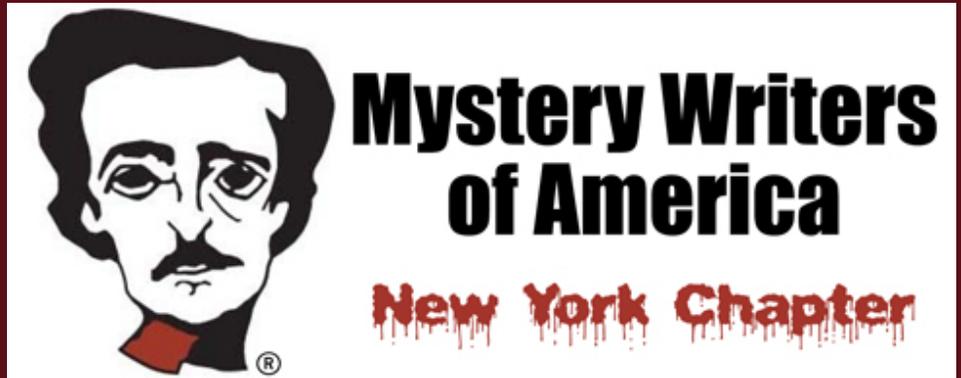


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# ***THE NOOSE***

March/April 2014



## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

**Dear MWA-NY Members,**

The Edgar® Award nominations were announced in January, and the New York Chapter once again showed off its remarkable reservoir of talent. Many of our chapter members got a nod, and I congratulate them all: **Thomas H. Cook**, Best Novel; **Kimberly McCreight**, Best First Novel by an American Author; **Reed Farrel Coleman**, Best Short Story; and **Peter Blauner**, Best Television Episode Teleplay. These awards will be given out at the Edgar® Banquet on May 1 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. Get your tickets. That reminds me I have to get my suit cleaned.

I would also like to congratulate the nominees for the Mary Higgins Clark Award, given to authors of suspense fiction. Of the five nominees this year, three of them (that's 60%, math fiends) are from our chapter: **Katia Lief**, **Jenny Milchman**, and **Linda Stasi**. This award will be presented at the Agents and Editors Party on April 30.

While I'm at it, I'd like to acknowledge our board for the year. We've added some new names and shifted some committee chairs. But the important thing to remember is these are the people who make the MWA-NY work as well as it does: **Lindsay Faye**, **Patricia King**, **Katia Lief**, **Andrew Peck**, **Julia Pomeroy**, **Suzanne Solomon**, **Triss Stein**, **Wallace Stroby**, **Clare Toohey**, and **Ken Wishnia**. And a special salute to our intrepid treasurer, **Sheila York**.

**Richie Narvaez**  
**President, MWA-NY**



## **FROM THE EDITOR**

Dear Friends,

As we patiently (what else can we do?) wait for spring, this issue is full of information about the doings of our chapter and up-coming events – from the Mentor program to the Library events. The *Noose* has all you need to know about past, and future events. We are also launching a new feature – “Mug Shot” and hope you will enjoy getting to know other members and their writing routines.

Please [contact me](#) with your comments and suggestions.

**Marie Hannan-Mandel**  
Editor



## “POE-POURRI” AT THE MORGAN LIBRARY

By Joseph Goodrich

On January 11, members of MWA-NY and friends met at the Morgan Library and Museum for a guided tour of *Edgar Allan Poe: Terror of the Soul*. The exhibition offered an intriguing and well-rounded view of its talented, troubled subject as poet, critic, and groundbreaking teller of tales.



Almost a hundred items were featured, running the gamut from manuscript pages to daguerreotypes to film posters. A newspaper containing the first appearance of “The Raven,” a fragment of Poe’s coffin, and a working draft of “The Bells” with the author’s revisions were among the fascinating objects on display.



Morgan Library staffer Janice McCoy was an engaging and well-informed guide. Tea in the Morgan Café and more talk of Poe and other matters mysterious followed the tour, which was organized by MWA-NY Programming Committee member **Suzanne Solomon**. She was ably assisted by Programming Committee chair **Clare Toohey** and outgoing MWA-NY President **Patricia King**. Solomon, Toohey, and King were in attendance, as were **Gerald Bartell**, **Laura Curtis**, **Joan Delfattore**, **Joel Gomez-Doss**, **Joseph Goodrich**, **Joyce Hurley**, **Betsey James**, **Nancy Kornbluth**, **Cathy Lazere**, **Barbara Leavy**, **Honor Molloy**, **Shizuka Otake**, **Andrew Peck** and his wife **Karen**, **Brian Skupin**, **Kate Stine**, and **Mike White**.



Contact [Joseph Goodrich](#).

**THE MWA-NY MENTOR PROGRAM**

The 2014 mentor season is winding to a happy close. Participation was up to 31 submissions. Quality was up, too, for manuscripts and mentor critiques. Our culminating forum at the Mid-Manhattan Library on February 19 went well.

Top-submission honors went, for the second year in a row, to **Philip Cioffari**, a professor of English and director of an Honors program at William Paterson University in New Jersey. Cioffari submitted the opening to his suspense novel, *The Cold Eye of Danger*.

Agent **Elizabeth Kaplan** (*pictured*), of the [Elizabeth Kaplan Literary Agency](#), has graciously agreed to read and critique the top-rated work.

Early feedback from participants includes one e-mail thanking MWA for "the time and attention given to my submission and the many insightful and encouraging comments." Another commended MWA's "great program" and said, "I am so happy to be able to have been included."



## ALL-STAR AGENTS IN ATTENDANCE

On February 5, on the night of our triumphant return to the Salmagundi Club for our regular meetings, a trio of all-star agents guested on our invited speaker panel. Pictured from left to right are literary agents **Rachel Ekstrom** of the Irene Goodman Agency; **Stacia Decker** of the Donald Maass Literary Agency; **Rebecca Scherer** of the Jane Rotrosen Agency; and MWA-NY member **Jenna Weart**, who organized the panel. The agents offered information and advice for writers at all levels. *Photo by Suzanne Solomon.*



## SHE CAPTURED ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST WANTED

When he called her, Lisa Reed says, "The hairs stood up on the back of my neck." Her client wanted her to locate an old friend. What private investigator Reed didn't know then was that her client "Ian Black" was in reality Roger Charles Day Jr., a criminal not only wanted by the Department of Defense (DOD) for defrauding the government of millions but also featured on the America's Most Wanted TV show's website. At the January MWA-NY meeting, Reed, the owner of LSR Investigation, LLC, told the gripping story of her tracking and capturing Day. She related how she sussed out his true identity, the ethical dilemma she struggled with in contacting the DOD, and the Stockholm syndrome-like trauma she experienced in getting to know the criminal too well. Day was later sentenced to 105 years in prison. Reed received a Congressional Award of Honor in 2011 for capturing him. *Photo by Gerard Bartell.*



## WHAT'S NOOSE?

### Short Stories

**Gary Cahill**, "Sirens," *Plan B Magazine Vol. III*, February 14, 2014

### Novels

**Caroline Crane**, *The Long Sleep*, Fire and Ice, February 2014

**George Jehn**, *Flying Too Close to the Sun*, Ring of Fire Publishing, December 2012

**Chris Pavone**, *The Accident*, Crown, March 2014

**Cathi Stoler**, *Keeping Secrets*, Camel Press, November 2013

**Cathi Stoler**, *Nick of Time*, Glenmere Press, November 2013

Send news about publications, nominations, and awards to *The Noose* at [mhannanmandel@yahoo.com](mailto:mhannanmandel@yahoo.com)

## IMPORTANT DATES

**MARCH 8 (Sat)**

**CHAPTER BRUNCH: — 12:00 - 3:00pm**

A casual occasion to meet and mingle with other members, Salamagundi Club, 47 5th Ave, NY, NY (212) 255-7740

**MARCH 25 (Tues)**

**Conflict and the Writers Who Love It — 6:30pm**

Mid-Manhattan Library Branch, 455 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY, 6th Floor, and begin at 6:30 p.m. All library events are free and open to the public.

**APRIL 9 (Wed)**

**Crime in Translation, — 6:30pm**

Mid-Manhattan Library Branch, 455 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY, 6th Floor, and begin at 6:30 p.m. All library events are free and open to the public.

## 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. These readings are free. The readings take place at KGB, 85 E 4th Street, in the East Village.

Our latest reading on February 18 included **Gary T. Anderberg, Anne-Marie Brumm, C. Clark Criscuolo, Laura K. Curtis, Lyndsay Faye, Lewis Preschel, and Charles Salzberg.**

Our next reading is March 18, and the scheduled readers are **Scott Adlerberg, Kimberly McCreight, Anthony Rainone, Kathleen A. Ryan, Alex Segura, Jeff Somers, Albert Tucher, and Angela Zeman.** Our readings start at 7 p.m. Come down to hear some wonderful crime fiction and to support your fellow members.

If you're interested in reading, contact [Richie Narvaez](#). For the event, you need to choose a short (under eight minutes) section of your published or not-yet-published novel, ss, or WIP to read.

Pictured: Charles Salzberg. *Photo by Patricia King.*



## MWA UNIVERSITY IS COMING TO PHILLY

MWA-University is coming to Philadelphia on June 28. MWA-U is a full-day writing seminar that teaches participants the skills needed to write a novel, from the idea stage to publication. The focus is on the craft of writing, and the college-level courses are taught by published writers and experienced teachers. The core curriculum includes: After the Idea; Dramatic Structure and Plot; Setting and Description; Character; Editing; and The Writing Life. The all-day workshop is only \$50 for MWA members and \$75 for non-members. Registration is limited. Sign up at [here](#).



## MYSTERY AT THE LIBRARY

MWA-NY continues to present a monthly mystery program at the Mid-Manhattan Branch, New York Public Library. They attract an audience of interested readers, even in bad weather.

**January 16: Bright Lights and Dark Deeds.** For this program on New York-based mysteries, **Katia Lief** did a super job as moderator, asking insightful questions that set off a lively discussion with **Reed Farrel Coleman, Cathi Stoler, Joe Trigoboff, and Triss Stein.**

**February 19: Pathways to Publication.** The February program was the final event for the Mentor project. **Kate Lincoln** moderated and **Sharon Linnea, Laura Joh Rowland, Cathi Stoler, and Laura K. Curtis** shared their stories.

On March 25 the topic will be **Conflict and the Writers Who Love It**. That would be all of us in MWA, wouldn't it? **Jillian Abbott, Laura Joh Rowland, and Dirk Robertson** will talk about how conflict makes the story. **Peggy Ehrhart** as moderator will prevent bloodshed.

April 9 brings **Crime in Translation**. With minimal inconvenience and no cost at all, you can travel to Greece, Luxembourg, and Latin America, with **Jeff Siger, Chris Pavone, and Annamaria Alfieri** (aka MWA-NY president emerita Pat King). **Shizuka Otake** will moderate.

If you have an idea for a library panel, or if you would like to volunteer for a panel spot, let us know. Reach us at [trissstein@nyc.rr.com](mailto:trissstein@nyc.rr.com) or [mimiweisbond@yahoo.com](mailto:mimiweisbond@yahoo.com)

## MUG SHOT: WITH CATHI STOLER

### 1. Why are you a member of MWA?

MWA was recommended to me by a friend as great way to become involved with the mystery community, and I'm so glad I joined. It's connected me to an amazing group of like-minded authors and given me the opportunity to learn more about my craft and the business of writing. The meetings, events, and newsletters always contain information I find helpful to me as a writer. I love participating in the readings and panel discussions, which are a great way for people to get to know you and your work. And, the generosity of the members and spirit of community is always so positive and encouraging.



### 2. What is your writing routine?

I have a full-time job, so I have to write at night and on the weekends. It doesn't always work out that way, and there are some weeks when I write very little. Right now, I'm promoting two books, reading the galleys for a third, and working on the first book in a new series. The promotional aspects of the business take time away from writing, but it's something I need to do.

### 3. Tell us about the latest writing project you're working on

My latest writing project is the first book in what I'm planning as a series. It's titled *Bar None: A Murder on the Rocks Mystery* and features a female protagonist, Jude Dillane, who owns a restaurant and bar on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. It's a very New York story and centers around Jude, who finds the body of a murdered man in her landlord's apartment and helps him find the killer.

### 4. Who are some of your favorite writers and why?

I've always been obsessed by spy stories and still love Ian Fleming's James Bond books. Lindsey Davis, who writes historical Roman mysteries featuring sleuth Marcus Didius Falco, is another favorite. I also enjoyed reading Stieg Larsson and am hoping Sue Grafton will add a few more letters to the alphabet.

### 5. What would you say to an aspiring mystery writer who was thinking of joining MWA?

I'd tell any aspiring mystery writer to join MWA as soon as possible and take advantage of all this great organization and its members have to offer.

