

Bloodletters

New York/Tri-State Sisters in Crime Newsletter

www.nysinc.org

September 2011

Exciting Programs & Speakers for the New Year

By Susan Chalfin, Program Coordinator

Wherever you are in your writing career, NYSinC's new season of programs will help take you to the next level.

Our **September** speaker is **Super-Agent Janet Reid** of FinePrint Literary Management. An agent with many years in the business ("I stopped counting at 20") and outrageous humor, when asked how to approach her at conferences, Janet volunteered "I'm not the damn Queen of England, though I've been throwing myself at Prince Andrew for years."

In addition to best-selling thrillers, Janet's projects include the fictional memoir of a college professor turned zombie and a YA about a young girl who discovers she's a genetically altered WMD. She also represented *A Different Shade of Blue*, an account of what it's like to be a female cop from the women of the Seattle Police Department.

Janet publishes two blogs: <http://jetreidliterary.blogspot.com/>, on writing and featuring flash fiction contests and <http://queryshark.blogspot.com> dissects query letters and teaches writers "to make new

and fresh mistakes." Those up for public humiliation score improved queries, and occasionally an offer of representation.

Janet's generosity is also evidenced by her participation in MWA's NY Mentor Program. According to chapter president Catherine Maiorisi "when another agent who was supposed to do a critique flaked out... Janet agreed to do a second critique and turned it around in a day."

September's meeting will also feature a **special lottery, courtesy of Joe Giacalone**. The NYPD sergeant, whose informative and amusing lectures highlighted last year's programs, agreed to take five members to meet an NYPD detective squad. The lucky five will be chosen by random drawing. Don't miss the chance to win---and interrogate a detective squad!

Our **October** speaker is **private investigator Annie Cheney**, who began her career as a freelance reporter. Her book, *Body Brokers: Inside America's Underground Trade in Human Remains*, expanded on a prize-winning investigative

article she did for *Harper's*. After completing the book, Annie applied to Kroll, the risk management and fraud investigative company, where she was hired as an analyst and was recently promoted to director. She specializes in investigating financial fraud. She also advised Susan Isaacs on the life of a private eye for *As Husbands Go*. No doubt her discussion about the life of a PI in one of the foremost detective agencies will be helpful.

November's guest is **publicist Abbe Aronson**, who helped NYSinC's Cathi Stoler market her thriller *Telling Lies*. Abbe arranged the launch party at Partners & Crime, set up an "Our Town" interview, and is coordinating a book tour and further appearances. Cathi says, "She's been great at contacting book stores, and media."

Abbe's skills range from PR to event planning to "artful schmoozing." Her website promises that if you give her ten minutes, you'll get 25 fabulous ideas, guaranteed!

December is the annual holiday party, and we're looking for a new venue. Please contact me with suggestions.

We also have a number of **programs in the works for 2012**.

For those like me who go into a froth of anxiety when we hear the word "tweet," our fabulous in-house panel of social media experts, Laura Kramarsky and Clare Toohey, will no doubt have us tweeting like nightingales. Facebook, blogging, and website design will also be covered.

Other possible programs include a visit to a medical examiner's office, a writing workshop, information about self-publishing, and a look at the CIA.

We hope to see all our members at this year's exciting meetings!

2011-2012 Board and Committees

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Slices of Member Fiction: *Murder New York Style*

Murder New York Style: Fresh Slices (Terrie Farley Moran, editor) Following the success of the chapter's first anthology, *Murder New York Style*, the board sent out a call for submissions for a second book last year. Terrie Farley Moran took on the challenging task of editor and Clare Toohey chaired the anthology committee, and the race for publication in September of this year was on.

"It has been a long process from the first call for stories through the blind judging process last year at this time, through the editing steps for 22 stories, plus working with our publisher through contracts, proofing, and layout. "Through it all, we have to thank our tireless editor, Terrie Farley Moran, our board, and officers for all their guidance and support, and the membership for providing such great content and continuing enthusiasm," Clare said.

Those who submitted stories waited with anticipation for the announcement of which stories would be included.

"From the moment we started thinking about a new chapter anthology, creating *Murder New York Style: Fresh Slices* has been a delightfully collaborative venture of the members of the New York/Tri-State chapter of Sisters in Crime. The anthology committee, with Clare's guidance, designed a process that included a role for every member interested in participating. Working anonymously, the first tier judges, the second tier judges, the original copy editors, and the final copy editors have produced an outstanding anthology," Terrie said.

Here is the list of stories and authors: "Tear Down" by Anita Page; "The Doorman Building" by Anne-Marie Sutton; "The Sneaker Tree" by Terrie Farley Moran; "Taking the High Line" by Fran Bannigan Cox; "The Brighton Beach Mermaid" by Lina Zeldovich; "Justice for All" by Catherine Maiorisi; "A Morbid Case of Identity Theft" by Clare Toohey; "Only People Kill People" by Laura K. Curtis; "The Greenmarket Violinist" by Triss Stein; "The Understudy" by Lois Karlin; "Murder

on the Side Street" by Stephanie Wilson-Flaherty; "Out of Luck" by Cathi Stoler; "Tell Me About Your Day" by Lynne Lederman; "He's the One" by Cynthia Benjamin; "A Vampire in Brooklyn" by Leigh Neely; "Remember You Will Die" by Susan Chalfin; "The Cost of Cigarettes" by Nan Higginson; "A Countdown to Death" by Deirdre Verne; "A Poet's Justice" by Eileen Dunbaugh; "That Summer" by Joan Tuohy; "Death Will Tank Your Fish" by Elizabeth Zelvin; and "North on Clinton" by k.j.a. Wishnia.

"I applaud the committee, the authors and especially the volunteers," Terries said, "who swiftly and competently responded to my pleas to 'take a look; tell me what you think.' Thank you, sisters."

"... creating Murder New York Style: Fresh Slices has been a delightfully collaborative venture."

Terrie Farley Moran

On September 18th, at the Brooklyn Book Festival, the chapter launched *Murder New York Style: Fresh Slices*. Volunteers were in the chapter's booth from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. to sell books and sign copies. Writers who wished to promote their own books also shared the booth during that time.

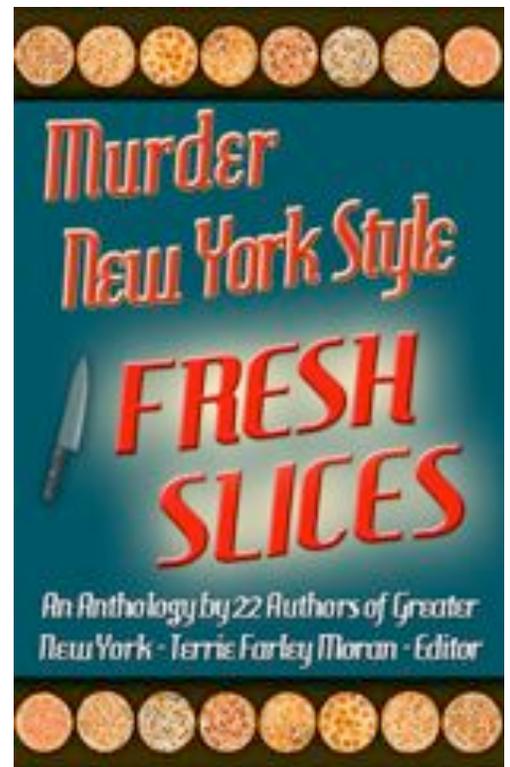
"Even though the Brooklyn Book Festival marks, at last, the debut of a long-awaited title, there's so much more to come! With books-in-hand and available for retail order and online as e-books, we're going to be working across several fronts to promote and sell it, organizing signings, encouraging library orders, and more," Clare said. "We have a terrific anthology committee (A-Team) already assembled, and there'll be more opportunities coming through this list to participate in lots of ways.

Best of all, since this is a chapter project, we're planning a launch party for the entire chapter to enjoy and celebrate together. More details on

that will be forthcoming, too."

There will be bookmarks, press releases, and other opportunities for promoting this chapter project successfully. If you'd like to help in any way, contact Clare. Members will be reaching out to libraries, book stores, and Internet venues

"To sum up where we are with *Fresh Slices* at this moment," Clare said. "Whew! Not to Mention Yay! And Full Speed Ahead!"



"A professional writer is an amateur who didn't quit."

Richard Bach

Course in Mystery Writing Offered at Hofstra University

Chapter member Peggy Ehrhart is scheduled to teach a course in mystery writing at Hofstra University this fall. The course, *Writing the Traditional Mystery*, will be offered in the Continuing Education program and will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on three consecutive Saturdays in October, the 15th, 22nd, and 29th.

Peggy will focus on the elements of the traditional mystery.

Writing a mystery novel is a combination of inspiration and calculation. In a sense every mystery is the same mystery: a murder disrupts the orderly functioning of society, and the sleuth - whether cop, private investigator, or amateur - follows the trail of clues that leads to the killer, thus restoring society's balance. Peggy will reveal the tricks of the mystery-writing trade: how to develop plots, create effective heroes and villains, build

suspense, and invent and plant clues. Participants will be invited to share their work and have it critiqued.

With a Ph.D. in English literature, thirty years' experience teaching writing at the college level, and two published mystery novels, Peggy is well qualified to teach the course.

This is the first time mystery writing has been offered in the Hofstra Continuing Education program. The program, however, offers a wide variety of other writing classes, such as fiction writing, memoir writing, creative nonfiction, and even blogging. The director, Debbi Honorof, is focused on developing the offerings and is very responsive to suggestions.

Hofstra University is located in Hempstead, Long Island, and can be reached from Manhattan using the LIRR,

and of course by car. For more information about the Hofstra Continuing Education department's writing program, visit

http://www.hofstra.edu/Academics/CE/PersonalEnrichment/ce_aoswriting.html.

Peggy's website is at www.PeggyEhrhart.com.



A Note from Catherine Maiorisi, President

Dear Fellow SinC Members:

I'm honored to be your new president. And, I promise to make this a great learning and networking year for all members who chose to participate in chapter activities. Program chair Susan Chalfin is hard at work booking informative and entertaining monthly programs. We're also planning an all day writing workshop in the spring.

The year is off to a great start. Our second anthology, *Murder New York Style: Fresh Slices* will be released this month, in time for the Brooklyn Book Festival.

And at the September 22 meeting you'll have the opportunity to ask literary agent Janet Reid questions about getting an agent. Janet shoots from the hip so you'll

"Janet shoots from the hip so you'll get straight answers from her—and lots of laughs."

get straight answers from her—and a lot of laughs. The monthly meetings are included in your membership fee so there's no charge. Don't miss it. Or any of them.

Feel free to contact me or any board member with suggestions and comments. I plan to build on the work of former president, Clare Toohey, and the presidents who came before her, and make this the best year yet for SinC-NY/Tri-State Sisters in Crime.

I look forward to seeing you.

Meeting Dates for 2011-2012

**Meetings are held at
the Muhlenberg
Public Library
209 W. 23rd Street,
(near 7th Ave.) in
Manhattan**

October 20
November 17
December TBA - Holiday Party
January 19
February 16
March 15
April 19
May 17
June TBA - End-of-Year Party





Sisters in Crime

(affectionately SinC, pronounced sink) was founded by a handful of women authors at the 1986 Bouchercon convention. Since then, we've grown to over 3,600 members in 48 chapters worldwide.

As authors and readers, publishers and agents, librarians and booksellers, men and women, we share a love of the mystery genre and are united to offer each other networking, advice, and support.

The mission of Sisters in Crime is to promote the professional development and advancement of women crime writers to achieve equality in the industry.

Sisters in Crime New York Tri-State Chapter

Meetings are usually held the third (3rd) Thursday of the month at the Muhlenberg Public Library in Manhattan, 209 W. 23rd Street (near 7th Avenue).

Join us for a brief social time at 6 p.m., with the business meeting and program from 6:30 till 7:45. Afterward, members who wish to gather for dinner at a nearby restaurant. Unless noted, meetings are free, open to the public, and guests are cordially invited to attend. In the event the meeting date or time is changed, it will be noted on the group's website www.nysinc.org.

Websites:
www.nysinc.org
local chapter

www.sistersincrime.org national organization