

PEN IN HAND

MARYLAND WRITERS' ASSOCIATION

MWA OFFICERS 2007-2008

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MWA is a non-profit association dedicated to the art, craft and business of writing for professional and aspiring writers. Annual dues \$35; student \$25.

The President's Message by Ann Arbaugh

When the days grow shorter, many of us spend more time inside.

But we hope for one last glorious day outside at the Baltimore Book Festival on September 28 and 29. Look for the MWA booth.

I'm also working on social events for members to meet in Westminster and Reisterstown.

The MWA website has updated info about critique groups and the May 2008 MWA conference. Even the agents and editors we've booked are looking forward to the celebration.

Several months ago, our anthology editor informed us that she was unable to continue. Many thanks to Mary Bargteil for getting this project started. The Board is working on a new schedule perhaps with a release at the 2008 Baltimore Book Festival. Updates will appear in PIH, e-Newsire and on our website.

A member recently phoned and said she couldn't find Board member email addresses on the website. I realized that not everyone knows about links. If the person's name is underlined on the website, you can click on it and find the email. Thanks for pointing this out.

For our members who can't attend meetings, please let us know what other activities you'd like to see on the schedule. Is there a topic that would attract you? Do you want a social event in your area to meet with other local writers? Some other event?

Ann

Editor's note: See the member survey on page 5.



JULY-AUGUST BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

SCRIBBLE: It was clarified that the small magazine *Scribble* is owned by Sherry Morrow. MWA pays the cost of distributing *Scribble* to its members. MWA members and other writers are invited to submit their writing for consideration.

CHAPTER MEMBERS: It came to the Board's attention that some members of the new Baltimore Chapter don't know that they belong to MWA. All chapter members are first members of MWA. Any MWA

member can attend a meeting or event at any chapter.

TREASURY: Gary Lester reported that with bills still coming in from the May Conference, there will be a budget shortfall of under \$1000 for the fiscal year. Since annual dues are also coming in, this is not cause for concern.

MEMBERSHIP: Scott Morrow reported that annual renewal notices went out in June and renewals are coming by mail and online. As of August 12

there were 176 expired memberships. Anyone not renewed by the end of September will be dropped. *Pen In Hand* will note the member's expiration date on the address label. [Check it out..]

EVENTS: With no current event coordinator, Scott Morrow will serve that role for the Baltimore Book Festival, September 28-30. *Friday, 5pm-9pm, Sat/Sun 11am-7pm* Volunteers are needed for the MWA table. Contact Scott scottdmorrow@hotmail.com



JILL EARL ON RADIO DRAMA:

"IT BEGINS WITH WRITERS."

I Found It In a Book

"If you can't prove what you want to prove, demonstrate something else and pretend that they are the same thing."

—Darrell Huff in the 1954 book
How to Lie with Statistics

In this book, reissued in 1993, you can learn how to bias your sample, how to weave little figures that are not there, how to statisticate and how to talk back to a statistic.

If you write or read in this age of polls and figures, *How to Lie with Statistics* will wise you up.

Work in Progress: Writing for the Voice

by Jill Earl

It begins with writers gathering to discuss characters, develop plots, and be assigned episodes. Next, editors clean up the drafts, eliminating extraneous material. Then, with final scripts in hand, voice artists assemble for a full day of recording episodes, usually with lunch kicked in. Finally, sound engineers seamlessly lay down the sound effects track, and post completed episodes to the website.

Welcome to the world of 'A Work in Progress' (WIP), an Internet radio drama created in 2000 as a part of Christian Walk Alive, a local non-profit geared towards Christian-based entertainment.

With a target audience aged 18 years and older, the drama follows the adventures of James Everett,

former missionary and student, who returned to his hometown to start and maintain a Christian campus group. James encounters old and new acquaintances, befriends students, and settles back into life in the ice-cream-crazy town of Progress.

The WIP staff of writers and editors come from varied backgrounds and writing talent, but for all, there's the opportunity to develop and expand skills in radio scriptwriting. Everyone interested in joining the staff must follow established writers' guidelines.

When initially assigned scenes, the new writer is usually paired with a current writer, and eventually moves on to writing more scenes and full episodes.

'A Work In Progress' has enjoyed a steady and successful online run for

over six years with no signs of stopping. And for those without Internet access, the drama is broadcast by radio in Washington State, Oregon and North Carolina, a throwback to the days when the radio was an entertainment mainstay in homes everywhere. ~

A member of MWA since May 2007, Jill Earl received a BA in English with a writing concentration from UM Baltimore County. She's been a writer/editor and voice artist for A Work in Progress. Jill enjoys reading, cooking, traveling, the arts, exploring local wineries, photography and of course, writing. She resides in Catonsville.

Want to know more? Hear the latest happenings in Progress and check out writing opportunities with A Work in Progress at www.aworkinprogress.org.

WHERE'S MY E-NEWSWIRE!?!

You're not alone if you haven't received *e-NewsWire* recently. Three weeks ago 160 e-deliveries of MWA's electronic news bounced. We were able to correct a few email addresses, but the rest of the names were removed from our list. Your name may have been one of them.

Our best guess is that you've left MWA, changed your e-address—or *e-NewsWire* is misdirected as Spam or Junk.

Here's what you're missing: 1) MWA news about meetings, book festivals, the annual conference, our own contests and the like; 2) member news, including notice of publishing success—but *not*, for instance, calls to vote for someone in a writers' contest; 3) opportunities for networking and learning about writing, including conferences of interest,

courses taught by our members and other writers' events; and 4) opportunities to submit your writing to literary reviews, magazines, and contests.

Email the Mailing List Administrator at scottdmorrow@hotmail.com and ask to be put back on the list. That will give us your current email address.

Also contact Scott you've never received *e-NewsWire* and would like to start.

Then add this address to your email contacts or friends list and mark it as safe. We don't send anything else from this address.

Maryland_Writers_Association@mail.vresp.com

Peter Abresch on Writing Fiction

IDEAS AND OUTLINES

What are we going to write about, and how are we going to go about it?

First you need the idea. If we need to talk about how we get our ideas, you probably shouldn't even be looking here.

Some of us think in plot form—suppose a man were to wake up and find himself in a different time? What would happen next? And what would happen after that? And after that? Others

think in terms of character—Sundance Moonflower. What is she like? Chances are with a name like that she's a Native American or a sci-fi character. How does that affect her? Where does she live? Just know it all works. Which way we go depends on how our minds are wired.

The next decision is to outline or not to outline. Some will be happy with a one-page outline, just enough to start putting down words. Others will write an outline and keep reworking it until they practically have the first draft. Some just have an

idea and strike out for parts unknown. It all works.

An outline is not a Moses tablet. Treat it as a map. If you come to a fork in the road, go with it a bit, see how it works out. As we write with the forefront of our minds, our subconscious keeps churning away like a computer chewing over data, and at unsuspecting times it slips us new solutions. Be ready to grab them and go because they often result in a better story.

See more at *BookMarcs*
www.easyreadingwriting.com

MWA Critique Groups Accepting New Members

Scriptwriting Group

Genre: Any type of script (stage, screen, etc.)

Leader: Scott Morrow
scottdmorrow@hotmail.com
Usually meets in Annapolis.

Baltimore Area Writers

Genera:

Creative/literary nonfiction
Leader: Lauren Eisenberg Davis
autumnleaves1997@aol.com
Members from Baltimore area, including Columbia and Essex, meet to discuss their creative nonfiction: essays, memoirs, family stories, etc.

Want a New Group?

If you'd like to form a new critique group or find out if current groups exist that match your interests, contact Critique Coordinator Joya Fields.
jandjfields@aol.com

MWA BOARD BIOS #2

MATHEW LEE GILL, VICE PRESIDENT: Member since April 2004. I am an avid reader and writer of novel length fiction, mostly of the suspense/thriller genre. It's my goal to bring some gravitas to the MWA so that the book buying and selling industry in Maryland recognizes our organization to be truly representative of the state of writing here in Maryland, all to the benefit of our members.~

SCOTT MORROW, Co-MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR & MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Member since 1988. I have served three terms as President, two as Conference Coordinator, and several as a Member-at-Large. As a member of the bylaws committee that first reorganized TWAAAC from a local writers group into MWA,

a state-wide organization, I've had a personal interest in preserving the integrity and vision of our founders as we grow. I hope to organize our membership system and find more ways for MWA to help its members.

I am a scriptwriter who has also written articles and comic essays. I have written several one-act plays (one of which won the Artscape98 playwrighting award), three musicals (I am also a songwriter and musician), and many radio plays and skits. I am working on screenplays.~

CATHY WILEY, SECRETARY: Member since April 2006. I'm currently working on my first novel; it's amazing how long it takes to bring one to life. Although I enjoy reading every genre out there, I'm working on a

cozy murder mystery set in Baltimore (and hope to have as much success as Laura Lippman.) As Secretary, I try to keep track of everything that the Maryland Writers' Association is working on throughout this year.~

SHERRY AUDETTE MORROW, Co-MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR: Member since 1988. I am editor of SCRIBBLE magazine and I'm working on an as yet untitled novel. My writing career includes freelance writing and editing; published articles, short fiction, and poetry. I am a past president of MWA. My goals for 2007-2008 include streamlining the membership process, increasing membership, developing a system for online membership voting, and increasing public awareness of the benefits of MWA membership.~

PEN IN HAND

Submission Guidelines

- **Topics:** writing or publishing tips or experiences that would benefit other members; how-to advice for writers; interviews with MWA guest speakers; short-short stories; poetry; articles regarding upcoming events of interest to our members.
- **Max words:** 100 for events; 200 for all others
- **Payment:** Your story in print
- **Editing:** PIH reserves the right to edit for length, grammar and spelling, as appropriate. Publication depends on timeliness, professionalism and space.
- **Submission Requirements:** Put PIH in the subject line and copy your unformatted text into your email message. Send it to the Pen in Hand Editor sonialinebaugh@hotmail.com.
- Email submissions or questions at any time.

Laughter and Tears

Creative Non-Fiction by Lauren Eisenberg Davis

Waves crash into the side of the ferry we are riding to visit my little sister Judy. Judy doesn't live with us anymore. Mom and Dad gave her away. Mom says Judy's head is too small to let her brain grow. Now she lives on Staten Island in a hospital for retarded children.

"Look, Allyne!" I tap my sister's arm and point to the green statue in the distance. "It's Lady Liberty."

The ferry rocks back and forth on the water. Dad says, "She's as green as you look, girls."

"Why do we look green, Daddy?" I ask.

Dad starts singing, "My

body lies over the ocean, my head's hanging over the rail, I think I am going to throw up, will somebody bring me a pail..."

"Munnie!" Mom scolds, but she laughs with us.

The ferry docks and Dad drives to Willowbrook. We sit in the waiting room of Judy's building with its walls made of big yellow bricks. Mom holds Judy on her lap like a baby even though Judy is four years old. Judy's arms and legs are so long and skinny they seem to take up all of her, like the stick figure people Dad draws because he can't draw real people. Mom strokes Judy's hair and talks baby talk to her. Judy

doesn't know how to talk and I don't think she understands any words either. Mom chants Humpty Dumpty. Judy sucks on her sleeve and laughs. I can't tell if she thinks something is funny or if she is just laughing for no reason. Mom keeps reciting nursery rhymes, but now she's crying. "Daddy," I whisper in Dad's ear, "what happens if my brain stops growing?"

"What happened to Judy happens before a baby is born," Dad answers.

"But what if I become retarded?" I insist.

Dad tries to pull me onto his lap, but I squirm away. Two other families sit in the waiting room with their hospital children. The children are

bigger than me but they are empty bodies like Judy. I

look out the window, pressing my forehead against the glass. All I can see are more and more buildings like this one, hospital homes for thrown away children.

Lauren Eisenberg Davis has been a member of MWA since 2006, and was a featured speaker at the 2007 MWA Conference. She has written a family history book, Autumn Leaves, and has published many genealogy articles. She is currently working on two books: Before All Innocence was Lost (a memoir) and Excess Baggage (the story of a mother's journey with her son).



MWA Baltimore Chapter Report

by Paul Lagasse, Chapter President

The Baltimore chapter continues to have a successful first year. We are averaging 20 to 25 people per meeting, of which at least one-quarter are new or returning non-members. We appear to be gaining two or three new members per meeting, most on their second visit. In other words, people come to our meetings, like what they see, and decide to commit.

The chapter supports two critique groups, a nonfiction group chaired by member Lauren

Eisenberg Davis, and a new fiction group that was just launched by Ally Peltier and Angela Render.

Outside of monthly meetings, MWAB co-sponsored the first Baltimore Authors at the Canton Library, along with the CityLit Project, Write Here, Write Now—and the Friends of the Canton Library. We hope that this will become a regular event at the Canton Library, helping to bring in more programming to this underutilized and historic facility. In September, the CityLit

tent at the Baltimore Book Festival will see the first MWA Baltimore Works in Progress readings, featuring MWA Edith Goldman (chapter Treasurer), Michael M. Hughes, Barbara Friedland, Jen Michalski, Mat Gill (MWA Vice President), Lalita Noronha, Lauren Eisenberg Davis, Eric D. Goodman (MWA Marketing Director), Kimberly Williams, and Chris Stewart (chapter co-sponsor).

We have one standing committee—the Meeting Planning Committee—consisting of members

Jill Earl and Nancy Greene, chapter outreach coordinator Eric D. Goodman, secretary Howard Stiefel, and president Paul Lagasse. The committee coordinates event venues, speakers, and refreshments for the monthly meetings. It conducts its activities primarily by e-mail.

MWAB meets next on September 22 at Blue House, Fells Point, Baltimore.

Gregg Wilhelm of CityLit tells all about publishing and answers your questions.

TWO-MINUTE MWA SURVEY

Maryland Writers' Association is looking for ways to better serve our writing community. Please choose all answers that describe your writing and writing aspirations. We'll read your writing—use the margins if you need more space.

How long have you been an MWA member? ----- _____

Circle your membership category: published writer unpublished writer

aspiring writer in the publishing business Other _____

What kind of writing? Circle all that apply.

Fiction: short stories, novellas, novels, graphic novels, comics. Genre _____

Non-fiction: essays, newspaper articles, magazines, textbooks, technical, newsletters, biography, autobiography, current topics, poetry; playwriting; script writing; speech writing, publisher, agent, book designer, marketer, book store owner, other _____

How can MWA help you? Circle all that apply.

peer group socializing; contests; conferences; speakers who are published writers; speakers who can help you hone your writing skills; critique groups; contacts with agents, editors, publishers; help preparing to submit work to contests or publishers; writing courses; self-editing courses; networking; opportunities to read to a live audience; mentoring; promotion ; Other (describe)

How can you help MWA's community of writers?

Do you have writing skills that you are willing to share? For free? Yes No For pay? Yes No

What skills? _____

Are you interested in being an instructor; guest speaker at MWA events; guest speaker for community groups; mentor Other _____

Do you have leadership and/or organizational skills? Are you willing and able to give your time and talent to MWA as a Board member or volunteer? Yes No Maybe

Comment: _____

Thanks for your input. Together we can create a nourishing atmosphere for writers.

Respondents to the questionnaire, please tell us who you are if you want to share your skills.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email address _____

Comments

Tear off this page, fold it on the dotted lines so your personal information doesn't show, add first-class postage, tape and mail. Results will be published in the next issue of *Pen in Hand*.

Baltimore Book Festival

September 28-30, 2007

F, 5-9pm; Sa, 11am-7pm; Su, 11am-7pm

Mount Vernon Place, 600 block North

Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

As always, MWA members are invited to sell their books from our booth at no charge—you must sit with your books.

(Contact ScottDMorrow@hotmail.com)

Listen to MWAB members read from their works on the CityLit stage.

MWA Meets Second
Wednesday of each Month
7:30-9:30pm, unless noted
WHERE: Chesapeake Arts Center,
194 Hammonds Lane, Brooklyn Park
October 10
Steve Lubs, writer
November 14
Deborah Stone, free-lance writer,
columnist for *The Baltimore Examiner*
December 12
Daniel Stevens, tax attorney

MWAB (Baltimore Chapter)
Meets Fourth Monday of each Month
7:00-8:30pm, unless noted
September 22
WHERE: Blue House,
Fells Point, Baltimore
WHAT: "The Publishing Matrix" Gregg
Wilhelm of CityLit tells all about publish-
ing power and answers your questions.



PO Box 142
Annapolis, MD 21404

Paste
first-class
stamp here.

Thanks.

Maryland Writers Association
PO Box 142
Annapolis, MD 21404

Attn: Sonia Linebaugh

Being Mooned

Creative Writing by Gary Lester

I stood facing the moon, awaiting my fate. To my right stood the shaman. It will be he who interprets the signs of the heavens and make the final determination of my doom.

It was the moon that kept my attention. That which I needed to focus upon. There could be no distractions.

While watching, I noticed darkness to one side. To my horror, the blackness spread. I stood transfixed. Whether it was one

moment or an eon, I could not tell. But the moon was swallowed by the evil.

Even though it was mid-summer, I shivered. I heard a sigh from the shaman. It was as if he knew what the heavens foretold, but felt the burden of announcing the news.

I turned my eyes to the hole where once was the moon. At first, I thought my eyes were playing tricks. A small spot of light began to reveal itself from the darkened hulk. The spot grew into a crescent.

My heart leapt, I was overjoyed. The victory was complete. The moon shone in all its glory.

The shaman walked in front of me. "My child," he said. My eyes found his.

"Alas, for the signs this night, as great as their portent, they cannot release you from your destiny."

My heart fell, my knees buckled and I fell upon them. I covered my face with my hands. "O heinous moon, you have

betrayed your servant. The evil that you have defeated has poisoned you."

My rant was stopped by a soft touch from the shaman. He placed his hands on my head. I awaited as he prepared to speak the final, fatal doom.

"You must," he said. His voice was laden with sorrow. "You must write an article for Pen in Hand."~

Gary Lester acts as MWA treasurer when he's not writing science fiction. Hmm.

20TH ANNIVERSARY WRITERS CONFERENCE

By Denise Camacho, Conference Coordinator

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: THOMAS F. MONTELEONE

Tom Monteleone has been a professional writer since 1972, and a four-time winner of the Bram Stoker Award. He has published more than 100 short stories in numerous magazines and anthologies.

His stories have been nominated for many awards, and have appeared in best-of-the-year compilations. His notorious column of opinion and entertainment, *The Mothers And Fathers Italian Association*, currently appears in *Cemetery Dance* magazine. He is the editor of seven anthologies, including the highly acclaimed *Borderlands* series of which five won a Bram Stoker Award.

He has written for the

stage and television, having scripts produced for *American Playhouse* (Bronze Award at the International TV and Film Festival of New York and the Gabriel Award), George Romero's *Tales from the Darkside*, and a Fox TV series *Night Visions*.

Of his thirty-six books, *The Blood of the Lamb* received the 1993 Bram Stoker Award, and *The New York Times* Notable Book of the Year Award.

His three collections of selected short fiction are *Dark Stars and Other Illuminations* (1981), *Rough Beasts and Other Mutations* (2003), *The Little Brown Book of Bizarre Stories* (2004), and *Fearful Symmetries* (2004), winner of the 2004 Bram Stoker Award. *The Resurrectionist* and *Night of Broken*

Souls, global thrillers from Warner Books, received rave reviews and have been optioned for films.

The Reckoning (a sequel to *The Blood of the Lamb*), and *The Eyes of the Virgin* have been published by Forge.

Monteleone's essays about the book and film industries entitled *The Mothers And Fathers Italian Association* won the 2003 Bram Stoker Award for Non-Fiction. He is also the author of the bestseller, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Writing a Novel* (2004), and is currently at work on his latest novel, a thriller entitled *Submerged*. His books and stories have been translated into twelve languages. He's a writer—please don't call him an "author."~

MWA 20TH ANNIVERSARY WRITERS CONFERENCE

MAY 2-3, 2008

REGISTER ONLINE NOW!!

Friday, May 2, 6pm to 9pm
Dinner and Editor's Panel
Melanie Rigney, Beth Rubin, Jane Frutchey

Saturday, May 3, 8 am-6:30 pm
Workshops, Sessions
for beginners & published writers
Keynote Speaker
Thomas F. Monteleone

Conference Center at the
Maritime Institute of Technology
692 Maritime Boulevard
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL
now through December 31!
MWA Members: \$100
(\$130 as of 01-01-08)
Non-Members: \$130
(\$160 as of 01-01-08)
Anniversary dinner: \$30
Agent/editor session: \$30

Register at
www.marylandwriters.org



PO Box 142
Annapolis, MD 21404

***Please. Renew your MWA membership today!
Your expiration date is on the address label.***

Non-Profit
Bulk Rate
Permit No. 211
Arnold, MD
21012

Pen in Hand

is published by Maryland Writers' Association (MWA) for its members. Change of address or questions about delivery can emailed to scottdmorrow@hotmail.com or posted to MWA, PO Box 142, Annapolis, MD 21404. Subscription rates: FREE to members in continental USA. MWA is a non-profit association dedicated to the art, craft and business of writing. Both professionals and aspiring writers are welcome. Annual dues are \$35; student \$25. Published items remain property of the author. MWA also publishes e-Newswire, a compilation of opportunities and achievements of interest to writers. sonialinebaugh@hotmail.com.

MWA Events

MWA Meets Second
Wednesday of each Month
7:30-9:30pm, unless noted

WHERE: Chesapeake Arts Center, 194
Hammonds Lane, Brooklyn Park

October 10

Steve Lubs, writer

November 14

Deborah Stone

free-lance writer, columnist for the
Baltimore Examiner

December 12

Daniel Stevens, tax attorney



Are you a published author?
Let us post your bio and link your
website to MWA's.
Contact webmaster Paul Lagasse
paul@seeingthroughclouds.com

All MWA & MWAB Meetings
are open to writers and those
interested in writing .
~~
Always FREE to MWA members. Free
for first-time non-members; \$5 for
subsequent attendance.

Baltimore Book Festival
September 28-30, 2007
F, 5-9pm; Sa, 11am-7pm; Su, 11am-7pm
Mount Vernon Place, 600 block North Charles
Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

As always, MWA members are invited to sell
their books from our booth at no charge—you
must sit with your books. We need additional
volunteers who enjoy sitting outside
on pleasant fall days talking with people
about writing and MWA.

Please contact Scott Morrow for information
and to schedule booth times.
ScottDMorrow@hotmail.com, 410-319-9487

MWAB (Baltimore Chapter)
Meets Fourth Monday of each Month
7:00-8:30pm, unless noted

September 24
WHERE: Waterfront Hotel, 1710 Thames Street,
Fells Point, Baltimore

WHAT: "The Publishing Matrix" Gregg Wilhelm
of CityLit tells all about publishing power and
answers your questions.
Bring money for great fries & other good food.