives (HDD) manufactured by a name-brand: they may be more expensive, but they are probably more reliable, and retain files longer.

Call for Manhattan Mystery Readers

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

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

For further information, please email

info@mwany.org.

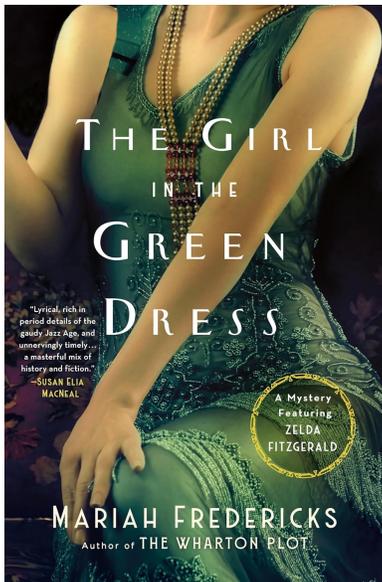
Member Updates

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.

Mariah Fredericks latest historical mystery was released on September 2. *The Girl in the Green Dress* has real-life characters Zelda Fitzgerald and New Yorker writer Morris Markey investigating the 1920 murder of Joseph Elwell, a jazz-age dandy whose source of income was a mystery, and who may have been the inspiration for *The Great Gatsby*. <https://www.mariahfredericksbooks.com/>



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