

September 24th, 2009: Pitching the Book You've completed your manuscript, edited it a hundred times, and now you're ready for an agent, but how do you pitch? Literary agents Donna Bagdasarian of Publication Riot Group, Inc. and Josh Getzler of Writers House will give us the DO's and DON'Ts and answer all your questions. Jump back into the SinC swing with this fun and informative meeting!

October 22nd, 2009: The Truth Behind Bars Did you know 175 weddings were held at Rikers last year? Stephen Morello, Deputy Commissioner of the NY City Dept. of Correction, will debunk pop-culture myths about incarceration and share the amazing, sometimes funny, truths about life on Rikers Island.

November 19th, 2009: Short Story Markets and Methods Perhaps it's our fast-paced world, or the way modern technology encourages communicating in brief, but there's a revival in short fiction. Many of us enjoy writing shorts as additional creative outlets, though now, we're also using them as entrees to help sell our novels or as support for an existing series. With that in mind, we're hosting a panel to help define what takes a short submission from slush to stand-out. Philip Cioffari teaches creative writing at William Paterson University. He has published a novel and a short-story collection and is also an award-winning film writer and director. A former reporter for The Los Angeles Times, Jack Getze has authored two mystery novels and edits Spinetingler, an online short fiction magazine. Our chapter experts will include member Anita Page who's published numerous short stories, in print and online, most recently in the MWA anthology *The Prosecution Rests*, edited by Linda Fairstein, and the current holiday anthology *The Gift of Murder*. Chapter member Terrie Farley Moran will appear in next year's MWA anthology, edited by Charlaine Harris, and her story "Bright Star" was recognized in *Otto Penzler's Best American Mystery Stories of 2009*. She will also be editing our chapter's upcoming 2010 anthology. Moderating this terrific panel will be our longtime officer and board member, herself a short story and novel author, Peggy Ehrhart.

December 8th, 2009: Holiday Party! We're having our party on a Tuesday night at the deliciously fun Cowgirl restaurant in NYC's West Village! (Click link for directions and more venue info.) The \$35 prix-fixe menu includes a choice of 5 dinner entrees, dessert, and beverage. The cash bar is optional, as is our gift exchange. To participate in the annual Secret Santa swap, corral yourself a criminally cute gift worth \$10 or less. RSVPs are required, and payment by cash or check will be accepted at the door. If you're hankerin' to attend-- and why wouldn't you be, pardner?-- simply e-mail clare2e (- at -) me (- dot-) com or, alternatively, leave a voice mail at 646-620-8654. Yee Ho!