

Authors

& Illustrators Showcase 2016

Saturday, April 30, 2016, 11 AM - 4 PM

in the 2nd Floor Community Room at Middletown Thrall Library

About the Presenters & Their Writings...

(updated April 26, 2016)

Larry on the Loose!

And other Animal Escapades

From the Files of a Humane Educator



Jan Berlin

Author Jan Berlin has more than thirty-five years of experience teaching in both traditional and non-traditional educational settings.

As founder and director of Everything Animals Resource & Activity Center, Inc., she has been able to combine her love of teaching with her passion for humane education and animal welfare advocacy.

Jan lives in Bullville, New York, with her husband, Rich Blazeski, and the myriad of animals, who have made their way into her heart as well as onto the pages of this book.



Sandi Bischoff

Sandi Bischoff lives in the historic town of Cornwall, NY with her extremely patient husband and teenage son, she affectionately calls the Demon. She is a Pharmacist by profession but found her true calling in a simple twist of fate. A friend approached her to write in a forum on a popular networking website. Over the next five years her passion had found its niche. She went on to compose a few poems and short stories which she would post on her homepage at the same networking site. Her debut novel, *Beyond the Sun* was published April 2013 by Bayou Brew Publishing. She recently was named to Amazon's best seller list in the Fantasy/Epic category. Sandra's second book in this series entitled *Beyond Time* was released earlier this spring in time for the Romantic Times Convention in New Orleans where she was a featured author at the Book Fair. She has since left Bayou Brew Publishing to embark on the next chapter of her writing career, Independent Publishing. As of this time she has re-released both books in e-book and paperback formats. They can be found on Amazon.com. Sandra is currently working on her third book in her *Dark Order of the Dragon Series*. Her hope is to have it ready for publication in early 2015.

Website: <http://sandibischoff.webs.com>

Blog ~ <http://sbischoff.wordpress.com>



A.R. Bodon

A.R. Bodon is 37 years old who originally hails from Brooklyn, New York but now resides in Port Jervis with his cat Gozer.

He started writing when he was 11 years old with short story assignments for his English class and has several unpublished short stories.

"Nephilim: The Last Son of God" is his first novella and he is currently working on the sequel, "Rise of the Overlords."



Dawn Bonney

Dawn Bonney was born February 6th, 1990 in Valhalla, New York, to Richard and Dee Langone Bonney, and was raised in Middletown, New York. She is the author of *Crimson*, the first installment in *The Town Of Crimson* series, which she hopes to adapt into films to bring her characters to life. Being an actress, she would love the chance for a cameo appearance.

She is also a professional photographer, artist, and graphic designer. Her father encouraged her to always try new things, and supported her artistic skills. He passed away when she was 17. Her grandmother took her on adventures through story-telling and always praised her. She passed away shortly after Dawn's 21st birthday. It was at this point that writing became her therapy.

She studied film and radio, graphic design, photography, drawing and painting in Ellenville High School, which she graduated from in 2008. She takes pride in her work and enjoys educating herself. When she's not working on her second novel in the series, modeling, or doing a photo shoot or art project, she's studying German, French, and Italian. She wants to be involved in as many projects in her life as possible.

See also:

<http://etherealspectrum.wix.com/heartofcrimson>

<https://www.createspace.com/4878604>



Claire Gem

Claire Gem writes intensely emotional romantic novels. Her vision is to transport her readers into another place and time, creating characters so real, readers miss them when the book is closed.

Always fascinated by the paranormal, she holds a Certificate in Paranormal Studies from Duke University's Rhine's Research Center. When she ran out of paranormal romance novels to read, she decided to start writing her own.

Throughout her life, Claire has experienced "moments" - unexplained flashes of premonition, or what she believes were genuine contacts with people who had crossed over. Not always a family member, sometimes these conversations occurred with people she had never met, but simply admired.

Can we make telepathic connections with the ghosts of those who've left our realm? Claire Gem believes so. So she loves writing paranormal romance with ghosts.

Whether they are trapped entities, spirits that have truly crossed over with a mission still pending in this life, or residual energies, ghosts infuse Claire's life with the tantalizing scent of mystery - thus many of her romance novels also qualify as romantic suspense.

Claire also writes contemporary romance and women's fiction under the Claire Gem Contemporary line. If you are looking for an intensely romantic novel, with or without ghosts or paranormal elements, you'll love Claire Gem.

You can find out more about her and her work at www.clairegem.com



Catherine Ciocchi

I am the author of the picture book "This Land is Your Land" (Arbordale Publishing; 2015) I've also sold my works to Highlights magazine and various e-magazines. I am a member of the SCBWI and conference organizer for The Children's Writers of the Hudson Valley. I teach high school Earth Science in Wappingers Central School District, Dutchess County, New York. I have a bachelor's degree in Geology and a master's degree in Science-with a curriculum/education focus. You can visit my website at www.catherineciocchi.com. I live in Hopewell Junction, New York with my husband and three sons.



Jennifer Circosta

Jennifer Circosta is a truth seeker and artistic expressionist! She is a poet at heart and author of life! Ms. Circosta has degrees in psychology, theater arts, and is the published author of two books. Her most recent book, *Be Beautiful*, a book of dialogue and poetry was released worldwide, (2015) by Panther Productions and her children's book, *The Many Tails of Luck-shmee*, a delightful tale of tails written about her cat, Lakshmi, (2011) by Tate Publishing Enterprises. Most recently, Jennifer's poem, "When I Called Her Name," (2016) was accepted for publication in the riveting online journal, Pyrokination, "Where words come to burn" and the Hudson Valley Transmitter has published two of her poems, "Let Me View Life, the Way the Heart Feels," (2016) and "Betwixt the Stars," (2015). Also, Jennifer was chosen as a semi-finalist in the World Poetry Movement's International Competition and won the Editor's Choice Award from the International Library of Poetry for her period poem, "The Maiden" (2012). Jennifer has read and performed her written works throughout NYC and the Hudson Valley for nearly 20 years and is available for school events. She was the main guest speaker at Mount Saint Mary College sharing a variety of her written works for the author event, "The Beauty of Words... A Writer's Journey," (2011) and will return to The Mount, (2016) for a performance read and discussion of her new book, "Be Beautiful" (2016). Jennifer resides in Campbell Hall, NY. She is a yoga/meditation instructor and the creator/facilitator of The Healing Project™ a community based support and learning initiative that focuses on, self-discovery and healing.

To view more of Jennifer's work, please go to:

www.jennifersmusing.com



Terri DelNegro

Terri DelNegro has been imagining and creating since she was a little kid in growing up in Middletown. Since then, she has tried her hand in multiple media - working her way up from crayons and finger paints to oils and acrylics. Her current, less messy passions are photography and computer graphics. She loves blending fantasy and reality to create captivating pictures to delight viewers of all ages. "A Friend for Macaroni" is her first children's book.



Jason Gehlert

For more than a decade local author Jason Gehlert has haunted us with his chilling works. Now he delivers a unique blend of horror and science fiction that celebrates his characters and their lives. When infamous, immortal hit man, Jeremiah Black enacts revenge on Malcolm Ellis, the story takes a different spin. After believing Malcolm is dead, Jeremiah begins to make plans to take over Malcolm's world. Malcolm survives and his true identity is revealed. He seeks refuge on a lake surrounding himself with familiar friends. Can Malcolm reclaim his world from Jeremiah as the epic battle between good vs evil commences? Or will Jeremiah and his own regime force Malcolm to extinction?



Adria Goldman Gross

Medwise Insurance Advocacy, CEO, Adria Goldman Gross is a renowned figure in the New York area and across the country as a result of her extensive referral network of well satisfied clients. Her clients are thrilled to refer friends and relatives in need of her unique talent as a Medical Claim Advocate, dealing with complex medical billing put forth by the interface of the health care delivery system and insurance market place.

With her background in the insurance industry, Adria brings to her work a depth of knowledge that few others have. She started her own business in 2007, and, in spite of her own health issues, has grown that business and helped many clients who have been overwhelmed by their health care issues. She is considered to be someone who has great strength of character and who brings empathy and concern to her clients' needs. She does not give up and truly goes the extra mile for her clients. Her colleagues and attest to her integrity and support she provides to them when they call upon her for help.

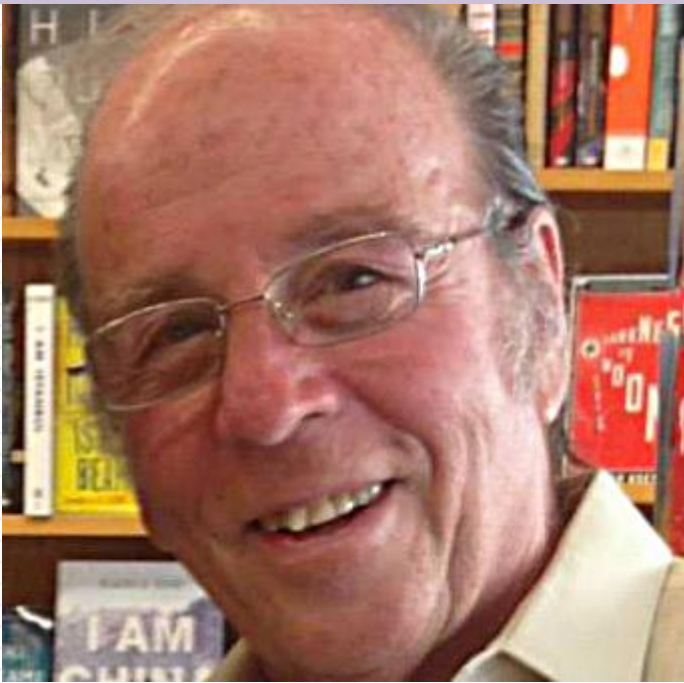


Tom Ingrassia

Tom Ingrassia, president of The MotivAct Group (www.motivactgroup.com), is a motivational speaker, author, success coach and radio personality. In 2001—following a successful 25-year career in higher education—Tom re-invented himself as an entertainment manager, with the formation of Ingrassia Productions & Artist Management (www.ingrassiaproductions.com). Along the way, he has worked with some of the legendary singers from the 1960s, including Mary Wilson (The Supremes)—for whom he served as executive assistant from 2001-05; Arlene Smith (The Chantels); June Monteiro (The Toys); Barbara Alston (The Crystals); Carl Gardner (The Coasters); and actress Dee Wallace Stone. In 2006, Tom formed The MotivAct Group, offering holistic personal and professional development workshops, seminars and individual coaching for success. An in-demand speaker, Tom travels the country with his motivational programs, “Mental Massage®” and “Making A Difference Begins with YOU...So Live Into Your Dreams!,” and pop culture lectures, “Motown and the Civil Rights Movement” and “Girl Power: The Supremes as Cultural Icons.”

Tom’s award-winning book, *One Door Closes: Overcoming Adversity By Following Your Dreams* (Wyatt-Mackenzie Publishing) was published in October 2013, and is currently being made into a documentary film. His second book—*Reflections Of A Love Supreme: Motown Through The Eyes Of Fans* was published in 2015. His third book—*The Passion of Teaching: How Professors Inspire Their Students*—will be published in 2017. Every Tuesday morning, you can hear Tom on WCUW 91.3FM in Worcester, where he hosts “The Motown Jukebox,” spinning the very best of the Motown Sound and the stories behind the music. Once a month, Tom also co-hosts “January Jones Sharing Success Stories,” which airs on iHeart Talk Radio. Tom was named Best Radio Personality in the 2014 and 2015 Landmark Readers’ Choice Awards. Originally from Middletown, Tom now resides in Massachusetts.

Tom’s motto is, “Learn from the turtle. It only makes progress when it sticks its neck out.” (www.motivactgroup.com; www.ingrassiaproductions.com)



Charles S. Isaacs

CHARLES S. ISAACS has been a schoolteacher, college professor, social activist, community organizer, financial analyst, real estate consultant, gambler, Congressional aide, storyteller and occasional journalist. His undergraduate studies were in Mathematics (LIU-Brooklyn), after which he attended the University of Chicago Law School, living on the city's South Side, when and where his story is set. His later graduate work was in the Social Sciences, earning an M.A. (New School for Social Research) and a Ph.D. (The Union Institute & University). During his late 60s, he wrote a couple of books about the late 1960s. This is one of them. The other is the award-winning *Inside Ocean Hill-Brownsville: A Teacher's Education, 1968-69*. He currently resides in Newburgh, New York.



William E. Lemanski

Following early retirement from an engineering career, William E. Lemanski worked as a freelance journalist and news reporter for the Straus Newspaper company in the Hudson Valley and has published in *Practice Medicine*, *Safari Club* magazine and *Architectural and Engineering Systems* magazine. He also has published three books via the Sunbury Press: *Lost in the Shadow of Fame*, the *Neglected Story of Kermit Roosevelt*; a *Gallant and Tragic American*, which is a biography of TR's second son, *Adventures in Distant and Remote Places*, a memoir of some of Lemanski's many travels and *Murder in Tuxedo Park*, a Victorian thriller. He's held many speaking engagements regarding the Roosevelt biography, including speaking at the FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park. Lemanski also gives lectures at Mt. Saint Mary College on the Roosevelt family.

Lemanski is retired from an engineering career in the nuclear power industry: The New York Power Authority and Entergy Nuclear. He served two tours of duty in the Vietnam War with the U.S. Army, has been a two-term councilman and police commissioner in the Town of Tuxedo, N.Y. and is currently a volunteer, part-time consulting engineer at the Museum Village in Monroe where he also is on the museum's board of trustees, as well as serving on the board of the Tuxedo Historical Society.



Elaine Freed Lindenblatt

Elaine Freed Lindenblatt was born into restaurant royalty as the youngest child of the legendary Red Apple Rest's founder, Reuben Freed. For Elaine, the Red Apple was the "family room" across the road—one she shared with over a million customers a year. Located midway between New York City and the Catskill mountains, the restaurant served the high and the humble with equal care. From her snug vantage point, Elaine dispels the myths and gives us the inside story of this iconic business in *Stop at the Red Apple*.

Fifty-plus years unfold in a series of lively vignettes, enhanced with photos, memorabilia, and even a closely guarded recipe, as Elaine re-creates what it was like to grow up in the fishbowl of a 24-7 family business. Along the way we hit a few sometimes-irreverent detours that supply bumps—as does Route 17 itself—on the Red Apple's journey.

With a B.A. from Syracuse University and an M.A. from Columbia, Elaine's early teaching career segued into editorial work, including in-house production editor for a psychotherapy book publisher, freelance editor and proofreader, and ongoing editor of a synagogue bulletin. She has written in many genres including fiction, poetry, and greeting cards. Her next project is a collected volume of her journalistic articles and essays, over sixty of which have appeared in *The Times Herald-Record* (Middletown, NY), *The Rockland Journal-News* (Gannett), and *The Rockland Jewish Reporter* (West Nyack, NY).

Elaine has always been a storyteller—but with the sensibilities of a daughter and the craft of a seasoned writer, *Stop at the Red Apple* is the story she had to tell. At its mention, the excitement has been palpable and vibrant. Elaine has been deluged with inquiries about the restaurant as well as letters and e-mails from people coast to coast sharing their cherished memories of the place and overjoyed at the prospect of revisiting in print their own histories. At a level deeper than words she knows what she is writing about, and she conveys it with honesty and with emotion. *Stop at the Red Apple* is a compelling tale, and Elaine tells it as no one else can.

For more: www.stopattheredapple.com



Tracey Lyons

An Amazon Top Ten bestselling historical romance author of the Women of Surprise series, Tracey sold her first book on 9/9/99! Tracey's books have been translated into several languages. Tracey has lived in New York's Hudson Valley region for most of her life. She and her husband now reside in the lovely village of Warwick, NY. She has appeared on the award winning Cox Cable Television show, Page One, and been interviewed on the local radio station WTbQ. She holds membership in Romance Writers of America, American Fiction Christian Writers and Novelists Inc. Her upcoming release, *A Changed Agent* (Waterfall Press), an inspirational historical romance will debut in July 2016.

You can learn more about Tracey and her books by visiting her website at www.traceylyons.com



Liz Matis

Liz Matis is a mild-mannered accountant by day and writer of fun, flirty, fiery romances by night.

Playing For Keeps, from her popular Fantasy Football Romance series, hit the #12 spot on the Barnes and Noble Nook Bestseller List and #26 on Amazon's Kindle Bestseller list. She has appeared on Amazon's Movers and Shakers list. *Playing For Keeps* (winner of the NECRWA First Kiss Contest), *Going For It*, and *The Quarterback Sneak* all hit the #1 spot in Sports Fiction on Amazon.

In her spare time she enjoys reading, watching sports, and attending kickboxing classes. She's been married for 31 years and believes in happily ever after.

Fun Fact: Liz read her first romance at the age of fifteen and soon after wrote her first romances starring her friends and their latest crush!



Bette Lee Meci

All my life I had been writing down thoughts, experiences, and ideas on just about everything. Little did I know that one day it would culminate into a book. I grew up on a farm in Warwick, New York. When I was nineteen I left home to go to college in Indianapolis, Indiana where I would meet my husband Peter. Our struggles and paths would be an interesting journey. The path I would follow encouraged me to make many life changing choices, during those years. I would struggle, cry, experience joyful times, experience low self-esteem, and pick myself up and find out what my life was all about. Would you have made the same choices? Would you send your 6 year-old to India?

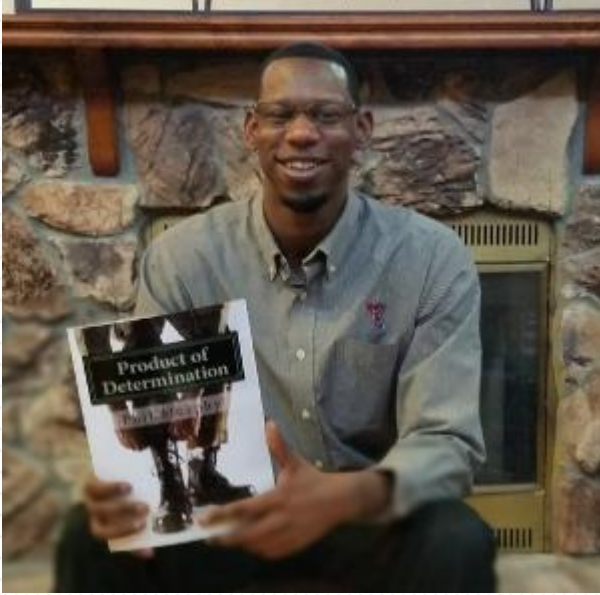


Lisa Melville

Lisa Melville has been an environmental planner for 20 years and has written many technical reports in this field. Currently, she is working for the New York State Department of State as their NYC Watershed Programs Coordinator.

She is also a local historian and completed her Master's degree in Public History from the State University of New York at Albany in December 2005.

A lifelong resident of New York State, she grew up in Montgomery and spent several years in Syracuse, Ithaca and Albany, New York. She is currently living in Montgomery with her husband and daughter.



Phil Murphy

Phil Murphy, is the Owner of D.I.P Promotions LLC, a company focused on maximizing a persons' potential in academics, athletics, and entertainment. He is an author, recently publishing a book titled " Product of Determination - The College Years". This book is about how he recovered from a near fatal AK-47 gunshot wound, crippling a promising basketball career, but not letting adversity interfere with him graduating from Texas Tech University. Part of his work includes public speaking at various institutions ranging in topics from overcoming adversity, the importance of an education, and never giving up. Phil Murphy's inspirational skill set allows him to venture in many areas, he has thrown concerts, written music, act, produce film and manage acts. Keep up with his work on Dippedinpurple7.tumblr.com and if you are interested in purchasing his new book, the ebook and print version are available at www.Amazon.com.



Barbara Reina

Barbara started her writing career in 1984 as a news intern at WDST 100.1 FM. She then worked as a newscaster/ reporter for OK-100/WKRT, Cortland, while completing her Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Radio/Television Communications with a minor in Journalism at SUNY Cortland. Upon graduation, she was hired as News Director at WZOZ FM, Oneonta. She was also a newscaster/reporter for WKOJ FM, Middletown and a print reporter for The Wallkill Valley Times, The Daily Freeman and the Columbia-Greene Media Group as a reporter for Register-Star. She is currently the owner/operator of Barbara Reina Freelance Writing/Video Services, producing short documentaries, educational and promotional videos, infomercials and commercials for the web and respected social media sites.

You can also find her on Facebook, LinkedIn and www.BarbaraReina.com.



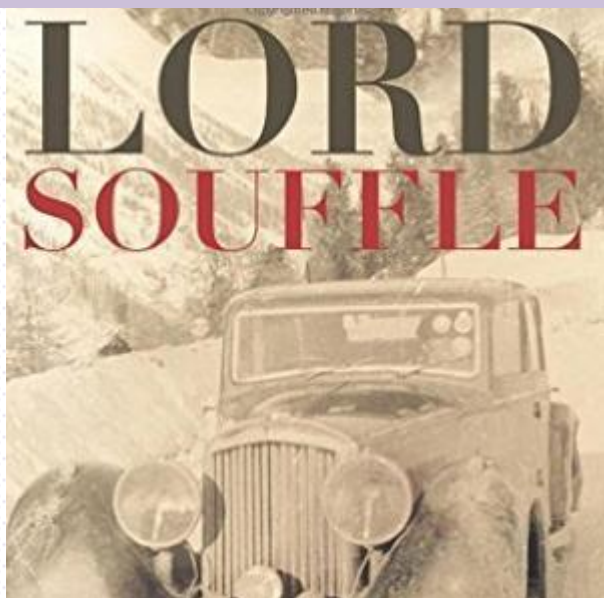
Marianne Sciucco

I'm not a nurse who writes but a writer who happens to be a nurse. A lover of words and books, I dreamed of becoming an author when I grew up but became a nurse to avoid poverty. I later brought my two passions together and write about the intricate lives of people struggling with health and family issues. I grew up near Boston and earned my Bachelor's degree in English at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. I spend a lot of time on Cape Cod. I also survived nursing school and when not writing work as a campus nurse at a community college in New York's Hudson Valley, where I live with my patient and reliable husband and beautiful, brainy daughter. We are ruled by Mr. Chance, a cat we rescued who thinks he rescued us. I'm currently working on a YA novel, "Swim Season," about the new girl on the team who challenges a longstanding school record, to be released in 2016. A dedicated Swim Mom for ten years, you can find me during swim season at one of many Skyline Conference swim meets cheering for my daughter and her team. 25:00! Website: <http://mariannesciucco.blogspot.com>



M. L. Stainer

M. L. Stainer lives in the Scotchtown area of Middletown with her husband, Frank, and a menagerie of beloved dogs and cats. She has two grown daughters and three granddaughters. Born in London, she holds degrees from Queens College, New Paltz and Fordham University. A retired high school English teacher from the Pine Bush School District, she has many young adult novels to her credit. Her young historical fiction series, The Lyon Saga, about the Lost Colony of Roanoke Island, North Carolina, circa 1587, has received many great reviews, including one from School Library Journal. Her latest novel, Joachim's Magic, just received a glowing STARRED review from Kirkus Reviews. Joachim Gans was Elizabeth I's premier metallurgist and went on the earlier 1585 expedition to the New World to search for silver, gold and, especially, copper, for the Queen's Navy. War with Spain was looming on the horizon. Told from the point of view of his young apprentice, the author takes the known facts about Joachim and weaves them into a tale of disappointment, danger and death in the Virginia wilderness. She uses the pseudonym, M. L. Stainer, to honor her father.



Vaughan Wiles

Vaughan Wiles was born in Southern Rhodesia and raised in South Africa. For most of his career he worked as an economist and international marketing specialist based in Johannesburg, London and New York. He travels extensively, and has a deep affection for all four of the countries that he has called home.

He wrote *Lord Soufflé*, his first novel, to entertain readers by sharing with them his own enjoyment of eccentric people and comical situations; his appreciation of an independent viewpoint; his love of decency, and broad-mindedness; and his curiosity about personal motives and character. He enjoys taking a light-hearted prod at the politically correct and at brainless orthodoxy. Without being salacious, he aims to deal with sexual encounters openly, explicitly, and humorously.

Wiles enjoys the company of thoughtful and amusing people with strong opinions. He loves motorcycles and fine cars. He is a private pilot, and enjoys working on his small airplane and farm machinery on his horse farm in the Warwick, New York. He is married, and is blessed with three children and five grandchildren. Shutting his office door and losing himself in his writing is his most treasured--and selfish--pleasure. He is currently working on his second novel in the *Leatherby* series.



Michael J. Worden

Michael J. Worden is a police detective and author, which gives him a unique perspective as an investigator of the paranormal, and of true, historical crimes. Michael has a background in the sciences, having studied and worked in the field of exercise physiology and sports medicine for over ten years before pursuing a life-long dream of being a police officer. He has been a police officer since 1999, and has held the rank of detective since 2006.

Michael has a lifelong fascination with ghosts and hauntings – a fascination fueled by his own experiences in his grandparent’s very haunted house. According to Michael, his passion was also driven by books written on the subject, including those by Hans Holzer and a local author Dan Cohen. He began working with author and paranormal researcher Linda Zimmermann in 2001. In the fall of 2009, Michael published his first book, *Ghost Detective*, about his experiences as a paranormal investigator. *Ghost Detective* is a fascinating look at ghost hunting through the eyes of an experienced ghost hunter and police detective.

(continued)

Michael J. Worden (continued)

In the fall of 2009, Michael began work on a new project which he titled Crime Scene. This is a series of books about true, historical crimes – many of which are from the Hudson Valley and Orange County. He has spent the past five years delving into numerous cases and has investigated countless hours into tracking down sources and details. He launched the series with *The Murder of Richard Jennings: The TRUE Story of New York's First Murder for Hire* on October 19, 2013. Additional books are being researched and written.

Worden is married to his wife Renee, and is the father of twin sons Ryan and Michael. When he is not hunting for ghosts or investigating crimes – either current or past ones – he enjoys travelling, his sauna, learning special f/x makeup, and spending time with the family, and listening to music, especially Joy Division, his favorite band (and obsession, according to his family!). His most recent travels in 2013 were a family trip to northern Europe and the Baltics, visiting Sweden, Finland (his favorite- he's been there seven times!), Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Website: www.michaeljworden.com

***These and other authors will
appear at our event!***

We look forward to seeing you!