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THE NOOSE

**May/Jun
Noose 2013**



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President's Letter

Dear Members,

Hurricane Sandy, which hit six months ago as I type this, destroyed lives, homes, businesses, and also books. This last devastation is where we can all help. We can replace some of what was lost using a very special organization called A Very Special Place. They can use any and all of your new or gently used fiction or nonfiction books. You can find all the details on how to donate elsewhere in the newsletter. PLEASE take this opportunity to make a difference and do it with books!

After our June meeting, we will be on hiatus for July and August – but not completely. We have readings scheduled in some of the nicer New York watering holes during the summer. Come sip a cool drink and listen to our writers read some even cooler crime fiction. Dates are posted in our events calendar. If you "like" us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter, you will always be in the loop.

I hope to see you June 5th. I wish it could be ALL of you. Have a great summer and KEEP WRITING!

Patricia King
President, MWA-NY

You can always reach me at: annamaria@annamariaalfieri.com.

Book Drive info:

MWA-NY Book Drive to Benefit A Very Special Place on Staten Island

Give new life to your new and gently used fiction & nonfiction books! (Please: No textbooks, old travel guides, or books in poor condition.)

A Very Special Place provides a comprehensive network of programs and services for people with developmental disabilities and their families on Staten Island. The organization administers day programs for seniors, as well as the Book Free-Cycle service, which collects, repairs, and distributes recycled/used books to the public. After AVSP clients read donated books, the books may be sent to the Book Free-Cycle service for further benefit to program members and the community.

AVSP was hard hit by Hurricane Sandy, with three of their program sites sitting directly in the path of the storm surge.

Mail books to:

**A Very Special Place, Inc.
Development Department
49 Cedar Grove Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10306**

Remember to ask for the media/book rate at the post office.

If you would like a donation receipt, please include a note with your name and address.

To learn more about A Very Special Place visit www.avspny.org or find them on [Facebook](#).

Questions about the book drive? Contact Suzanne Solomon, s.a.solomon@earthlink.net

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends,

As activities finish for the biggest event in the MWA year, The Edgars, I am reminded what a talented, vibrant, supportive, and warm group we are. It is a privilege to serve this organization and you, our readers.

I look forward to hearing from you at: mhannanmandel@yahoo.com.

Marie Hannan-Mandel
Editor

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IMPORTANT DATES

- MAY 15 —** Love on the Run: Mysteries with Romance.
Moderator: Peggy Ehrhart. Maggie Barbieri, David Handler, Sheila York. Mid-Manhattan branch of New York Public Library, 6th Fl. 6:30 p.m. Free.
- JUN 11 —** MWA/NY Writers Reading at the [KGB Bar](#):
Readers: Jillian Abbott, Alison Gaylin, Nancy Hughes, Ken Posthauer, Cornelia Read, S.A. Solomon, Ralph Westerhoff, Liz Zelin.
[KGB Bar](#), 85 East 4th Street, New York, NY. (212) 505-3360. 7:00 p.m. Free

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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.

Also, do remember 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/>).

Wanted: Writers to Read their Work

Do you have a published work, short story, or work in progress that's dying for an audience? The MWA-NY chapter is launching a reading series in New York City for active, affiliate, and associate members. If you're interested, we'd love to hear from you. Readings are a good way to promote your writing or simply to see what kind of reaction it provokes.

A second reading is scheduled for July 29.

If you would like to participate in an upcoming reading, choose a short (8-minutes long) section of your published or not-yet-published novel, short story, or WIP and contact the events committee ASAP to sign up: email Richie Narvaez, chairman of the Events Committee at richienarvaez@gmail.com.

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ASK THE LAWYER



Dear Bob,

I am querying agents about my first mystery. Can I also enter it in competitions, or will that cause problems? It seems to me that I have to try every means of getting published, but could that cause a problem down the line?

Dear Reader,

I have limited experience with competitions, but I assume that most if not all competitions arrange for publication of the winning entries.

If that is true, then participating in a competition would indeed cause problems for your agent. Publishers want exclusive rights to publish your book, and if your participation in a competition means you cannot give the publisher exclusive rights, the publisher will not purchase your book, and your agent will be very, very unhappy with you.

I'd hold off from the competition while your book is under consideration by the agent.

**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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ROBIN HATHAWAY REMEMBERED

I am the registrar for the New York Chapter of MWA. So I have the pleasure or displeasure, depending on the member, of being front and center to receive reservations and greet members as they arrive at our meetings. Most often it is a pleasure, but every once in a while...



Before becoming the registrar, at my first meeting, I was a new member not knowing a single soul or what to expect sitting among people with murder on their minds! Robin Hathaway was one of the first who noticed this new face and made me feel welcome. Her wit and friendly personality put me immediately at ease. She went on to introduce me to several members that night and encouraged me to join Sisters-in-Crime.

That was back in 2007. In the short time since that night I have blossomed if not yet as a mystery writer, at least as an active member. One of the highlights of any meeting was seeing Robin Hathaway and sharing a few words with her. February 2012 was the last meeting she attended. As each month passed I hoped that she would come to another. Unfortunately that was not to be.

Ann-Marie DiGennaro

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WHAT'S NOOSE?

Short Stories

Erik Arneson, "Just One Moment," *Beat to a Pulp*, February 2013.

Erik Arneson, "For the Honesty," *The Flash Fiction Offensive*, January 2013.

Erik Arneson, "Blow Out the Candles," *Shotgun Honey*, December 2012.

Erik Arneson, "Sole Operator," *The Flash Fiction Offensive*, November 2012.

Mary Anne Kelly, "Angelina," *The Mystery Box*, Edited by Brad Meltzer. Grand Central Publishing. 2013.

Shelly Reuben, "You Again," *The Forensic Examiner*, Winter/Spring 2013.

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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MWA-NY LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Library programs are a great way to generate word of mouth about your books and mysteries in general. Most of the attendees are hard-core readers and everyone usually has a good time. There are several ways to participate. Most of them require just what we all like to do anyway: hang around with other writers and talk mysteries. Sounds like fun, doesn't it?

- MWA/NY will continue to present a monthly mystery program at the Mid-Manhattan Branch of NYPL. Contact one of us if you'd like to **appear on a panel**, or moderate one, in the fall. We will start planning soon for Sept-Dec. Contact one of us if you have **an idea for a topic**. We'd love to have your inspirations.
- Are you interested in a mystery **programs in a convenient local suburb**? We are a far-flung chapter. We'd like to start a list of members who would especially like to be in a program in one of the suburban locations. Two members have already volunteered to look into doing more programs in **New Jersey and Long Island**.
- Suburban librarians who would like to present a mystery program occasionally contact us. The next one is **April 10 in Eastchester**, and we are looking into one for **Tappan, NY (Rockland/NJ border) in October**. The librarians assure us these are big deals locally and you would have enthusiastic audiences and a chance to sell books.
- **Join the library committee**. More hands/brains/voices would be very welcome.

Come to some of the programs and meet new writer friends, talk to old writer friends, maybe learn something and support both MWA and NYPL. If you have thoughts on how to a better job getting the word out, love to hear from you.

Triss Stein trissstein@nyc.rr.com

Mimi Weisbond mimiweisbond@yahoo.com

Co-chairs, MWA/NY Library Committee

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