

New York Library Association

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Stephen Sondheim Among Eight to be Inducted into Writers Hall of Fame

Noted writers Roger Angell, Roz Chast, Samuel R. Delany, and Stephen Sondheim are among the eight members of the 2016 Class of Inductees into the [NYS Writers Hall of Fame](#). The four will be in attendance at the induction ceremony and dinner on Tuesday evening, June 7, 2016, at [the Princeton Club of New York](#). Rocco Staino, who serves as the Director of the [Empire State Center for the Book](#), made the announcement on February 1, 2016, at [The Lambs](#), America's oldest theatrical club. The Center for the Book is the organization that oversees the Hall of Fame. In addition, four deceased writers Maya Angelou, Jean Craighead George, Don Marquis, and Grace Paley will also be inducted.

“This year, our committee decided that it was time for a lyricist to be inducted into the Hall of Fame ranks,” said Mr. Staino. “Who better to lead the way than Stephen Sondheim!” This year will also mark the first time that an inductee will be joining a member of his or her family in the Hall of Fame as E.B. White the stepfather of sports writer and essayist Roger Angell was a member of the Hall of Fame's 2010 inaugural class.

The full list of the 2016 inductees is as follows:

Roger Angell (b. 1920) – Essayist, sports writer, and contributor to the *New Yorker*.

Maya Angelou (1928–2014) - Poet, author, and memoirist whose 1969 *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* brought her international recognition.

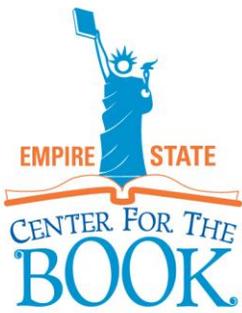
Roz Chast (b. 1954) – Graphic novelist, cartoonist, and National Book Award finalist.

Samuel R. Delany (b. 1942) – Science fiction writer, essayist, and literary critic and a member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame.

Jean Craighead George (1919–2012) - Naturalist and author of more than 100 books for children and young adults.

Don Marquis (1878–1937) – Humorist, journalist and creator of the characters of Archy and Mehitabel.

Grace Paley (1922-2007) – Short story writer and poet.



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***Stephen Sondheim* (b. 1930) – Composer and lyricist whose recognitions include the 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom.**

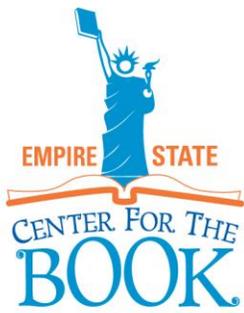
This year's inductees into the NYS Writers Hall of Fame were chosen by a selection committee composed of Harold Augenbraum, Executive Director of the National Book Foundation; Barbara Genco, retired librarian from Brooklyn Public Library and Editor of Collection Management at Media Source; Brian Kenney, Director of the White Plains Public Library; Stefanie Peters of the Library of America; Kathleen Masterson, Director of the Literature Program at the New York State Council on the Arts; Ira B. Matetsky Esq., partner at the law firm of Ganfer & Shore, LLP; Christine McDonald, retired director of the Crandall Library in Glens Falls; Bertha Rogers, Executive Director of Bright Hill Press and creator of the New York State Literary Website and Map; Charlene Rue, Brooklyn & New York Public Libraries Book Ops; and Rocco Staino, Director of the Empire State Center for the Book.

The Empire State Center for the Book is part of the Library of Congress Center for the Book and is currently hosted by the New York Library Association.

For additional information on the Empire State Center for the Book, the NYS Writers Hall of Fame, or the 2016 induction ceremony and dinner, please contact Rocco Staino at rocco.staino@gmail.com or 1-800-252-NYLA.

The Empire State Center for the Book is committed to the book in all formats. Interests of the Center include the promotion of the culture of reading, literature, literacy, book arts, and book history throughout New York State. The Center will work with publishers, libraries, museums, educational institutions, scholars, authors, illustrators and other interested parties to enrich book culture for the people of New York. The Center for the Book relies on grants, sponsorships and the contributions of individuals who share the ideals and support the mission of the Center to promote literature, literacy and libraries.

The Lambs is America's first professional theatrical club, established in New York in 1874. The Lambs nurtures those active in the arts, as well as those who are supporters of the arts, by providing fellowship, activities, and a clubhouse for its members. The Lambs is a social gathering place for entertainment industry and art professionals. Performers, directors, writers, artists, and technicians gather at The Lambs to celebrate their commonality, in a place where they come to enjoy each other's company, and to display and hone their crafts in an atmosphere of creativity and support.



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