

Bloodletter

New York/Tri-State Sisters in Crime Newsletter

www.nysinc.org

March 2012

Hallie Ephron Workshop, April 14, 9a-4p

Growing up in a family of writers, it seemed natural for Hallie Ephron to be a novelist. However, she says her first love is teaching, and members of the New York/Tri-State Sisters in Crime are hosting a day-long workshop presented by Hallie.

The daughter of screenwriters, Henry and Phoebe Ephron (the movie, "Carousel"), Hallie is the third of four daughters. Her sisters are Nora, Delia, and Amy. The girls thrived in the loving but competitive atmosphere at home and it's evident in the abundance of written work credited to all of them.

Hallie began her career teaching elementary school and

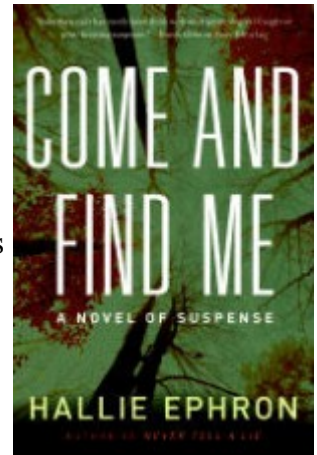
then moved to the college level before transitioning to leading classes for corporations. She now spends much of her time doing workshops for writers and presents the annual "Seascape: Escape to Write" retreat with fellow authors, Roberta Isleib and S.W. Hubbard.

But like her sisters, Hallie couldn't ignore the urge to write and her first mystery was *Amnesia* written with good friend and neuropsychologist Donald Davidoff. Her first solo novel was also psychological suspense. *Never Tell a Lie* came out in 2009 and has been translated into seven languages and nominated for multiple awards,

including the Mary Higgins Clark Award and was adapted for the Lifetime Channel movie, "And Baby Will Fall."

Come and Find Me is Hallie's latest novel and it is a finalist for the Mary Higgins Clark Award this year. She's also the author of the Writer's Digest book, *Writing and Selling Your Mystery Novel* and *The Everything Guide to Writing Your First Novel*. In addition, she writes a monthly column in the *Boston Globe*.

She and her husband have two daughters and live near Boston.



Tooling Up to Write a Crime Novel

Saturday, April 14, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
80 Fifth Avenue, 14th Floor
(14th Street, near Union Square)

New York/Tri-State Chapter of Sisters in Crime has reserved a table for book signings at the 2012 Brooklyn Book Festival on Sunday, September 23. There will be no charge for members who wish to have signings during the day. Contact Catherine Maiorisi for info.

In the News . . .

Three members have been nominated for a Derringer Award:

Cathi Stoler for "Fatal Flaw," *Beat to a Pulp Online*, April 2011, and **Elizabeth Zelvin**, "Death Will Tank Your Fish," *Murder New York Style: Fresh Slices*, for short stories and **Kathleen Ryan**, "Heat of Passion," *A Twist of Noir*, February 2011, in the flash fiction category. Congratulations!

Hilary Davidson's second novel, *The Next One to Fall*, has just been published by Forge. A mystery set in Peru, it is a sequel to *The Damage Done*, which won the Anthony Award for Best First Novel and a Crimespree Award.

Liz Zelvin's third mystery, *Death Will Extend Your Vacation* (Five Star), is out in April, and her CD of original songs, "Outrageous Older Woman," is available on [CDbaby.com](http://Cdbaby.com) and on her website at lizzelvin.com.

Lina Zeldovich's story "Marsh Island" appears in the May 2012 issue of Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, and she shares space with Clark Howard and Kate Ellis.

Terrie Farley Moran has released her first e-book collection of short mystery fiction, *The Awareness and other deadly tales*, available for Amazon Kindle (amazon.com) and Barnes and Noble NOOK (barnesandnoble.com). Terrie used **Winged Books**, a company owned by SinC member **Lois Karlin**, to do formatting, and was very pleased with the results.



A Visit from a Sister Who Lives Down Under!

Megg Vann (fourth from the left), a fellow Sister in Crime from Brisbane, Australia, visited the February meeting at the library. She brought news from our Sisters Down Under: "Sisters in Crime Australia has been running in Melbourne since 1991. I organized a new Brisbane chapter in May last year, and now we have around 20 active members plus more Sisters involved online. Visiting the NY/Tri-State Chapter of SinC was a dream come true for me! Thanks to Peggy, Liz, and all the NY Sisters, the Brisbane Chapter will now have lots of great ideas for meetings and get-togethers. The SinC Australia website gives a great overview of our activities (<http://www.sistersincrimelive.org.au/>). If you'd like to see my work, my first ever publication 'Provocation', a psychological thriller, is coming out soon in *The Review of Australian Fiction* (<http://reviewofaustralianfiction.com/>). I can't wait to visit my NY Sisters again, and if any of you would like to come visit our chapter, we would welcome you with open arms! Meanwhile, I hope to see you all online."

Facebook Page for their chapter: Sisters in Crime Brisbane

Twitter: @meg_vann

Blog: mamaguilt.wordpress.com

Highlights from the Social Media

To maximize the Social Media impact without great effort:

- Google your name to find recent data; be sure it's relevant. Maximize content through syndication and cross-posting. Make a quick, good impression.
- Make meaningful, personal connections to your audience. Get ten people to give you five words that describe your work. Use those words as your "keywords" on web pages. Put them on everything. Define your audience.
 - ✓ Post a photo or profile picture (not an avatar or pet)
 - ✓ Post status updates
 - ✓ Share People and Pages you like and follow
 - ✓ Like other pages and comments
 - ✓ Add comments to other status updates
- *Quality* beats *quantity* online. Look for better traffic rather than posting in several places. Your name is your brand.

This is greatly compressed. Please contact Laura Kramarsky (adept@mac.com) for a copy of the handout given at the meeting.

Fresh Slices from California to New York City

by Triss Stein

I recently participated in what may be one of the more unusual *Fresh Slices* activities. I was a guest for a book discussion group in a retirement community near Sacramento, CA, from my home in Brooklyn, NY.

That is not as random as it sounds. My cousin lives there and one of her many activities is this book discussion group. She suggested they read *Fresh Slices* (hooray for creating a few sales!) and they invited me to join them via speakerphone.

They were interested in the whole process of creating the collection, and the idea that writers sometimes use series characters in a short story and sometimes use a story to play with ideas that are completely different for them. I had one of each, between the two anthologies, which helped this discussion. They had questions about the origins of my story. One of them had some publishing industry experience, and having read my bio, was interested in the Sisters in Crime research study on readers I managed a few years ago.

They were all surprised to learn of our male author!

I have no broad conclusions but it certainly was fun. If anyone else has the opportunity to do this, I suggest asking members to prepare questions ahead of time, to give the discussion a little direction.

Sleuthfest

by Terrie Farley Moran

2012 will henceforth be known as the year the Florida Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America met Mickey Mouse. For the first time, in my memory at least, Sleuthfest was at the Royal Plaza Hotel in the Walt Disney World Resort, just steps from Downtown Disney. Add the Guests of Honor, Charlaine Harris, Jeffrey Deaver and New York's own Chris Grabenstein and it was great! The highlight was the interview of the three at the closing breakfast by Oline Cogdill.

I was busy too, on the Publicity panel, moderated by Deborah Sharp, with Sandra Balzo, Jeremiah Healy, and a bookstore owner, Joanne Sinchuk. We had a lively debate on Friday about the impact of social media on how we present ourselves to the public.

Saturday morning Becky Swopes (nee Swets) moderated the Short Story panel with me, Dana Cameron, Brendan DuBois, and Elaine Togneri. We discussed the difficulties of a story bound by a finite word count and stressed that there are markets for short mystery fiction. We encouraged writers to submit to venues that don't have "mystery" in their title but are looking for well-written short stories.

It was joyful for me to spend time with chapter member Deirdre Verne, and, as always, with two of my comrades in crime, Sleuthsister Deb and Sleuthsister Kim.



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