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# ***THE NOOSE***

Sept/Oct  
Noose 2013



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**President's Letter**

Dear Members,

Over the past few months we have instituted a new series of readings, each of which includes four published and four emerging writers. Thanks to our board member, Richie Narvaez, these events have been a huge success. Our published writers were great, of course. But, I am so happy that we now have this opportunity to showcase our yet-to-be published members. I have had the privilege of MC-ing both events so far. I was not only struck by the wonderful quality of the excerpts read by the emerging writers, I imagine that the audience members would not have been able to tell the difference between who was published and who wasn't. Many thanks to Richie for his work instituting this new member benefit.

Our stalwart Library Committee Chair Triss Stein and her volunteers continue to arrange gigs for our writers at libraries. Every year, these events give a score or more of our published members the opportunity to make their work known to new readers. AND our Mentor Committee, led by Deb Pines is in the process of launching this year's mentorship effort with a call for writers who seek to hone their skills and published authors who will give the hand to help those coming along. Both groups benefit a great deal from working together.

Our webmaster Cathy Cairns and I are in the process of updating the member page on our chapter website. If you are an active member, log on and make sure you are listed there and that the book jacket displayed is the one you want to tout. Email me with any corrections.

The best way to keep up with events and news is on our Facebook Page or by following the chapter on Twitter. If you have suggestions, ideas for how we can be even more helpful to our members, or news of publications and author events, you can email me at [annamaria@annamariaalfieri.com](mailto:annamaria@annamariaalfieri.com). If you want to get in touch with our committee chairs or board members, you will find them on our chapter website.

Fall is upon us. I hope you will be able to join in one of our events soon.

Patricia King  
President, MWA-NY

P.S. You can always reach me at: [annamaria@annamariaalfieri.com](mailto:annamaria@annamariaalfieri.com).

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**FROM THE EDITOR**

Dear Friends,

As we face back to the normal routine, please carefully note the venue for the next chapter meeting, as it is not our customary spot. Flexibility and commitment are two of the talents our president and board bring to the task of running this organization, and we are all lucky to have members willing and able to step up to serve.

**I look forward to hearing from you at: [mhannanmandel@yahoo.com](mailto:mhannanmandel@yahoo.com).**

Marie Hannan-Mandel  
Editor

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## ASK THE LAWYER

**Dear Bob,**

I want to write fan fiction. I think it would be great writing practice and I'd love to write about my favorite characters. My friend says it's illegal. Is it?

**Dear Reader,**

Are we defining "fan fiction" as stories using other writers' characters and backstories?

If so, then yes, you would be infringing the copyrights of the writers whose story elements you had borrowed.

I wouldn't necessarily call it "illegal", but it isn't something a copyright lawyer ... or a court of law ... would approve.

On the other hand, if you write only for your own amusement and professional growth, and do not seek to distribute or exploit your fan fiction stories commercially, then I don't see any actual harm in it.

**Best,  
Bob**

***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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## WHAT'S NOOSE?

### Short Stories

**Bill Chambers**, "**The Bunny**," originally published in the electronic version of Otto Penzler's anthology *Kwik Krimes*. *Kwik Krimes* is available in trade paperback, Thomas & Mercer.

**Lou Manfredo**, "**A Study in Mint**", *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, November 2013.

**Shelly Reuben**, "**The Human Book**," *The Forensic Examiner*, Summer 2013

### Novels

**Kevin Egan**, *Midnight*, Forge, July 2013.

### Awards

**Lee Child**, Diamond Dagger, Crime Writers' Association, July 2013

**Marie Hannan-Mandel**, shortlisted for Debut Dagger, Crime Writers' Association, July 2013

Send items (publications, nominations, and awards) for "What's Noose?" to the *Noose* Editor at [mhannanmandel@yahoo.com](mailto: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

### MWA-NY Reading Series Takes Off!

The MWA-NY chapter launched its reading series to enthusiastic audiences on June 11 and July 29. The series encourages active, affiliate, and associate members to read short works in order to get exposure, to gain experience, and to get to know their fellow members better. The readings took place at KGB, a small, dimly lit Manhattan bar known for hosting literary events.

The inaugural reading on June 11 featured Jillian Abbott, Alison Gaylin,



Nancy Hughes, Ken Posthauer, Cornelia Read, S.A. Solomon, R.J. (Ralph) Westerhoff, and Elizabeth Zelvin.

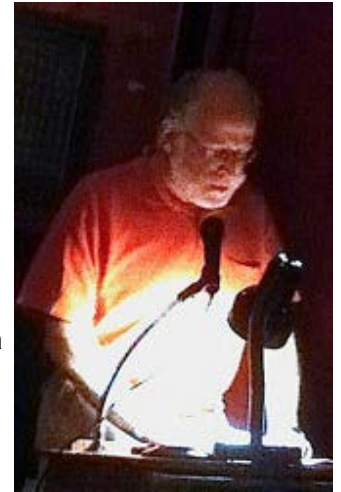
Readers on July 29 included Annamaria Alfieri, Kevin Egan, Kate Lincoln, Susan Olsen, Cathi Stoler, Clare Toohey, and Sheila York.

MWA-NY President Patricia King hosted both readings.

The next reading is scheduled for October 23. The slots for that reading are already filled. But everyone is invited to attend and more readings will be scheduled for later this year and 2014.

If you're interested in reading at a future event, the Events Committee would love to hear from you. Email [Richie Narvaez](mailto:richienarvaez@gmail.com), chairman of the Events Committee at richienarvaez@gmail.com. For the event, you need to choose a short (under 8 minutes) section of your published or not-yet-published novel, ss, or WIP to read.

PICTURED: Cathi Stoler and R.J. (Ralph) Westerhoff read from their stories.



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## IMPORTANT DATES

**SEPT 11 — CHAPTER MEETING — 6-9pm**

**LOCATION: MORAN'S RESTAURANT**

- 146 10TH AVE. (AT 19TH ST.) 212-627-3030

***GUESTS:***

**Bill Jorgenson** is a career prosecutor who has put bad guys behind bars for 23 years. Currently an Assistant District Attorney for Nassau County, he previously worked for the New York State Attorney General, the New York City Special Narcotics Prosecutor, and the Staten Island District Attorney. His cases have run the gamut from murder to fraud and corruption, and somehow he finds time to sail, paint, run, and mountaineer.

**Edward Ferrity**, another veteran prosecutor, has overseen numerous complex investigations at both state and local levels.

**PAYMENT/RSVP: For this month only**

Send a \$42 check (for salad, choice of chicken or salmon entree and sides, dessert, tea or coffee) payable to MWA-NY in care of: Patricia King, 61 East 11th Street, Apt. 7, New York, NY 10003.

Questions? Contact [patricia@patriciakingpartners.com](mailto:patricia@patriciakingpartners.com) or at 646-537-5450

**SEPT 25 — NEW JERSEY MEETING: — 6-9pm**

***GUEST:***

**Forensic psychologist Dr. Philip Witton - [www.apspa.com](http://www.apspa.com)**

Venue/cost will be announced by e-mail. Contact Kate Lincoln at 908-268-9726 for more information.

**SAVE THE DATES:**

Our next New York meetings will be a Sat. brunch on 10/5

Wed. dinner on 11/6. More details to be announced.

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## MWA- MENTOR PROGRAM



The Mentor Program offers MWA/NY members an opportunity to have a crime-related manuscript or short story critiqued by an active member of the chapter. Both unpublished and published writers looking for an outside opinion of their work may participate.

Features of the program:

1. The first fifty pages of a manuscript or one or two short stories up to fifty pages may be submitted.
2. Submissions must be examples of the crime genre – mystery, thriller, romantic suspense, police procedural, etc.
3. Constructive feedback provided in writing by active members of the New York chapter.
4. Up to two submissions, those rated most publication-ready, are read by New York agents.
5. A small cost to participate.

We look forward to working with you!

The Mentor Program Committee:

Deborah Pines, Chair  
Catherine Maiorisi  
Ken Isaacson  
Persia Walker  
Shizuka Otake  
Kate Lincoln

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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](mailto:hcdavidson@yahoo.com) or [lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com](mailto: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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## CWA DAGGER AWARDS DINNER

July in London was unusually warm as I joined the great and the good of the Crime Writers' Association at Kings Place. Shortlisted for the Debut Dagger, I was thrilled to have the chance to meet so many major names in crime fiction – writers, agents, and



**Debut Dagger shortlistees  
with Louise Penny**

publishers. Our own Lee Child, recipient of the Diamond Dagger, was very gracious as he stood, drink in hand, on the canal bank and later signed autographs and posed for pictures. The venue of the awards was particularly significant to me, as I used to live a few streets away and still love the Kings Cross area. Perhaps the highlight of the evening, however, was the chance to speak with Louise Penny, who generously reminded me that she had been shortlisted for the debut dagger and hadn't won. I was told by many people at the event that I, having been shortlisted, was already a winner, and for that evening, I certainly believed it!!

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**Lee Child signing a program.**

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