



Mystery Writers of America

New York Chapter

Fancy a murder?

Dear Fellow MWA-NY Chapter Members,

Spring has arrived in New York, and as the saying goes, in the spring a writer's fancy lightly turns to murder. Well, let's be honest: our members' fancies are always murderous. We try to nurture such impulses with programs like the recent Writing Is Murder panel that you can read about in this issue. We are always trying to develop programming that will be useful and interesting to you, however, so if there's a particular area (in craft, promotion, or industry) that you'd like us to help with, please speak up!

With this issue of the *Noose*, I'd like to introduce you to a new board member. **Ken Isaacson** has left New York for sunnier climes, so **Kate White** is taking his place on the board. Kate will be in charge of festivals and conferences. One of our big goals is to make a lot of work for Kate by developing a full list of events in which our members can participate. If you know of one that's not on [our current list](#), please let the board know! And if you go to a conference and want to write it up for the blog, we'd love to have you.

The Edgars are coming up at the end of April. If you are looking for a good read, you might want to check out the [nominees list](#), and if you enjoy dressing up and having a good time with mystery writers, consider attending the banquet.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting!

Laura K. Curtis
President, MWA-NY



Leanna Renee Hieber, Tim O'Mara, Laura Joh Rowland and moderator **Dr. Jonathan Fader** shared motivational tips on March 8. (Photo: **Tom Straw**)

Writing Is Murder

Writing Is Murder sparked a lively night at the MWA-NY's library panel at the Jefferson Market branch on March 8. Panelists **Leanna Renee Hieber, Tim O'Mara,** and **Laura Joh Rowland** shared experiences and offered tips for breaking through writing's rough patches. Moderator **Jonathan Fader, PhD**, a top motivational psychologist with expertise in intrinsic motivation (including as team psychologist to the NY Mets and as an author himself), prompted insightful—and useful—revelations from the panel.

Following a self-assessment exercise with the audience, Dr. Fader guided discussion on how writers can keep in touch with the inner values that fire them up. He stressed the importance of staying positive, adaptive, realistic, and of “making avoidance irrelevant.”

The three authors found a unanimous theme: Keep it fun. And all agreed that supportive relationships are critical. As Hieber succinctly put it, “Negative people—get out of my way!” It's also about self talk. Rowland advised, “Take the judgment out of what your day should be.” O'Mara concurred: “We tend to focus on

what isn't working. Be mindful when it is. Maybe you didn't hit 1500 words today, but you did 200 that weren't there in the morning. Stay in the now, and the next will follow." Dr. Fader confirmed science bears that out. "We're programmed to be negative. It's how we survived, going back to the primitive days of the tundra. So we have to work against evolution to stay positive."



Attend the PEN World Voices Festival at a 20% Discount

Celebrate the power of the written word through readings and conversations at the PEN World Voices Festival of International Literature in New York, April 25 - May 1, 2016. On Saturday, April 30, the great Russian detective story writer **Boris Akunin** will converse with **Walter Mosley**.

[Click here](#) for more information or to register for the event. Use the code WRITE2016 for a 20% discount.

Another Successful Mentor Program!

The 2015 Mentor Program concluded with a panel at the Jefferson Market Library on February 16 to introduce the two finalists, *The Neutral Ground* by **Mally Becker**, and *Night and its Burdens* by **Philip Cioffari**. Both manuscripts have been sent to literary

agent Richard Curtis for consideration.

Special thanks go to the participating mentors, who gave so generously of their time: **Ann Aptaker, Carol Barkin, Carole Berry, Dan Burstein, Ceil Cleveland, Caroline Crane, Lyndsay Faye, Tim Hall, Diana Hansen-Young, Mariana Heusler, Beth Kazuba, Richard Koreto, Sharon Linnea, Stephen Liskow, Nina Mansfield, Chelle Martin, Thomas Morrissey, John O'Rourke, Anita Page, Julia Pomeroy, Peter Quirk, Charles Salzborg, Tom Savage, Lynne Schultz, Stephen Solomita, Bill Syken, Janice Trecker, Albert Tucher, Dan Warthman, Jenna Weart, and Liz Zelvin.**

Reach Out to the Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee supports organizations and activities that promote reading and writing across the region. One such organization is Books at Home, which puts books in the hands of inner-city youth in Trenton, N.J. In 2015, the chapter held a book drive to support Books at Home, distributing books to seven community-based organizations in Trenton, as well as directly to children and their families.

MWA-NY members volunteer their time and talent in a variety of ways. If you're involved with organizations and activities that promote reading and writing in your community, [contact the Outreach Committee.](#)

Upcoming Events

Library Panel: Behind the Scenes with Mystery Writers

Apr. 5, Tues., 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Featured guests: John Altman, Jeff Markowitz, Kira Peikoff, Wallace Stroby, and Sheila York

How do you commit a murder . . . mystery? Crime fiction authors share how to research and create an engaging mystery novel.

Hillsborough Library
379 South Branch Road
Program Room A
Hillsborough Township, NJ 08844

Cost: Free

Registration is required. RSVP directly with the library by clicking [here](#).

MWA-NY Dinner Meeting: Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Copyright Dispute

Apr. 6, Wed., 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Featured guests: Gerald M. Levine (moderator), **Lyndsay Faye**, **Andrew Peck**, **Neil Rosini**, and **Roger Zissu**

Follow the trail of the recent controversy over whether the copyright for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous sleuth is in the public domain. Learn what you need to know about copyrights and legal issues involving derivative works and adaptations.

Salmagundi Club
47 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10003

Cost: \$42

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

MWA-NY Crime Fiction Reading Series

Apr. 23, Sat., 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Emerging and established authors from the MWA-NY chapter read from their crime fiction. Readers include **Ann Aptaker**, **Elizabeth Kerri Mahon**, **Jon McGoran**, **Richie Narvaez**, **John Roche**, **Alex Segura**, and **Radha Vatsal**. Hosted by MWA-NY President **Laura K. Curtis**.

KGB Bar
85 E. 4th Street

New York, NY 10003

Cost: Free

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

For a full list of upcoming events, [click here.](#)

Back to School

The [Center for Fiction's Crime Fiction Academy](#) offers a **10% discount** for members of Mystery Writers of America. If you're interested, [email Sara Batkie](#) for your discount code.

Upcoming classes include Advanced Crime Fiction Writing, with Jonathan Santlofer; Writing Crime for TV and Movies, with Lorenzo Carcaterra; and Crafting the Perfect Crime Novel, with Alison Gaylin.

Also, [New York Writers Workshop \(NYWW\)](#) is hosting a three-day pitch conference, April 8-10. ***The conference costs \$450, but MWA-NY members pay only \$300.***

NYWW offers a wide range of courses for writers of all levels, in multiple genres. MWA-NY members receive a **20% discount on tuition** when they present their MWA ID cards.

Good Noose

Books

- **Chris Pavone**, *The Travelers*, Crown, March 2016

Awards

- **Terrie Farley Moran**, "A Killing at the Beausoleil," *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, November 2015, Agatha Award nominee for Best Short Story

Have good news? Email [Mistina Bates](#).

Deadly Ink 2016

This year's Deadly Ink Mystery Conference will be August 5-7 at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick, N.J. [Click here](#) for more information.

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