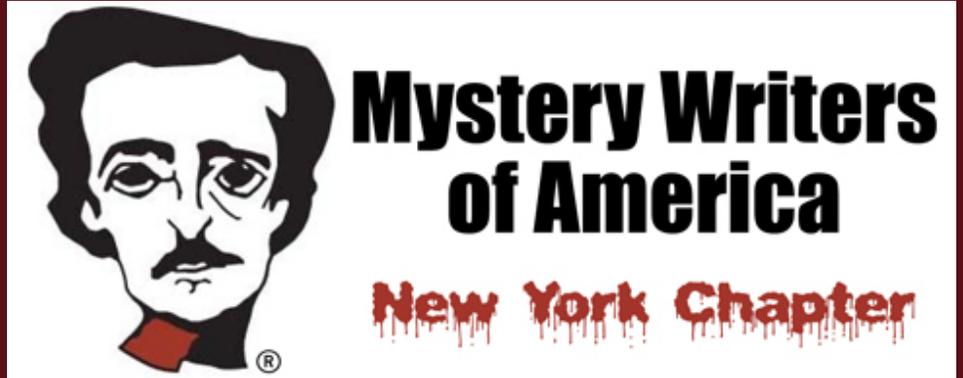


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THE NOOSE

Jan/Feb 2014



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President's Letter

Dear MWA-NY Members,

I know what many of you are thinking: Who?! I know that while many of you know me, to many others I am a mystery myself.

I love crime fiction. I love reading it. I love writing it. I send short stories out. I like when they get published. I don't like it when they don't. Like more than a few of you, I have a manuscript collecting digital dust in an agent's inbox. And like many of you, I want to sell books and maybe even make a living as a writer, and while I know that's unlikely I don't think it's impossible.

What I think this wonderful organization does is bring together people of like minds and like goals, so that the task for all of us seems a little less impossible.

Because, by the nature of the craft, what each of us do, the scribbling, the typing, the hours at the keyboard, we do alone. We cannot be with each other then — which may be for the best, since some of us are like Walter Mosley and like to write in the nude. But in any case, outside of those hours of solitude, you are not alone. If you are wondering whether your book is any good, wondering where to get it published, how to find an editor or agent, how to navigate the changing world of publishing, wondering whether or not you should convert your backlist to digital—through all of this, we are with you.

We have a Mentor Committee, where established writers give you feedback.

We have the MWA-NY Reading series, where you can share your work.

We have excellent panels with great writers at the New York Public Library.

We have special events, such as the trip to the Morgan Library this January to see the Edgar Allan Poe exhibit.

We have these dinners, where you get to commiserate and confab with other fans and writers and hear from people you might not normally meet in your walk of life.

All this and more is for you.

The fine people on the board volunteer to make all of this happen.

But, to paraphrase JFK, think not just about what the chapter can do for you, but what you can do for the chapter.

If you have an idea for an event or a speaker or a panel, know someone you think you make a great speaker, let us know. If you want to read at the reading, let us know. Tell a board member. Send me an email. This is a volunteer organization and just like everything from school to sex, it's better to be an active participant. It's a hell of a lot more fun that way.

I am flabbergasted, honored, and proud to be your president. I hope to continue the excellent work of my predecessors, especially the incandescent Patricia King, who has charmingly and graciously steered the ship of this chapter these past two years. To her, many, many thanks.

We are the Mystery Writers of America, the New York Chapter, and we help each other succeed, and that of course means you.

Richie Narvaez
President, MWA-NY

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends,

Another year comes and we here at the Noose are delighted to welcome a new president and to thank the outgoing president for all she has done for the chapter. This issue contains the annual Educational Round-up with information about classes offered by MWA-NY members. The reading series is going from strength to strength and one aspect of it that I find very important is that you do not need to be a published writer to participate – so join in!

Please contact me with your comments and suggestions at: mhannanmandel@yahoo.com

Marie Hannan-Mandel
Editor

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THE MWA-NY READING SERIES INVITES YOU TO READ

The MWA-NY chapter launched its reading series last summer. Active, affiliate, and associate members are all invited to read short works of crime fiction. Whether you've never been published, or have a dozen books under your belt, the series is a great way to get exposure, to gain experience, and to get to know your fellow members better.

On October 23, the readers included Marc Bilgrey, Gary Cahill, Phyllis Halterman, Katia Lief, Nina Mansfield, Jeff Markowitz, Joan Ramirez, and Ken Wishnia. On November 19, the readers included Ann Aptaker, Gerald Bartell, Cordelia Frances Biddle, Philip Cioffari, Ann-Marie DiGennaro, Joel Gomez-Dossi, Joseph Goodrich, and Mimi Weisbond. MWA-NY President Patricia King hosted both readings.

The readings took place at KGB, 85 E 4th Street, in the East Village.

Two readings are scheduled for this spring, and the eight slots are filled. On February 18, the

scheduled readers are Gary T. Anderberg, Anne-Marie Brumm, C. Clark Criscuolo, Laura K. Curtis, Rosemary Harris, Terrence McCauley, Lewis Preschel, and Charles Salzberg. On March 18, the scheduled readers are Scott Adlerberg, Kimberly McCreight, Anthony Rainone, Kathleen A. Ryan, Alex Segura, Jeff Somers, Albert Tucher, and Angela Zeman. These readings will also take place at KGB and start at 6:45 p.m. Come down to hear some wonderful crime fiction and to support your fellow members. These events are free.

But more readings will be scheduled for later this year. If you're interested in reading, the Events Committee would love to hear from you. Email Richie Narvaez 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, short story, or WIP to read.



PICTURED: Jeff Markowitz and Patricia King

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EDUCATIONAL ROUNDUP

A roundup of the MWA-NY members who offer these wonderful learning opportunities.

- **Reed Farrel Coleman**
July 7-18 Short Fiction Writing, Hofstra University
www.hofstra.edu
- **S.J. Rozan**
Starting Feb. 13, Crime Fiction Academy in NYC.
This program is built around 12 weekly workshops and includes a reading program and master classes.
<http://centerforfiction.org/forwriters/crimefiction/>
- **July 26 - August 10, Art Workshop International, Assisi**
A two-week writing workshop.
<http://www.artworkshopintl.com/>

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MWA-NY MENTOR PROGRAM

The Mentor Committee is busy doing our thing.

We sent out 30 manuscripts to be critiqued by our generous MWA volunteer mentors. We're planning our culminating Feb. 19th library panel talk. We're considering updating our resource materials. And we're enjoying more positive feedback.

So we thought we'd share one example.

A Mentor Program participant from last year wrote to say he's using his mentor's "spot-on critique" for another rewrite.

"I have even pasted some of her comments to the top of my computer screen as reminders that I too am not alone and capable of the occasional flashes of brilliance."

The writer asked us to thank his mentor "for her efforts on behalf of the Mentor Program and, in particular, her considerable efforts on my behalf. I am beyond grateful."

We thanked that mentor. Now we want to thank the rest of our mentors, too, for efforts that leave us feeling "beyond grateful."

Deb Pines
Mentor Committee Chair

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WHAT'S NOOSE?

Short Stories

Shelly Reuben, "My Beautiful, Beautiful Daughter," *The Forensic Examiner*. Fall 2013.

Shelly Reuben, "Never a Cross Word," *The Forensic Examiner*. Winter 2013.

Toby Speed, "At the Corner of Night and Nowhere," *Moon Shot: Murder and Mayhem on the Edge of Space (Untreed Reads)*. October 2013.

Triss Stein, "Pint-Sized Patriots," *Kings River Life*. November 2, 2013.

Novels

Henry Mazel, *Red Chrysanthemum - A Novel of Occupied Japan*, Spruence Foundation Press, September 2013

B. B. Oak, *Thoreau at Devil's Perch*, Kensington Books, September 2013.

Shelly Reuben, *The Boys of Sabbath Street*, Blackstone Audio Books, February 2014

Toby Speed, *Death Over Easy*, Five Star, October 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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IMPORTANT DATES

JAN 8
(Wed)

CHAPTER MEETING: — 6:30-8:30pm

Chapter meeting – A former cop and now private investigator will tell us how a phone call from a prospective client led her into dealings with the Department of Defense and the television show America's Most Wanted.

Location: Moran's, 146 10th Ave (at 19th St), New York, NY 10011



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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