

Stepping Stones



Upcoming Events

9.29.2010

The Second Annual Stepping Stone Society Celebration

10.2010

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

10.14.2010

Fresh Flowers, Fresh Start: A Benefit for The Second Step

7:00-8:30 PM

TWIG, 769 Tremont Street, Boston

Learn the fine art of flower arranging as practiced by four-time Best of Boston winner TWIG's floral designer while enjoying wine and savory snacks. Bring a friend!

To reserve your space, contact Lisa Cerqueria at 617.319.6021.

11.6.2010

Step Up to the Plate: Fine Dining, Celebrity Speakers

More information on page 8

4.28.2011

Save the date for Celebrating Success next spring!

Steps to Justice for Domestic Violence Survivors

What does "legal advocacy" look like at The Second Step? Ask attorney Alison Klein, The Second Step's Legal Advocate, and she thinks first of candles and pizza—all she could offer one participant on a dark February evening. The survivor had spent every spare dollar on services for her special-needs children, falling drastically behind on her electric bill. Her pantry was empty and her electricity cut off when she reached out to The Second Step. Community Advocate Page Clark brought supper to the family, and the next day Alison spent hours on the phone, negotiating with the power company to arrange a repayment plan.



L to R: Alison Klein, Legal Case Manager; Page Clark, Community Advocate; Raquel Raynor, Community Case Manager

Utility cutoffs are only one of many issues that fall under the umbrella of The Second Step's Legal Advocacy Program, which helps survivors of domestic violence achieve stability by accessing their legal rights and remedies. The program serves current residents in The Second Step's Transitional Living Program; past residents who have moved into housing of their own; and survivors living in the area who come to The Second Step independently or through referrals by sister agencies, the D.A.'s office, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, therapists, or clergy. Without the support Alison and other advocates provide, many of The Second Step's participants would be at risk of becoming homeless, losing their children, or returning to the dubious shelter of an abuser.


A Collaborative Effort

"Advocacy is an important part of The Second Step's role in securing justice for survivors," says Roberta Rosenberg, Executive Director. "If you're a single parent, dealing with the fallout from abuse, possibly living in a new neighborhood far away from your family and friends, you're fighting a lot of battles at once. Sometimes, you just need an ally."

Continued on page 3

Stay Connected! Here's How:

Help us "go green" and reduce paper mailings! Send your email address to us at development@thesecondstep.org. We never share your information with any other group.

- Find us on Facebook 
- Visit our website at www.thesecondstep.org
- Let us hear from you! You can reach us at the address and phone number below, at info@thesecondstep.org, or through Facebook. Tell us how you prefer to be contacted and anything you'd like to learn about The Second Step.

From the Executive Director



DEAR FRIENDS,

How do you use less to do more? That's the question facing most nonprofits as the recession and its fallout continue to shrink budgets even as demand for services grows. Government support and foundation giving are down. And yet the need is greater than ever. How can we find inventive ways to meet it?

A part of the answer lies in partnership. New England is home to numerous domestic-violence agencies.

Some offer short-term crisis shelters; some run hotlines for survivors. Among these agencies, The Second Step is unique in providing support services to families for as long as needed—sometimes for years. We are also unique in offering long-term transitional housing—and in providing legal advocacy, permanent housing support, and parenting resources to survivors whether or not they live in our residences. But our commitment to the safety and stability of domestic violence survivors is not unique; it is shared with many other organizations. So why not do more to combine resources and work more closely with our sister agencies?

This is going to be the year of partnership for The Second Step. Already we have found so many willing and wonderful partners. We have joined with sister agencies for outreach and education in the western suburbs, where not enough people are aware of the services available to domestic violence survivors. We have begun formal partnerships with area nonprofits that offer an infrastructure to better handle the wealth of in-kind donations we receive each year. And here in Newton, we are excited to be partnering with Mayor Setti Warren to forge a city-wide response to domestic violence.

These partnerships won't do it alone. The recession is real. Your personal support has ensured that survivors who come to The Second Step are not turned away and can stay with us as long as they need to in order to remain free of abuse over the long term. Your support has enabled children who have seen enough violence for a lifetime to learn healthy conflict-resolution skills and make lasting friendships.

You'll read more about our partnerships in this newsletter. But our most important partnership is the one we have with you, our loyal supporters. Private donations constitute more than 50% of the crucially-needed dollars in our lean budget. It is you who make the life-saving work of The Second Step possible, and we are deeply grateful.

Warmly,

Roberta R. Rosenberg
Executive Director



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Stuart Sadick to Lead The Second Step's Board

Stuart Sadick, a valued member of The Second Step's Board of Directors since 2008, succeeded Eileen Morrison as Board President in the spring of 2010. Formerly Board Vice President and Chair of the External Relations Committee, Stuart is The Second Step's first male board president.

"Domestic violence, sadly, is part of our lives on a local and a global level," said Stuart. "We are so fortunate to have the commitment and talents of our staff, our Board, our volunteers, and our supporters. I am proud to be involved with The Second Step, and very proud to serve as the Board President."

Stuart leads the Global Consulting & Advisory Services sector of the executive search firm Heidrick & Struggles. Raised in Worcester, he holds an M.S. in Management from MIT's Sloan School and a B.A. from Connecticut College. Stuart is a past Board President of Massachusetts Citizens for Children and has volunteered for both Big Brother and Recordings for the Blind. He lives with his partner and their six-year-old son in Newton.



L to R: Stuart Sadick, Board President, with past presidents Eileen Morrison, Clare Villari, Sandra Fisher, and Sheila Arderly

Steps to Justice for Domestic Violence Survivors - *continued from page 1*

The issues are complex and often interrelated, involving everything from child custody, restraining orders, and immigration issues to landlord-tenant relations, employment benefits, and negotiations with school officials.

Legal advocacy is often a collaborative effort involving the whole Community Program team. Always, Alison and the other advocates strive to meet survivors wherever they are on the journey of recovery. Sometimes, it takes more than one meeting to build trust before a participant discloses her legal needs. Sometimes, advocates must counsel a survivor to work toward immediate safety before tackling longer-term goals. "I'm not a problem fixer," says Alison. "I help survivors find their own paths to justice as they define it."

Legal Representation for Survivors

A key element of legal advocacy is matching survivors with informed and affordable legal representation. But the past nine months have seen a steep drop in the availability of legal aid for survivors of domestic violence in the Boston area. Last spring, following a loss of \$2 million in annual funding, Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS), a leading provider of low-cost/no-cost legal services for low-income survivors, announced fifteen staff

cuts—among them the very attorneys The Second Step had often depended on to represent our program participants.

The good news? As part of the ongoing planning process for an expanded legal program, Steps to Justice, The Second Step has identified a range of untapped resources that will help fill the need of our participants for affordable, knowledgeable legal representation. The Boston College Legal Assistance Bureau (BCLAB) will collaborate with us to provide free legal services to participants living in Waltham, Watertown, or Newton, as well as supplementary training for our advocates. Several area law schools have responded to the shortage of jobs for newly-trained attorneys by offering short-term paid fellowships to their graduates, for whom The Second Step can provide placements. Pro bono internships for attorneys and law students offer another structured way to boost the services The Second Step can provide to participants while giving lawyers valuable experience.

With trained lawyers available to represent participants, Alison and the other advocates will continue to help resolve the legal obstacles that survivors encounter on so many fronts. The advocates will offer support, mediation, advocacy, accompaniment to court hearings and school meetings, and more—including, if needed, pizza and candles.

Pro Bono Counsel Needed

The Second Step is working to mobilize the surrounding legal community to step up and fill the gap in services for survivors.

If you are an attorney with experience in the area of domestic violence and related legal issues, or if you would like to learn more, please contact Roberta Rosenberg at 617.965.2393 or rosenberg@thesecondstep.org.



A Word of Thanks to...

Our amazing **Boston Marathon Team**: Casey Bayer, Karen Crupi, Kevin Curley, Jim Dever, Tom Schmidt, and Chris Warren, who ran 26.2 miles and raised over \$24,000 in support of The Second Step's programs and services, inspiring us all.

Newton Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, for providing beautiful space for our monthly Board of Directors meetings.

Lasell College, for hosting our IMAGINE mentoring program and offering bi-monthly meeting space and use of the campus facilities, and for providing very dedicated student mentors for the children in our program.

Jackie Husid and Beth Wilson, for co-leading our twice-monthly Women's Nurturing Group.

John Barowski and Newton Wellesley Hospital, for a generous donation of playground wood chips.

Beauty consultant **Lesley Lane Lasseter**, for donating facials and makeovers for our residents.

The Gann School, for many donations to "new apartment" baskets for residents moving into their own homes.

The Rashi School, for numerous donations of time and supplies for our residential program. Thank you for being awesome!!

Ron Perrault and the Newton Food Pantry, for bi-weekly food deliveries to both our residences.

The Newton Kiwanis, for hosting our annual summer reunion barbecue for residents and former residents at The Second Step.

Joanne Zafron of Focal Point Opticians, for generously supplying free eyewear to adult and child participants at The Second Step.

Members of the **Community Consulting Team**—Vipul Bhushan, Dustin Clinard, Paula Cohen, Gretchen Effgen, David Greenberg, and Kathy Walter—for helping The Second Step create a business plan for managing the generous in-kind donations we receive.

Linda Sperandio, for spending one day each month organizing in-kind donations for the use of participants.

Maia Rose, for organizing the handling, storage, and distribution of donated furniture that eventually turn a house into a home for participants at The Second Step.

Our friends at the **Marigold Charitable Trust**, who filled specialized needs of child participants at The Second Step—including enrichment classes and transportation to programs—that would otherwise have been unmet.

Girls Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts, for offering a beautiful setting and facilities at low cost for our annual IMAGINE mentoring program retreat.

Dr. Lisa Goodman and graduate students from Boston College's Department of Counseling, Developmental, and Educational Psychology, for valuable assistance in preparing speakers to tell their stories at Celebrating Success.

Sheila Flynn and Kathleen LaCerde, for producing a Silpada Designs Jewelry benefit evening for The Second Step; and Sara Jakobek, for hosting the event.

Cheers for a Cause, for hosting an art sale to benefit The Second Step.

Marjorie Freiman, for holding a trunk show of her handmade jewelry to benefit The Second Step.

Lisa Monahan, for providing a "Switch Gear" jewelry kit to each participant at Celebrating Success, and for generously donating proceeds of all Switch Gear kit sales to The Second Step.

Coach John Stauhlo and the Newton North High School wrestling team, for their amazing volunteer support of our TSS Moves program.

Elena Taxiarchis and staff at Posternak Blankstein and Lund LLP, for donating an entire trunkload of new twin bedsheets for our residences.

Viking Moving Services and Extra Space Storage, for providing free furniture storage and reduced-cost moving services for residents moving into new permanent homes.

Our talented summer interns, Olivia Barnes, Emily Belowich, Lucy Hajian, Jordan Harris, Rachel Korman, Hannah Lodi, and Angela Taylor, for contributing so much.

Lisa Cerqueria and Rob Galeski of TWIG, for hosting Fresh Flowers, Fresh Start, an event to benefit The Second Step.

Mary Donchez, for volunteering to set up rooms for new residents.

Laurel Salend, Phyllis Madoff, and Betty Lee, for providing child care to allow our participants to attend group meetings.

The many volunteers who have donated countless hours—as "baby whisperers," event planners, food shoppers, phone-answerers, and committee members—and who, in so doing, have greatly expanded The Second Step's capacity to meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence. **THANK YOU!!**



Cheers for a Cause creators (L to R): Cara Keeven, Roxy Cioroslan, Collin Bray, and Lily Domike

Wanted: Angels, Elves, and Reindeer . . . You!

The days are growing shorter, and The Second Step's annual Holiday Gift Drive is about to get underway. Last year, hundreds of generous donors and volunteers brought holiday cheer and essentials to more than 120 families now living free of abuse. This year, we will fill the wishes of even more families. Can you help?

For survivors who have left their homes to escape domestic violence, the holidays can be an especially stressful time. Heating bills arrive just as children need new winter coats, boots, and other essentials. Meanwhile, the holidays themselves can be bittersweet, bringing a poignant reminder that survivors are separated from their familiar neighborhoods, families, and friends.

Our annual Holiday Gift Drive enlists generous donors—our "angels"—to fill the wish lists of the families we serve, including winter clothing, blankets, or household goods as well as individual wishes for the games and playthings that all children love.

As donations arrive in December, an army of volunteers—our "elves"—sorts, wraps, and bundles each one. At the end of the month, volunteer "reindeer" pick up the gifts at our warehouse space (the "North Pole") and deliver them individually to families' homes.

Please join our Holiday Gift Drive! It's a wonderful opportunity to meet the immediate needs of families recovering from domestic violence. As an "angel," an "elf," or "reindeer," you help bring meaning and substance to the holiday season. It's a great opportunity to volunteer on a short-term project, in company with other committed community members. And it's fun!

To arrange to fill a family's wish list, or to volunteer to wrap or deliver gifts, please contact Julia Busbee at 617.916.2754 or jbusbee@thesecondstep.org. **THANK YOU!**



Building Partnerships and Reaching Out

You've read the statistics: domestic violence is increasing in incidence and severity. According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and The National Institute of Justice, one in four women in the United States experiences domestic violence in her lifetime. Economic stress exacerbates abuse and limits options for escape. As of this writing, Massachusetts has seen 23 deaths due to domestic violence since the beginning of this year alone.

We know that domestic abuse crosses all socioeconomic boundaries: no one is immune. We also know that it takes a community working together to create an environment of responsiveness and safety. And we have learned over and over at The Second Step that nearly everyone cares. We are all horrified by the reality of abuse and eager to see it change. The goal is to define the ways we can all help.

At The Second Step, two new initiatives have emerged to help channel the outpouring of concern about domestic violence in our communities:

The Mayor's Task Force on Domestic Violence

Newton's Mayor Setti Warren, in a series of meetings with Roberta Rosenberg at The Second Step, has made a commitment to a city-wide response to domestic violence. Together, Mayor Warren and Roberta convened a Task Force on Domestic Violence that will marshal the combined forces of municipal departments, local agencies, and area businesses, including the D.A.'s office, the Newton School Department, and the Newton/Needham Chamber of Commerce. The Task Force will create a seamless network of support for survivors of domestic violence by increasing communication between first responders and service providers, bringing outreach and education programs to area public and private schools, and partnering with local businesses to increase support for domestic violence programs. The goal is to come together as a community to make sure that victims and bystanders alike have the knowledge and resources to reach out when help is needed.

"Abuse happens in Newton as often as anywhere else, and it's so important that all of us know how to respond effectively," said Sarah Ecker, Director of Community Relations for the City of Newton. "Mayor Warren is pleased to be able to use his office to coordinate Newton's response to domestic violence and raise awareness of the resources available."



Newton Mayor Setti Warren with Roberta Rosenberg, Executive Director

A New Men's Initiative

When Roberta first came to The Second Step, she found herself in a world of women: the organization's board, staff, and volunteer committees were predominantly female. "While the struggle to end domestic violence grew out of the women's movement in the 1970s, I truly believe that domestic violence is not a 'women's issue,'" says Roberta. "It's a family issue and a societal issue. It belongs to all of us." Giving men a voice and a role in the work of The Second Step became one of Roberta's goals.

Now, Roberta has laid the groundwork for a new Men's Initiative at The Second Step. Chaired by volunteer Steve Winer, the Initiative will build numerous ways for men to participate more fully in the agency's work, and for The Second Step to leverage their knowledge, perspective, and connections. Members of the Men's Initiative's Coordinating Council have already begun engaging their contacts in fields ranging from education to sports to business, with possible pathways to include mentoring of male youth, legislative advocacy, education and outreach through schools and other local organizations, intergenerational programs, publicity campaigns, and social networking. Plans are underway for some exciting events. Stay tuned for more news of this exciting new Initiative!

The Second Step is launching the Men's Initiative because:

- Men care
- Men have wives, daughters, sisters, mothers, and friends who may need help
- Men are abused as well
- Men represent half of the population in the world
- Men have different social networks
- Men have access to other men
- Men are highly represented in the legal, justice, and medical systems and in business
- Men in sports and entertainment often serve as positive role models for teens
- Our children mirror the violence they see or experience
- It is critical to be counted among those who will not abuse and who will speak out against abuse
- Abuse is wrong
- It is unforgivable not to do all we can to stop it!

Please join the Men's Initiative and make a commitment to work to reduce domestic violence—as mentors or event hosts, through outreach and education, and by networking for financial support. The Men's Initiative will meet again in October. For more information or to join the Men's Initiative, please contact Roberta Rosenberg at rrosenberg@thesecondstep.org, or Steve Winer at win@merle.com.

Celebrating Success 2010 Honors Survivors' Success Stories

Our 2010 gala, Celebrating Success, drew a capacity crowd of nearly 500 friends of The Second Step to the Westin Waltham Hotel on April 29, 2010, to honor the many successes of program participants. The evening marked a change: no longer a graduation ceremony only for survivors leaving our transitional residences, the event has grown into a celebration of the many successes of all The Second Step's participants, including those in our Community Program.

The Second Step thanks dedicated Co-Chairs Roberta Carson, Sharon Johnson, and Marianne Karmel and their amazing committee of volunteers; emcee Joyce Kulhawik; keynote speaker William Kellibrew III; and the many sponsors and supporters who gave so much to make the evening a huge success!



Gillian Kohli



Kathleen Manning Hall and Mary Kakas



L to R: Steve Winer, Bob Smith, and Beth Smith



L to R: Joyce Kulhawik, Emcee; William Kellibrew III, Keynote Speaker; and Roberta Rosenberg, Executive Director



L to R: Celebrating Success Committee Chairs Marianne Karmel, Sharon Johnson, and Roberta Carson

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Laura Vennard*

Elizabeth Waksman & Darren Orbach

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* Members of The Second Step Board of Directors

Note to Our Generous In-Kind Donors

Survivors of domestic violence often come to us with no more than a suitcase—or even a plastic garbage bag—containing their few possessions. In-kind donations go a long way to helping them establish new permanent homes. But lack of storage limits our ability to accept donations of used clothing and other items that cannot always be used immediately. **Please contact us at 617.965.3999 or info@thesecondstep.org before bringing donations to our office.**

Our Wish List

The following items can be put to immediate use by our participants and are always welcome!

- New, unused, twin-size comforters, blankets, sheets, and pillows
- New, unused bath, hand, and washcloth towel sets
- Gift cards to Target, grocery stores (Shaw's, Stop & Shop), and pharmacies (CVS, Walgreen's) in amounts of \$25 or less
- New, unopened, family-size toiletry items: shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, hand lotion, soap, etc.
- New, unopened packages of non-perishable food staples such as cereal, peanut butter, coffee, tea, jams and syrup, pasta, mac & cheese, canned soup, canned stew or ravioli, etc. *Note that we are required to discard items at or beyond the expiration date on the package. Please check the package date before donating.*
- New, unused kitchen utensils (large spoons, peelers, spatulas, etc.)
- New, unused pots, pans, and glass baking dishes
- Pre-paid "Charlie" cards for public transportation

- Postage stamps
- New, unused baby items: safety gadgets, wipes, crib sheets, monitors, diapers
- New, unused puzzles and games that can be played solo
- Gifts for women: New, unused slippers, hairbrushes, shave gel, lotions, etc.
- Laundry detergent and laundry baskets
- Disposable cameras
- Lightbulbs
- Desktop or laptop computers manufactured after 2006
- Converter boxes to allow antenna televisions to receive digital T.V.



A room at one of The Second Step's residences

Please visit our website at www.thesecondstep.org for ways to encourage group giving. **THANK YOU** for your generosity!

Meet the New Face(s) of Development at The Second Step!

Susan Keliher, *Director of Development*



Susan Keliher is a compassionate fundraising professional who brings 20 years of professional experience including fundraising, board and volunteer

management, public relations, and event planning, as well as nearly a decade of advocacy on behalf of children and families. Having worked at two domestic violence agencies previously, she has a passion for ending domestic violence, and she welcomes the opportunity to share with the community how their support of The Second Step makes a long-lasting and positive impact on hundreds of families each year.

Susan's role is to lead all fundraising efforts by enhancing the work of the development team, building relationships with current supporters, and engaging new areas of support.

Barbara Levitov, *Special Events Manager*



Barbara Levitov is a seasoned development and marketing professional with tenure as Director of Special Events, Member Benefits, Donor Clubs,

and Volunteers at WGBH. You may have seen her on TV during Pledge fundraising! She brings to The Second Step her diverse event experience, ranging from the WGBH Wine Weekend filled with a gala dinner, dance party and wine tasting, to Julia Child's Birthday Party, to the WGBH Ice Cream FunFest. Her year-long calendar of events also included a speaker's series with FM hosts and PBS celebrities. Barbara's career milestones also included stints as a teacher of the deaf, fundraiser at the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and marketing manager at Wellesley College's Davis Museum.

Ways of Giving

Your generous support helps us empower domestic violence survivors to heal from trauma and to rebuild their lives. There are many ways to help.

- Visit our website at www.thesecondstep.org to make a secure online donation with your credit card
- Mail a check payable to The Second Step. Our address: Development Office, The Second Step, PO Box 600213, Newtonville, MA 02460
- Make a tribute gift in honor of a friend, a colleague, or a relative, or to honor a graduation or a birth. We'll send a personal card to the honoree.
- Give a gift in memory of someone special. We'll send a card to the family members you designate.
- Donate stocks or securities while receiving tax and financial benefits.
- Remember The Second Step in your will. Your financial advisor or attorney can help.

Please contact Susan Keliher, Director of Development, at 617.965.4173 or skeliher@thesecondstep.org with any questions or to make a gift. *Thank you!*

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Step Up to the Plate

Step Up to the Plate: Fine Dining, Celebrity Speakers

It's become a much-anticipated tradition! Step Up to the Plate is an evening of 18 dinner parties, hosted simultaneously in the area's most gracious homes. Each dinner features a notable guest speaker. And it's all to benefit The Second Step!

"Step Up to the Plate is a wonderful opportunity to socialize with interesting people and enjoy a wonderful meal together, all while knowing you are doing your part as a member of a community that cares. Kitty and I are very much looking forward to it." —Michael Dukakis



Scott Turow



Michael and Kitty Dukakis



Bill Littlefield

Will you join us?

This year's Step Up to the Plate will take place on Saturday, November 6, at 7:00 PM. Here is a list of the special guests. To make your selection, or for more information about the evening, please contact Barbara Levitov, Special Events Manager, at 617.965.2026 or blevitov@thesecondstep.org.

Our 2010 Dinner Parties:

Journalism in Transition
Martha Bebinger, reporter for WBUR

The 2010 Election
Jeffrey Berry, newspaper, NPR, and TV commentator and Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Tufts University

Changing Identity
Deborah Bershel, family physician, born male and now a transsexual female

The Reel Deal
Ty Burr, film critic for *The Boston Globe*

Recipe for Success
Mary-Catherine Deibel, co-owner of UpStairs on the Square restaurant in Cambridge

Good Cookin'
Keith Dresser, senior editor of *Cook's Illustrated Magazine*

Mike and Kitty
Michael Dukakis, 65th and 67th Governor of Massachusetts and presidential candidate, attending with his wife, Kitty Dukakis

Sax Appeal
Deric Dyer, world-renowned jazz saxophonist

Making a Difference
Ron Kahn, past president and director of the Joslin Diabetes Center

A Whale of a Problem
Dr. Iain Kerr, CEO of Ocean Alliance

Locally Grown
Michael Leviton, executive chef and owner of Lumière restaurant in West Newton

Double Play
Bill Littlefield, host of WBUR's "Only A Game," joined by his frequent guest Charlie Pierce

Two-Fer
Eileen McNamara, Pulitzer-Prize-winning writer, and her husband Peter May, former sports writer—both for *The Boston Globe*

Healing Cells
Doug Melton, co-director of Harvard's Stem Cell Institute

Rock 'n' Roll from A to Z
Steve Morse, former music critic for *The Boston Globe*

Getting Down to Business
Paul Solman, business and economics correspondent for PBS NewsHour

Moral Medicine
David Steinberg, Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Director of Medical Ethics at Lahey Clinic Medical Center

Murder He Wrote
Scott Turow, lawyer and best-selling author of thrilling mysteries