

BLOODLETTER

CRIMINAL ENTERPRISES

Chapter News

Open Mic Night 2023

The NY/Tri-State Chapter kicked off 2023 with our Annual Open Mic Night. Thirteen authors shared their work at this Zoom event on January 18th.

- **Theresa Varela** read from *Murder in Red Hook, A Daisy Muñiz Mystery* available from Pollen Press Publishing.
- **Nancy Good** read from *Killer Condo*, coming soon from Level Best Books.
- **Kathleen Kalb** read from *The Stuff of Murder*, a new series coming this fall from Level Best Books.
- **Catherine Siemann** read from a work-in-progress, a historical mystery tentatively titled *Death Uptown and Downtown*.
- **Naomi Rand** read from a new, as yet unpublished book with a suburban amateur sleuth.
- **Mary Jo Robertiello** read from her short story, “Cycles Hit the Road,” published in King’s River Life Magazine.
- **Dawn Barclay, aka DM Barr** read from her short story “Orchestral Removals in the Dark.”
- **Cathi Stoler** read from *With a Twist*, now available from Level Best books.
- **Sarah E. Burr** read from *Tag Me for Murder*, the 2nd book in *Trending Topic Mysteries*, now available from Level Best Books.
- **Izolda Trakhtenberg** read from *Die by the Sword*, book 1 of the Cassie Belmont Tarot Reader Mysteries available from Creative Earthlings Publishing.
- **Cynthia Webb** read from a new work, *Blood is More than Red*.
- **Constance Meccarello-Gerson** read from *French Cruises Can Kill You*.
- **Samantha Hartford, aka Elle Hartford** read from *Beauty and the Alchemist*, published by Phoenix & Kelpie.

Missed the event? [You can watch it on our Vimeo by clicking HERE.](#)



Izolda Trakhtenberg reads from *Die by the Sword*.



Theresa Varela reads from *Murder in Red Hook, A Daisy Muñiz Mystery*.



Cynthia Webb read from a new work, *Blood is More than Red*.

PROGRAMMING RECAP

By Nina Mansfield

Our chapter hosted a wide variety of programs this year. Our in-person programming at the Jefferson Market Library in the fall had low attendance; this was one reason we chose to meet via Zoom for the remainder of the 2022-2023 season. We do plan to bring in-person programming back this September. A recent member survey indicated that many are eager to be together again, but also appreciate Zoom and hybrid options.

Our February event was a panel entitled **WHICH CONFERENCE IS RIGHT FOR YOU**, moderated by chapter member **Triss Stein**, author of the Erica Donato mysteries. The panelists were: chapter member, and Bram Stoker Award-nomineed **Elizabeth Crowens**, author of both alternative fiction and Hollywood suspense; chapter member and recently elected board president **Lori Robbins**, author of both the On Pointe and Master Class mystery series; and Connecticut Chapter member **Wendy Whitman**, author of the thrillers *Premonition*, and the soon to be released *Retribution*. The panel brought a wide array of conference experience to the table. So, how much swag should someone bring to a conference? A lot! And which conferences are the best for authors to connect to fans? Bouchercon, Malice Domestic and Left Coast Crime were top of the list.

In March, award winning author of the Kolya Petrov mysteries, S. Lee Manning moderated the panel **SPIES—THEN AND NOW**. The panelists were: chapter member and Agatha-nominee **Mally Becker**, author of *The Turncoat's Widow*, and *The Counterfeit Wife*; **Carmen Amato**, author of the award-winning Emilia Cruz mystery series; and **James W. Ziskin** author of the Anthony, Barry, and Macavity Award-winning Ellie Stone Mysteries. This fascinating discussion included a host of topics, including how espionage has changed from colonial times to the present. If you are considering including a spy in your next story or novel, you can find a link to this panel in the Members Only section of our website.

In April, we were joined by Minatour Marketing assistant **Dulce Botello** for **EVERYTHING YOUR PUBLICIST NEEDS YOU TO KNOW**. This program

provided an insider's view of what publishers do to market their books and how authors can maximize their publicity efforts. A lot of practical marketing advice was offered. For example, authors should 'think globally, but act locally.' Approach local bookstores and libraries is a great first step. Other topics included when to engage (or not engage) with reviewers, book tours and of course, maximizing one's presence on social media. This event is also available in the Members Only section of our website.

In May we held our **THIRD ANNUAL QUERYFEST**. We welcomed **Helga Schier**, Editorial Director from CamCat Books; **Cassie Knight** and **Renee Wildes** from Champagne Book Group; and **Eleanor Teasdale**, publisher at Angry Robot and Datura books. After a brief panel covering the dos and don'ts of querying, members (who had submitted queries in advance) joined one of the panelists in breakout room for a query evaluation.

The new board is already busy planning events for 2023-2024. Events will all be posted on our website, and chapter members should also keep an eye out for the monthly greeting from our new chapter presidents.



Nina Mansfield is a co-president of the NY/Tri-State Chapter of SinC, and editor of Bloodletter. She is a published and produced playwright, and author of the YA mystery, Swimming Alone.

Missed a meeting?

Recordings of many of our Zoom meetings can be found in the Members Only section of www.nysinc.org. Check your emails for the new password.

A NEW BOARD

This year, the chapter membership approved a new board. We would like to acknowledge our outgoing board members, **Alison von Rosenvinge** (outgoing board president), **Mariah Fredericks** (outgoing member-at-large), and **Ellen Quint** (outgoing member-at-large) for their dedication to this chapter.

The 2023-2025 New York/Tri-State Sisters in Crime Board

Co-Presidents

Nina Mansfield and Lori Robbins

Co-Vice Presidents

Jacquetta Szathmari and Kathleen Marple Kalb (Nikki Knight)

Secretary

Ursula Shand

Treasurer

Catherine Siemann

Member at Large

Dawn M. Barclay, writing as D.M. Barr, Sarah E. Burr, Elle Hartford and Cathi Stoler



The 2023-2025 NY/Tri-State SinC Board. Pictured: Back Row from L to R: Kathleen Marple Kalb, Catherine Siemann, Sarah E. Burr, Elle Hartford. Middle Row from L to R: Cathi Stoler, Lori Robbins and Dawn Barclay, Front from L to R: Nina Mansfield and Jacquetta Szathmari. Not Pictured: Ursula Shand. Photo Credit: Laura Joh Rowland.

YEAR END PARTY

As is our tradition, we ended our 2022-2023 season with a party at Cowgirl in the West Village. Outgoing board president, Alison Von Rosenvinge (aka D.A. Bartley) made a few remarks, and introduced to our board. We enjoyed food, drink and conversation.



Outgoing chapter president Alison von Rosenving, aka D.A. Bartley. Photo credit: Laura Joh Rowland.



Chapter members enjoy our year end party at Cowgirl. Photo credit: Laura Joh Rowland.

CYBER CRIMES

A Social Media Update

Our chapter members received many award nominations this year. Here are some of the social media posts—created by our very own Sarah E. Burr--celebrating these accolades.



THE POLICE BLOTTER

Member News

Nikki Knight (AKA **Kathleen Marple Kalb**) had her first *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine* publication in the May/June issue with "**The Annual Mud Season Homicide.**" And, Nikki's first Grace the Hit Mom Mystery, *Wrong Poison*, will be published July 11th by Charade Books.

Elle Hartford's fifth book in The Alchemical Tales series, *Cinders to Dust*, released on June 21st from Phoenix & Kelpie Press!

Lori Robbins' first Master Class mystery, *Lesson Plan for Murder*, was rereleased on June 1, 2023, from Level Best Books. Her short story "**Killing It in the Catskills**" appeared in the Malice Domestic: Murder Most Traditional anthology on April 6, 2023, from Wildside Press.

Mary Jo Robertiello has published her short story "**Family Matters**" in the current issue of *Kings River Life Magazine*.

Traveling Different: Vacation Strategies for Parents of the Anxious, the Inflexible and the Neurodiverse by **Dawn M. Barclay** received Honorable Mention in the Arlene's (Boos that Make a Difference) category by ASJA, first prize in the Maxy Awards (inspirational/self-help category) and was featured in articles in both USA Today and Costco Connection.

DISTURBING THE PEACE

Upcoming Chapter Events

Fall 2023

Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30 pm (place tbd)

In-Person Meeting

Further details to come

Sunday, October 1st

The Brooklyn Book Festival

Further details to come

Information about the rest of our fall events will be posted on our website.

<https://nysinc.org/upcoming-events/>

GET INVOLVED

We are a chapter that is entirely run by volunteers. Consider volunteering for one of these committees:

- *Bloodletter*
- Social Media (Twitter)
- Programming

We look forward to having more members actively involved in our chapter. Reach out to a board member if you are interested in volunteering.

The Future of *Bloodletter*, A Note from the Editor

I have thoroughly enjoyed editing *Bloodletter* since January 2019. As I assume the office of co-president, I will be stepping back from editing *Bloodletter* to focus on my duties as board co-president.

I am delighted to announce that co-Vice President Jacquetta Szathmari will be taking over as editor. Are you interested in getting involved in the next incarnation of *Bloodletter*? Please reach out!

Sincerely,

Nina Mansfield

Editor, *Bloodletter*

Co-President, NY/Tri-State Chapter Sisters in Crime