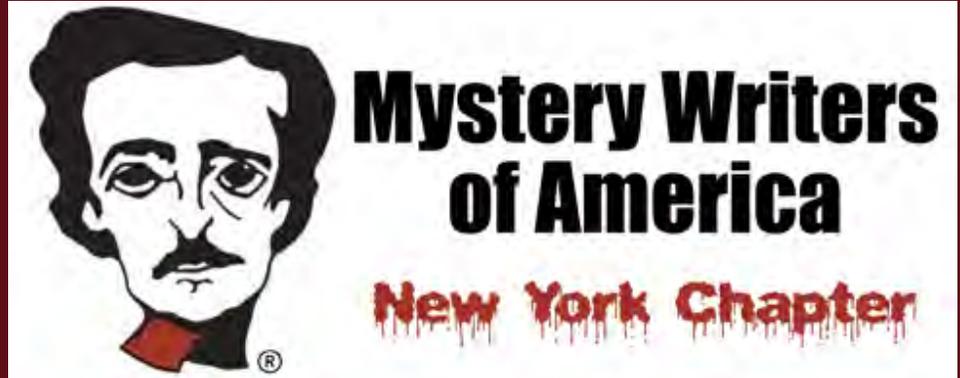


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THE NOOSE

May/June 2014



President's Letter

Dear MWA-NY Members,

THIS JUST IN: The Edgar Allan Poe Awards were announced on May 1. Congratulations to MWA-NY members **Jeff Soloway**, who received the Robert L. Fish Memorial Award for his short story "The Wentworth Letter," and **Jenny Milchman**, who received the Mary Higgins Clark Award for her book *Cover of Snow*. [Click here for a complete list of winners.](#)

Now, with New York as our epicenter, we don't often do enough for other states in our chapter. That's why I'm happy that MWA University is coming to Philadelphia this June. The benefit of the MWA U is not only the excellent content of the curriculum, but also the fire in your belly you get from spending a full day hearing, talking, and thinking about writing. Education. Inspiration. The City of Brotherly Love. And cheesesteaks. What's not to love? I hope to meet many local area members taking advantage of this opportunity.



Meanwhile, I want to note a couple of changes on our board of directors. **Katia Lief** is now Events Committee chair, and **Suzanne Solomon** is our new Program Committee chair. Suzanne takes over the role from the miracle-maker **Clare Toohey**, who shouldered it excellently for several years. Co-chairing that committee is **Joseph Goodrich**. Suzanne and Joe are already planning great programs for the fall and 2015.

Also, after many years of service, **Marie Hannan-Mandel** is stepping down from her post as editor for *The Noose*. Marie has done terrific work, and I hate to see her go. But this means we're on the lookout for a new editor. If you're interested in volunteering, contact me for details at richienarvaez@gmail.com.

We won't have a formal meeting again till September, so please continue to check our website and our Facebook page for news about chapter events as well as conferences and festivals coming up this summer. Until we meet again: *Write!*

Richie Narvaez
President, MWA-NY

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends,

After seven years as editor of *The Noose*, I've decided it's time for me to step aside and let someone else make *The Noose* their own.

During my time as editor the *Noose* has moved from hard copy to digital and has moved from quarterly to monthly, finally settling on five times a year. I have worked with wonderful designers – Stephen Hausler, Carol Novack, Miki Fujiwara, and now the wonderful Cathy Cairns, all of whom made my life easier. I have worked with some great MWA-NY presidents – **Jane Cleland, Chris Grabenstein, Alafair Burke, Rosemary Harris, Patricia King**, and now **Richie Narvaez**. It has been an honor to work with such dedicated people. I have so enjoyed this job, and I hope that it will bring the next editor as much satisfaction as it has me.

It has been an honor to do this work for the chapter. Thank you for your support and comments through the years.

Marie Hannan-Mandel
Editor



ENROLL IN MWA UNIVERSITY IN PHILADELPHIA

Have a good idea for a novel but don't know what to do with it? Enroll yourself in the next MWA University, a daylong creative writing workshop taught by crime fiction stars (who also happen to be experienced teachers): Reed Farrel Coleman, Hallie Ephron, Kathleen George, Jess Lourey, Hank Phillippi Ryan, and Daniel Stashower. The seminar will take place at the Sheraton Philadelphia Society Hill on Saturday, June 28. The cost is \$50 for MWA members and \$75 for non-members. MWA U teaches the elements of crafting a compelling story in any genre. The seminar is structured so that each course builds on the one before it: After the Idea; Dramatic Structure and Plot; Setting and Description; Character; Editing; and The Writing Life. [Get more information or register now!](#)



THE MODERN REALITIES OF PROBATION



Vincent Schiraldi, senior advisor to the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, gave a poignant presentation on the justice system at the MWA-NY meeting on April 2. A former commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation, Schiraldi shared deeply moving stories about his career and about the many issues surrounding probation. Other guest speakers that night included Michael Ognibene, chief of staff for the Deputy Mayor's Office of Strategic Policy Initiatives, and Fred Scaglione, of the New York Nonprofit Press and author of the mystery *Home Visit*. This panel was suggested and arranged by Program Committee member **Ken Posthauer**. *Photo by Gerald Bartell.*

PATRICIA KING RECEIVES SILVER NOOSE PIN

At our March 8 meeting, MWA-NY President Emerita **Patricia King** (aka Annamaria Alfieri) was honored with a Silver Noose pin. The pin, which features a pen nib at one end and a noose at the other, symbolizes our craft and recognizes those who go above and beyond the call of duty for the chapter. King served the chapter as its president for two years and continues to serve on the board as chair of the new Festivals and Conferences Committee. *Photo by Suzanne Solomon.*



OUR MEMBERS SHARE THEIR CRIME FICTION

On March 18, MWA-NY members read as part of the chapter's reading series. **Scott Adlerberg**, Edgar® nominee **Kimberly McCreight**, **Anthony Rainone** (pictured), **Alex Segura**, **Jeff Somers**, and **Albert Tucher** delighted and disturbed the crowd with their vivid crime fiction. The free event took place at KGB, 85 E 4th Street, in the East Village. If you're interested in sharing your work at an upcoming reading, contact Events Committee Chair Katia Lief, katia.lief@gmail.com. For the reading, you need to choose a short (under eight minutes) section of your published or not-yet-published novel, ss, or WIP to read. *Photo by Jeff Somers.*



WHAT'S NOOSE?

Short Stories

Kevin Egan, "Term Life," *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*. June 2014.

Janice Law, "The Pulp Fiction Writer," *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*. May 2014.

Mark Murphy, "Mr. Mariposa Bids Adieu," *Over My Dead Body*. April 2014.

Novels

Mary Reed & Eric Mayer, *Ten For Dying*, Poisoned Pen Press, March 2014.

Triss Stein, *Brooklyn Graves*, Poisoned Pen Press, March 2014.

Kate White, *Eyes on You*, Harper, June 2014.

Send items (publications, nominations, and awards) for "What's Noose?" to the richienarvaez@gmail.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.

ENTER THE MWA-NY MENTOR PROGRAM

If you don't know about the MWA-NY Mentor Program, you are missing a great opportunity to bring your writing up another notch. The Mentor Program offers you, a member of MWA-NY, the opportunity to have the first 50 pages of your manuscript or two short stories of less than 50 pages, critiqued by a published author. There is a \$25 charge, but you will not find a better value anywhere. The program, which is available to published and unpublished members, starts up in September, with manuscripts due by the end of October. The written critiques are sent out by early February, and the program closes with a library panel in February. Why are we telling you this now? Because you need to get those pages into the

best shape you can by the end of October. Because you need to submit a synopsis and should take this time to learn how to write one. Because an objective critique is invaluable if you are serious about writing.
—**Catherine Maiorisi**, Chair, MWA-NY Mentor Committee

IMPORTANT DATES

JUNE 4
(Wed.)

Dinner Meeting, 6:00–9:00 p.m.

“Film Noir,” with **Scott Adlerberg**, chapter member and co-host of the Word for Word Reel Talks film commentary series at the HBO Bryant Park Summer Film Festival in Manhattan.

Location: Salmagundi Club, 47 5th Ave, N.Y., N.Y. (212) 255-7740.

Cost: \$42, includes one drink.

Checks should be made out to MWA-NY and mailed to: Ann-Marie DiGennaro, 696 Birdseye Street, Stratford, CT 06615.

Contact: For further information, email annmarie.digennaro03@gmail.com.

JUNE 17
(Tues.)

MWA-NY Reading Series, 6:30 p.m.

MWA-NY members share their crime fiction. Scheduled to read: Henry Chang, Hilary Davidson, Tim Hall, Richard A. Herman, Catherine Maiorisi, Jon McGoran, Erica Obey, and Narween Otto. [Go here for more information on the authors.](#)

Hosted by Richie Narvaez.

Location: KGB Bar, 85 E 4th St, New York, NY 10003, (212) 505-3360.

Cost: FREE.

ASK THE LAWYER

Dear Mr. Stein,

I'm really confused when I see so many books/movies/stories with the same title. Isn't there copyright for titles? What if I come up with a wonderful title? Can someone else use it? Doesn't that damage my ability to market my book?

Dear Reader,

With one important exception, book titles cannot be protected by trademark (if they could be protected, it would be by trademark, not by copyright. Copyright



does not protect titles). The exception is series titles, which can be registered with the US Patent and Trademark Office. For example, the individual titles of my wife's two recent mystery novels, *Brooklyn Bones* and *Brooklyn Graves*, cannot be trademarked, but the series title, "Erica Donato Mysteries," could be registered with the PTO.

Even without registration, series titles can acquire "secondary meaning," and thus become common-law trademarks. Theoretically, if an individual book title becomes sufficiently well known to the public and sufficiently identified with a particular author (such as *To Kill A Mockingbird* and Harper Lee), that title also accrues secondary meaning and thus common-law trademark protection. However, most book titles never rise to that level of public recognition and association with the authors who wrote them.

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.

ALL A-TWITTER

Let us know about your latest achievements, so we can share it on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) feeds. We are interested in 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

Contact lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com with all relevant information, including links.

MUG SHOT: WITH MARIAN DELMAN BORDEN

Borden is one half of writing duo Evelyn David.

1. Why did you join the MWA?

As a freelance nonfiction writer for many years, I had belonged to the American Society of Journalists and Authors. I knew how much it helped to be in a supportive professional community. So as soon as I received the contract for our first mystery, *Murder Off the Books*, I called MWA. It is what I had hoped: an organization dedicated to the celebration of the mystery genre and the support of those who write whodunnits.

2. What is your writing routine?

Rhonda Dossett (my mystery writing partner) and I live more than a thousand miles apart. We both have day jobs and family responsibilities. She's a night owl; I work best in the morning. She needs Pepsi One and Twizzlers to create murder and mayhem; I need a cup of English breakfast tea, probably some chocolate. Recently, in order to complete our current mystery, we have both committed to writing at least 500 words each and every day. Most times, each of us writes more than the minimum. Some are treasures, some are trash. But having a daily deadline has kept us on track.

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

We're in the midst of a new stand-alone mystery that is very different from our two series. It's been exciting to create new characters, settings, and some very unusual circumstances. We just released *Leaving Lottawata*, the eleventh novella in our paranormal mystery series. It's always fun to revisit old friends – and that's what characters in a series become. A few months ago, we released *Murder Doubles Back*, the third novel in the Sullivan Investigations series. It's much closer to a thriller than a cozy mystery. A cold case heats up, bodies pile up, and the romance sizzles.

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

Too many great writers to list. But let me tell you about one my very favorites: Anne George. She wrote eight delightful, sweet mysteries before she sadly passed away. She combined a good whodunnit with characters to love. I adore the relationship between the two sisters, Mouse and Mary Alice. Whatever the genre, I want to care about the characters. My best advice to aspiring mystery writers considering membership in MWA? Join – you'll find a wonderful community of people who love what you do – mysteries!

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