

Corrected--On the Case, the MWA-NY Newsletter: March 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,

Spring is near (someone please tell the weather, which seems to have forgotten!).

Our annual Mentor Program is open. Our program is now upgraded with an online registration form and online payment option, maintaining the same feel-good connections between fellow authors. Many thanks to Lev Rosen (program lead), David Bushman (website), Mark McNease (Comms lead) and Sheila (treasurer and a treasure!).

To be a mentor, please email Lev at mentors@mwany.org

To be a mentee, visit: <https://www.mwany.org/program/mentor-program/>

The Edgars are coming up, and for the first time since COVID, the symposium will be in person. For more information and links, see the notices below under "Save the Date."

Carol and I have exercised our Excel/segmentation skills to map about two thirds of our membership to a local group in a reasonable distance (we think!). The first local group gatherings were tacked on to previously planned events in Manhattan and NJ. The 3/29 Philly Panel Discussion is another such opportunity. We are delighted to read your replies on groups.io. The local gatherings will be announced on this board, so if you have not yet joined, use the link below.

Subscribe:

MWA-NY+subscribe@groups.io

We are on BLUESKY SOCIAL! Follow MWA-NY and chat with us. I followed a link to a quiz on our

website set up by Mark, on Famous First Lines—and got 5 right. Ok, I got the Christie question WRONG (!) Need to brush up on her canon. Have fun!

The sun is shining at least for the moment. It may be tempting to dwell on the news. However, it's likely more productive to focus on the controllables and vent your angst into your writing—it will shine! As always, lean on fellow writers who are just amazing, generous people.
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 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



Kate Hohl is an award-winning writer and educator. She received the 2024 Mystery Writers of America Robert L. Fish Memorial Award for best debut short story by an American author. Her stories have been published in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine and Hayakawa's Mystery Magazine. Kate lives in New York with her family and two bossy rescue cats.

You can find her online at

katehohl.com and @katehohl.

Upcoming MWA-NY Events



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA
NEW YORK CHAPTER

Motive: The Essence of Mystery



Nancy A. Hughes
By Hook or By Crook



Jane Kelly
Meg Daniels Mysteries



James McCrone
Faithless Electors Series



Moderated by
Douglas Harrell
MWA-NY Board Member

Saturday, March 29
12:30 - 2:30 PM

Free Event
Parkway Central Library
Room 108 (Room Change)
1901 Vine Street
Philadelphia

Panel Discussion

March 29, 2025 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Parkway Central Library, Room 108

1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia

Motive: The Essence of Mystery

Without a motive, there would be no story because there would be no crime. What is your process to ensure that the reader recognizes and relates to the criminal's and the sleuth's mindset? How do you play on the reader's need for answers to conjure up a nuanced motive that is at once intriguing but grounded in reason? This panel discussion with three mystery authors will explore how to establish motive. A Q&A will follow. The event also will feature a networking opportunity for local authors after the discussion.

Light refreshments will be served.

Nancy A. Hughes, a Penn State graduate and career business writer, followed her dream to a life of crime. Her traditionally published amateur sleuth/suspense mystery novels include *The Dying Hour* and its sequel, *The Innocent Hour*, and her *Trust Trilogy: A Matter of Trust, Redeeming Trust, Vanished, and Buried Trust*. In 2024, *By Hook or By Crook* was released by Headline Books. Hughes is a devoted shade gardener and

volunteer at the VA and Reading Hospitals. She is an active member of Mystery Writers of America, International Thriller Writers, Sisters in Crime, and Penn Writers. Her website is www.hughescribe.com.

Jane Kelly is the author of the *Meg Daniels* mysteries from Plexus Publishing. *Missing You in Atlantic City* (2015) and *Strangers in the Avalon Dunes* (2023) won Independent Publishers Book Awards (IPPY) for mid-Atlantic fiction. In addition, Kelly has independently published a Meg Daniels Bonus Mystery. She is the author of initial books in the independently published *Writing in Time Mysteries* and the *Widow Ladies Mysteries*, which are set in Philadelphia. A past-president of the Delaware Valley Sisters in Crime chapter, she has served on the board of the New York City Chapter of Mystery Writers of America. A native Philadelphian, Kelly has an MS from Drexel University in Library and Information Science and an MPhil in Popular Literature from Trinity College, Dublin.

James McCrone is the author of the *Faithless Elector* series—*Faithless Elector*, *Dark Network*, and *Emergency Powers*—“taut” and “gripping” political thrillers about a stolen presidency which prefigured many of the issues the nation faces right now; and *Bastard Verdict*, about a conspiracy surrounding a second Scottish Independence referendum. Currently, McCrone is the president of the Delaware Valley Sisters in Crime chapter and a member of Mystery Writers of America, and International Association of Crime Writers. He lives in Philadelphia. He has an MFA in Creative Writing from University of Washington.

Douglas Harrell (Moderator) has turned to writing after a 30-year career as a chemical engineer. He is especially fascinated by historical mysteries with loose ends. In *The Secret Lindbergh Notebook*, his protagonist seeks to exonerate his great-grandfather of participating in the 1932 Lindbergh kidnapping by finding answers to real questions still swirling around the case. He is currently seeking representation. Visit him at dougasharrell.com.



2025 MWA-NY Mentor Program

Deadline to apply: March 31

The MWA-NY Mentor Program committee invites members of the New York Chapter of MWA, unpublished and published, to submit their work, finished or in-progress, for critique by an active member of the chapter. Get feedback from published professionals on the first 35 pages for only \$25.

To be a mentor, please email Lev at mentors@mwanys.org

To be a mentee, visit: <https://www.mwanys.org/program/mentor-program/>



Mystery Writers of America

New York Chapter

2025 MWA-NY Annual General Meeting
Monday April 14, 2025 at 5 pm EDT

All Members are invited to meet our new chapter board. Nev will share pictures from 2024 events, and discuss our financial summary. We'd love to hear from you about your ideas and suggestions.

If you have questions, email

president@mwany.org.

Link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83163070404?pwd=SCbe76YpaPljv4pOQ2IFkbbUYufoHU.1>

Meeting ID: 831 6307 0404
Passcode: 178475

Nev March
and the NY Chapter Board

Call for Manhattan Mystery Readers

Want to read from your work? Want to meet your fellow authors?
MWA-NY's next Manhattan Mystery Reading still has open slots for authors to read aloud.

It's Saturday April 5 from noon to 2 p.m. in the 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.

Call for Local Group Participants

Local Meet-ups--meet face-to-face all over the place

Dear MWA-NY members,

Thanks so much for all of your feedback on local, in-person get-togethers. I've been compiling your

comments and suggestions, and they've been so helpful in launching this project.

Nev and I are busy identifying geographic clusters to pinpoint various areas where members are located and could easily meet locally. We hope to begin getting things going soon.

Each group will need a local lead coordinator to find an appropriate venue (library, restaurant, etc.), set a date and time, and host the event. We'd then announce this on groups.io so anyone could attend and, also, do a mailing to the specific local members.

Just wanted to keep you updated on progress, and any additional comments you have are most welcome.

Best regards,
Carol Binkowski

Local Groups Committee

Mystery Quizzes

How well do you know your famous first lines? What about TV Cops? 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/

Save the Date

Crime Craft

April 15, 2025 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Best-selling author Hallie Ephron on Beginnings and Endings

May

20, 2025 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Author and editor Barb Goffman on Short Stories

June

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

Author Art Taylor on the first two pages

Edgar Awards Symposium

Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Marriott Marquis Times Square – Empire Complex – 7th Floor – 1535 Broadway (between 45th and 46th Streets)

Come out and meet MWA's new national president, **Lisa Scottoline**, and executive VP, **James L'Etoile**, grand masters **Laura Lippman** and **John Sandford**, and many of this years nominees as they participate in 6 panels.

- Can You Juggle? – How to keep multiple storylines straight
- Do You Remember the First Time? – Meet the debut authors
- In the Mood. Setting the scene and building suspense

- Taking Candy from a Baby. Writing Mysteries for Young People
- It Takes Character. Detectives and narrators who can't be trusted.
- Hitting the Books. Research and borrowing from reality (fiction/nonfiction)

Details at: <https://mysterywriters.org/2025-edgar-symposium/>

79th Annual Edgar Awards Banquet

Date: Thursday, May 1, 2025

Time: 6:30 p.m. to ??

Location: Marriott Marquis New York – 6th Floor – Broadway Ballroom

MWA will be celebrating the 79th anniversary of the awards and the 80th anniversary of the organization. As always, it will be a sit-down dinner and the dress code is: Black-Tie Preferred – Dressed to Kill.

Tickets are \$225 per person

Details at: <https://mysterywriters.org/product/2025-edgar-banquet-tickets/>



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.

Non-MWA Events

Malice Domestic

April 25-27, 2025

Details at: <https://www.malicedomestic.net>

The Book Passage Linda Allen Mystery Scholarship

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://tinyurl.com/Linda-Allen>

Snuggling Up with Crime: Talking Cozy Mysteries in New Jersey

MWA members, mystery aficionados, and friends gathered on February 21 at the Montclair Women's Club in New Jersey for "**Crime Without the Blood: Cozy Mysteries,**" a panel discussion moderated by **Carole Bugge**. The panel, comprising **Linda Rawlins**, **Suzanne Trauth** and **Peggy Ehrhart**, spun a web of intrigue and provided a glimpse into creating diverting puzzles without explicit violence. The audience, eager for secrets, peppered the panelists with intelligent questions and stopped by for personal chats. A fun, cozy time was had by all.

MANHATTAN MYSTERY READING and get-together

Mysteries Warm a Winter Day

On a frigid Saturday in February--at the end of a sub-freezing week--MWA-NY members braved the cold to come to the 58th St. Library and hear three authors in our latest Manhattan Mystery Reading.

Gary Cahill read from his account of a true crime in Hell's Kitchen: the theft of a rare and expensive wheel of cheese. **Carol Binkowski** read from a work-in-progress: the next novel in her urban cozy "Sketch" series. And NYPD investigator **John Ferisso** gave us tips on how to be procedurally accurate when writing about missing person cases.

By design, the reading morphed into a get-together for MWA-NY members, including **Robert Massimi**, who is making the leap from children's and young-adult books to writing mysteries for grownups; and **Ann Aptaker**, who will read at our next Manhattan Mystery Reading on April 5 at the 58th St. Library.

If you would like to read from your work, there are five more opportunities, all Saturdays from noon to 2 p.m.

To sign up, or for more information, email Hal Glatzer at info@mwany.org.

2025 Readings: June 7, August 9, October 4, and December 6.

(All readings noon - 2 p.m.)

Member Updates

MWA-NY Members nominated for Edgar Awards

GOOD LUCK!!!!

Maureen Johnson for YA "Death at Morning House"

mmj11@me.com and mmjohnson11@gmail.com

Scott Frank for "Monsieur Spade Episode 1" TV Episode
(co-written w/Tom Fontana - not MWA-NY)

asfrank@mac.com

Carol Goodman for Mary Higgins Clark Award

"Return to Wyldcliffe Heights"

romangirl@aol.com

Katie Tietjen for Mary Higgins Clark Award

"Death In the Details"

katie@katietietjen.com



Interviews of Members

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

Author and Leon Burstein Award Runner-Up Christal Roberts

Enjoy this conversation with Christal Roberts, author, dynamo, and Leon Burstein Award Runner-up (2024). As well as being a MWA-NY member, Christal is an Emmy-winning TV news producer and video editor, currently querying her debut mystery novel, *A KILLING IN BLACK NEWPORT*. Previously an adjunct professor of journalism at Hofstra University, Christal also served as a contributing editor at BlogHer.com. As a Brooklyn native with a passion for puzzles, it's no surprise she enjoys putting together the pieces of a good mystery. Christal is an avid tennis fan, loves to travel, and her obsession with *The Great British Baking Show* gave rise to her appetite for baking. Christal is busy working on the second book in her Black Newport series while she seeks publication for *A KILLING IN BLACK NEWPORT*. Fasten your headphones!

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

In Case You Missed It

MWA-NY Event Recordings

CrimeCraft for February: Publicity with Terena Bell

Enjoy this discussion on our YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/n708-2NPyEs>

Plus earlier CrimeCraft and meeting recordings.

Links for all event recordings:

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

MWA University-Previous Sessions

When: Wednesday, Feb 5, 2025 08:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: MWA-U 2025 with AuthorBytes

Link to video: <https://bit.ly/MWAU-AuthorBytes>

See what [MWA-U sessions were held in 2024](#).

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@mwan9572.org.

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