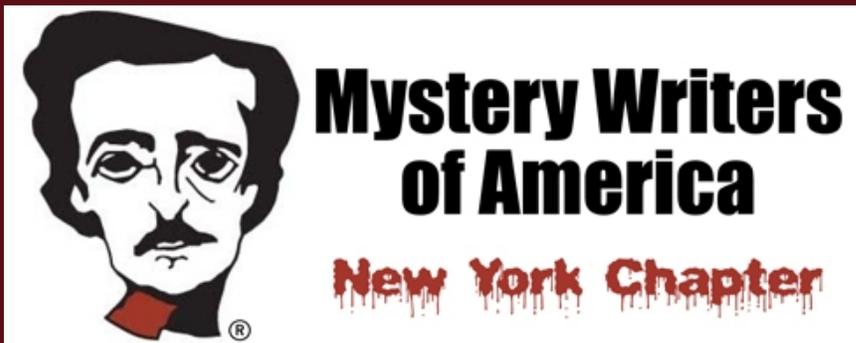


THE NOOSE

Nov/Dec
Noose 2012



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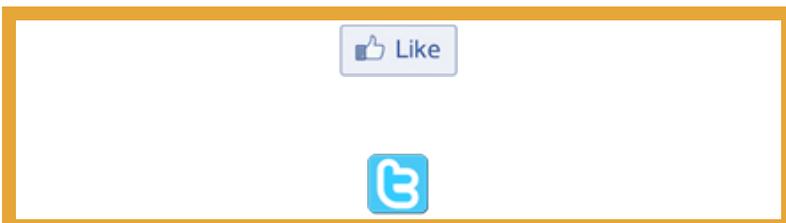
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President's Letter

Dear Fellow MWA/NY Chapter Members,

Lots of good news to report this issue:

We have found a new home for our monthly meetings: it is **Salmagundi Club** where the food is lovely, the atmosphere truly artistic, and the prices even a bit better than we have been used to. AND this location comes with a new member benefit—dining privileges at the club. All you have to do is make a reservation and say you are a member of MWA New York. Read all about the club at www.salmagundi.org. Email me if you have any questions about this.

We are also very happy to announce that, at our Winter Revels on December 5th will also be held at Salmagundi. In addition to the many editors and agents and other publishing lights, we will have Otto Penzler as our Honorary Santa. Please plan on celebrating the holidays with Otto and our community of writers.

The night of the Revels, we will also become Santas ourselves. Please bring the gift of a book—any book—for the Navaho Nation's libraries. Through the great good offices of the Literacy Committee of MWA, we are paired again this year with the Navaho Nation to help them fill their bookshelves. To participate, donate only books in good condition—no outdated ones, ARCs, or mildewed oldies from the attic. Bring the books to the party. If you cannot come and want to donate, email me and let me know what you have to give. We will make a plan on how to get your books to where they need to be.

As the year winds down, we are also going to have our chapter elections. You will be hearing more about that in the coming weeks. In the meantime, keep abreast of all our doings. Check out the website: www.mwa-ny.org, "like" us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#).

We are MWA/NY. We help one another succeed. And that means you!

Patricia King
President, MWA-NY

You can write to me at: annamaria@annamariaalfieri.com.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Hi all,

As we face into the end of the year, there are many things happening in the MWA-NY chapter. You will find these listed throughout this newsletter, I hope you will be able to take advantage of at least some of the events, activities, and services on offer.

As well as participating in chapter events, consider sending in your information for "Meet the Member." You do not have to be a published member to share. Keep the *Noose* in mind when you have good news. Eleanor Kuhns certainly had good news to share with "What's Noose" as the winner of 2011 Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Competition.

In this issue, I ask her how she won and what advice she has for those who are thinking of entering this year's contest. **I hope to hear from you at: mhannanmandel@yahoo.com.**

Marie Hannan-Mandel
Editor

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All A-Twitter

Members of MWA are encouraged to contact us for promotion on our new [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) feeds! We are interested in hearing about the following:

- events and signings including library panels, bookstore talks, and radio, web, or TV interviews
- fresh book deals from MWA-approved publishing houses
- book or short story launch dates
- awards and nominations

Please do not include reviews of your material. These can range from comments on a *Goodreads* page to *Library Journal* suggestions, and their wide range sadly prevents us from being able to sort through such recommendations. If your book has been selected for a best-of-the-year list, however, by all means let us know!

Contact either hcdavidson@yahoo.com or lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com with all relevant information, including links.

And don't forget to join the MWA-NY group on Yahoo. To join, go to Groups on the Yahoo email page and request membership in the [MWA-NY group](http://groups.yahoo.com/) (<http://groups.yahoo.com/>).

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IMPORTANT DATES



NOTE NEW LOCATION for chapter meetings:

Salmagundi Club

47 Fifth Avenue

212-255-7740

\$42 per person

6 p.m. Cash Bar (One drink included)

7 p.m. Dinner | 8 p.m. Program

NOV 7 — Chapter meeting:

Ripped from the Headlines. Salmagundi Club.

DEC 5 — Winter Revels. Salmagundi Club

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WHAT'S NOOSE?



Contest Winner

Jonathan Stone, *Again.*, Winner, Killer Nashville Claymore Award for Best Unpublished Crime Novel

Short Stories

Erik Arneson, "12 Before 9." *Shotgun Honey*, May 2012.

Erik Arneson, "Fortune." *Shotgun Honey*, July 2012.

William Chambers, "Brenda's Daughter." *Hardboiled #45*, July 2012 Gryphon Books.

William Chambers, "Rationalist Femme: Punitive Justice." *Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine*, publication date T.B.A.

Terrie Farley Moran, "Jake Says Hello." *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, December 2012

Send items (publications, nominations, and awards) for "What's Noose?" to the Noose Editor at mhannanmandel@yahoo.com. Please use the format you see in the entries above. *Italicize* book and magazine titles and put "quotes" around the titles of short stories and articles.

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ASK THE LAWYER

Dear Bob,

I shared a story on an online critique group, and then I saw it published under someone else's name. It had the same title and the same number of characters, though the names were changed. Is there anything I can do about this?

Dear Reader,

If the story you saw was identical to your own, other than the names of the characters, then you can sue for copyright infringement. First you need to register the story with the US Copyright Office, which you can do by filling out a simple form online (www.copyright.gov), paying \$35, and sending two copies of your story to the Copyright Office in Washington, DC.

If you saw the infringing story online, you can also send a Digital Millennium Copyright Act "takedown notice" to the ISP of the offending website.

Before you do either of those things, you should think about how you will be able to prove that you were the actual author of the original version of the story. If you are unable to establish your authorship, you may find yourself on the wrong end of a lawsuit.

Have you previously sold stories to mainstream publications, so as to establish a dollar value for your stories? That would be useful to determine the damages to which you would be entitled if you win your suit against the infringer. Alternatively, you could claim whatever amount the infringing publication paid the phony author who submitted your story. Finally, if (and only if) you had already registered the copyright in the story before it was ripped off, you would be entitled to both statutory damages (without having to prove the actual economic loss) and reimbursement of your attorney fees.

In the future, you might want to register your copyrights before sharing your stories online!

**Best,
Bob Stein**

Bob Stein counsels and represents people at all levels of the entertainment industry from writers to film producers. He has represented David Baldacci and Janet Evanovich and spent 13 years in-house at Random House, Simon and Schuster and Warner Books before entering

private practice.

Advice given in this column is general, and is not based upon a thorough review of facts and considerations in any given instance. You should consult an attorney in depth if you need legal advice.

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MEET THE MEMBER

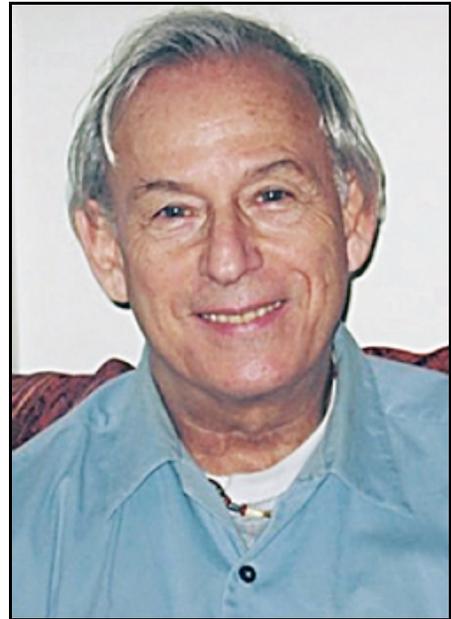
CHARLES SALZBERG

I've published one detective novel, featuring Henry Swann (*Swann's Last Song*, which was nominated for a Shamus Award for Best First PI Novel) and now the sequel, *Swann Dives In*, will be published in October. I was a freelance journalist for 20 years, having had work appear in *Esquire*, *New York* magazine, *Redbook*, *Good Housekeeping*, *The New York Times*, and *GQ*. I also teach writing in New York City, at the Writer's Voice and the New York Writers Workshop, where I am a Founding member.

Charlessalzberg.com, Henryswann.com

Send contributions to Meet the Member
tomhannanmandel@yahoo.com

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ASK THE WRITER

Meet Eleanor Kuhns

By Marie Hannan-Mandel



Winner of the 2011 Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Competition. She kindly agreed to answer questions about her experience in entering and winning this competition.

MH-M: Can you give me a two-five sentence blurb about you and your book, *A Simple Murder*?

EK: I am a career librarian who lived in Maine while researching the book. Sabbathday Lake is the last Shaker settlement with living Shakers. Since I wanted to write about the early history of the US, I set the novel in 1795, when the Shakers were still new. I made my main character a traveler so it made sense that

he would experience different places.

MH-M: Is this your first novel? Had you written novels before this one?

EK: I actually wrote a novel that takes place before this one, same main character and time period, but didn't send it in because I didn't like the ending.

MH-M: What prompted you to enter the Minotaur/MWA First Crime Novel Contest?

EK: It is so very hard to publish without an agent; so many publishers won't even look at your work, and I hadn't had any luck with finding an agent. So entering a contest seemed like a good Plan B.

MH-M: How long before the deadline did you submit your novel?

EK: Since I already had the novel finished, I submitted it in August for a November deadline. I certainly didn't wait until the last minute.

MH-M: What happened once you submitted it?

EK: I waited for seven months with no word. When Kelley Ragland called me to tell me I'd won, I couldn't believe it.

MH-M: What feedback did you receive about your novel -- why did it win?

EK: The setting was unusual and the publishers liked the fact that I jumped right into the story with very little exposition.

MH-M: How different is the published novel from the one you submitted for the contest?

EK: I had to go back and fill in the back story but otherwise the finished novel is almost exactly the one I submitted. And the title was changed.

MH-M: Would you recommend entering contests as a means of getting published?

EK: I think it's a good idea. (Of course I would now, wouldn't I?) I actually got my work read by a publisher. How often does that happen in these days of few slush piles?

MH-M: What surprised you about the process of being published?

EK: How many pieces went into the actual work. The choice of a new title took several weeks, then the cover, and there are copy edits (which really examine every word, every piece of punctuation and so on). The actual manuscript is the seed at the center of an enormous fruit with many layers. All of that work is transparent to a reader.

MH-M: Any other advice for would-be authors?

EK: Never give up. I know so many people who are far better writers than I am but didn't have the determination to keep going. A writer really has to be committed to the craft. There are so many

distractions and demands on one's time.

Marie Hannan-Mandel is the editor of the *Noose*. An assistant professor at Corning Community College, Marie is also editor of *Research and Teaching in Developmental Education*.

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