

PEN IN HAND

July 2007 Volume 22, Issue 1

MARYLAND WRITERS' ASSOCIATION

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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 fees \$35; student \$25.

Message from MWA President Ann Arbaugh



New MWA President Ann Arbaugh is welcomed by outgoing President Austin Camacho.

Hello and Welcome to another year for MWA. I'm very excited about representing all of you as President for 2007-2008.

There are many exciting ideas being discussed by the Board. We'll work on increasing the membership and using public relations to make our pres-

ence known in new areas. New chapters are in the works in Carroll County and other areas could follow if there is an interest.

We'll work on updating and improving the website. In addition to our annual Conference, we'll appear at several book fairs and some informational meetings in the community. I'll be working with other members to start workshops and other learning opportunities.

One exciting idea discussed by our previous Board is the creation of a Speakers Bureau. I've already been contacted by

one organization asking MWA to provide authors to speak at their events. You'll hear more about this in the next issue.

Our membership is spread throughout the state. I plan to bring some of our events to other areas so that all of you have an opportunity to meet other members. If you have an idea for an event, questions, or other comments, please feel free to send me an email.

I look forward to meeting you in the coming months.

Ann

Ann Arbaugh took office as of July 1, 2007.

JUNE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

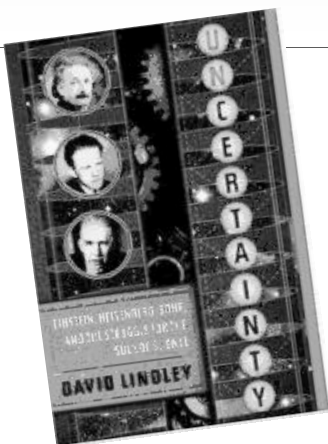
CHAPTERS: Six individuals are interested in setting up MWA Chapters. New VP Mat Gill will take responsibility for this effort. Denise Camacho suggested that MWA chapter representatives meet with the MWA Board once a year. **MEETING**

INFO: New President Ann Arbaugh informed the board that she will be looking for 6-12 months of speaking topics in advance to be posted to the website, in Pen in Hand and E-Newswire. **TREASURER:** Gary Lester's report shows MWA's

balance as \$21,847 with approximately \$3,900 owed in Conference expenses. A petty cash account will be set up for Chapters by unanimous vote. **GRANTS:** Jennie Dietz submitted 12 grant query letters for the President's signature.

ADVICE FROM DAVID LINDLEY

Publishers seem to want narrative about eccentric loners who overcome the odds. You've got to have a story and you've got to have intellect. There's a lot of pressure to write in a certain way. One of the toughest compromises is the balance between what you want and what they want. They don't necessarily know any better than you.



David Lindley

Interviewed by Sonia Linebaugh

David Lindley, author of *Uncertainty: Einstein, Heisenberg, Bohr and the Struggle for the Soul of Science* was wowed by the science he saw on tv as a kid—the first images of the Moon, the satellite photos of Mars. In response he studied physics. When it came to his PhD thesis, he found that he liked the writing better than the mental theorizing that preceded it. Until 1988 he

worked as an astrophysicist writing articles and editing as an aside. Then he moved into writing for Nature magazine. Now he writes books that bring science alive for the layperson, but to make a living he writes articles and does other projects.

Lindley likes the research as much as the writing. While working on *Uncertainty* I found out a whole lot that I didn't know. I love looking up old records, memoirs and

records." Lindley finds a lot of source information at the Library of Congress and the American Institute of Physics which has an archive of interviews and correspondence with physicists from about 1960 on. He says, "It's sort of a puzzle. It can be tricky or difficult but I take pride in making it work."

David Lindley was the guest presenter at the April meeting of the new Baltimore Chapter of MWA.

Novel Contest Winners

BY AUSTIN CAMACHO
Novel Contest Coordinator

Well, the votes are in, and once again the Maryland Writers Association annual novel contest attracted a number of excellent manuscripts. Our winners were selected by an eclectic collection of word-masters, including: Carole Sargent, Director of the Georgetown University Office of Scholarly and Literary Publications; Melanie Rigney, editor with 25+ years' experience; Jane M. Frutchey, editorial consultant; Dana Ross of Pure Quality Publishing; and authors Loree Lough, Jill Morrow, Darlene Aiken, Newt Love, Vic Brown, Jenny L. Brown, and Lucy Moran.

After our team of judges read and rated the 82 entries, first and second place prizes were awarded in five categories. The best of the first place winners also received the grand prize.

Here's a quick rundown of whose name to watch for on future best seller lists:

Romance/Historical

Grand prize *and* first prize: Lisa Marie Wilkinson of Antioch, Tennessee, "Fire at Midnight"
Second prize: Jamie M. Bennett of Middle River, Maryland, "The History of Anna Dean"

Action/Adventure/Horror

First prize: Carl E. Burke of Chestertown, Maryland, "The Fathers of Tomorrow."
Second prize: E. Magill of

Lexington Park, Maryland, "Thesea"

Mystery/Suspense/Thriller

First prize: Richard J. Hinkemeyer of Lothian, Maryland, "Bone Chill."
Second Prize: Bernie Dlugokeski of Glen Burnie, Maryland, "Deadly Dating"

Science Fiction/Fantasy/Speculative

Marie Fujimura Justice of Olney, Maryland, "Trine of Light"
Second Prize: Andy Wolverton of Crofton, Maryland, "Fortress"

Mainstream/Literary

First prize: Vickie Fang of Lanham, Maryland, "Privilege."
Second prize, Tom Glenn of Ellicott City, Maryland, "Friendly Casualties."

First Words

MWA NOVEL
CONTEST WINNERS

Fire at Midnight "I am sane."

The Fathers of Tomorrow
"Lawrence Arrowsmith Vickers, you best get yourself in here right now, child, and get some shoues on them feet."

Bone Chill "Like a razor strap the wind lashed at his bare skin as he sprinted across the snow-covered field toward the lights that flickered in the distance."

Trine of Light "Jax sat bolt upright in bed, eyes wide and staring, his senses screaming danger."

Privilege "I had no trouble spotting the Coopers."

A Brief History Lesson by MWA Historian Jack Noone

In 1985, a speech therapist and a librarian, both readers, decided it was time to organize aspiring authors. Their word of mouth campaign reached a freelance writer who formed the original trio to lay the foundation. By year's end, 20 members voted to call the group The Writers Association of Anne Arundel County (TWAAAC).

With membership at 27 in 1986, a friendly furniture store offered space for monthly meetings, a fee of twenty-five dollars was levied, and sub-groups for fiction, non-fiction, romance

writing, and children's writers were formed. The first issue of *Pen in Hand* appeared.

In 1988, the first workshop was held in the Maryland Hall for Creative Arts with a standing-room-only audience of 54. That was the start of the successful annual conference. Only once did it end in red ink. The year also saw an approved constitution and by-laws. With 109 members filling the ranks of the critique groups, TWAAAC seemed to be filling a literary need.

As the membership grew

beyond the county, the name was changed to The Maryland Writers' Association. There were three critique groups for novel writers and workshops were held for poets and short story writers. The same year the first edition of *Scribble* was published by Sherry Audette Morrow.

Currently, MWA board members are discussing ways to embrace groups throughout the state who wish to form chapters, reaching out to share opportunity with aspirants of the writing craft.

Peter Abresch on Writing Fiction

Writing fiction is addictive. You laugh, but once I started building worlds on paper I found there was always a force calling me back. It didn't make any difference how many failures I had, how many rejection slips I collected—more than my share—or how many times I smashed typewriters to smithereens against the floor, I could never turn off that seductive siren-call that still wafts across the trouble waters on my brain, whispering of how BIG my next novel will be.

Notice the two cliches: smither-eens and troubled waters? Those are some of the sharks lurking in those troubled waters we must liquidate if we want to polish our stories. See more at BookMarcs www.easyreadingwriting.com

MWA BOARD BIOS #1

Ann Arbaugh,

President: Member of MWA since May 2004 and volunteer coordinator for the last two MWA conferences. I write poetry, short stories, local articles, essays, and I'm working on a biography. Most recently I instituted a scholarship at my workplace, Villa Julie, to increase local awareness of the writers association. It is my goal to bring the MWA into a new era that will bring greater understanding of the industry and bring members closer together to share experiences and learn from each other. ~

Gary Lester,

Treasurer: MWA member since 2003 and second-year treasurer. My novel, *Ursula the Yellow*,

won 1st Place in the 2003 Fantasy and Science Fiction category and will be published. I am a jewelry appraiser by day and spend most of my time on planet Earth. ~

Denise Camacho Conference Coordinator:

Though an MWA member for only two years, I ran the conference in 2006 and have been the editor of the E-News wire and most importantly, wife to the previous president [Austin Camacho] (a more than full time job). I come from an administrative and facility management background and I am well-versed in running conferences and meetings of all levels. I hope to be able to make

the next conference an informative and entertaining event everyone will enjoy attending. ~

Jennie Deitz

Member-at-Large: An-MWA member for 7 years and former vice president and second year at-large member. I recently left my cushy government job to work for myself as a freelance writer specializing in grant and travel writing. I am working on my first thriller novel. I completed the Grant Training Center's professional grant development program in 2006, and am working towards winning grants for Maryland Writers' Association. ~

More Board Bios next month.

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:** none
- **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.



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Annapolis, MD 21404

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

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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 WMA, 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 fees are \$35; student \$25. Published items remain property of the author. MWA also publishes eNewswire, a compilation of opportunities and achievements of interest to writers. sonialinebaugh@hotmail.com.



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

August 8

WHAT: Focus on skills writers need and want to make their writing successful. MWA's relaxed, informal meetings offer the opportunity to ask questions of speakers, chat with members, and share news and tips.

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

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

July 23, 7-8:30pm

WHERE: BlueHouse Café, 1407 Fleet Street, Fells Point, Baltimore
WHAT: Chris Stewart of the Write Here, Write Now workshops teaches you how to make killer pitches, a necessary business skill.

August 27

WHERE: Catonsville Library, 1100 Frederick Rd., Catonsville
WHAT: "Writing Out Loud:" panel discussion on writing for broadcast media, with Van Williamson, writer and host of "Radio from Downtown" live radio theater program; Tamara Keurejian, Baltimore news writer and traffic reporter; Jill Earl, script writer, editor and voice artist for an Internet radio drama; and Shirl Hayes, who transcribes novels into audiobooks. *Wow!*