

THE MYST-ERIE BLOTTER



April 2015
Volume 1, Issue 2

Letter from the Editor



Greetings Sisters and Mistrs:

With great pride, I am happy to report that the launch of the first newsletter went extremely well. It was so nice to hear that many of you enjoyed it and I look forward to providing you an enjoyable, informative newsletter every month. That being said, I didn't do it entirely alone. Without the other officers to help and guide me through a lot of my questions, I can't imagine that it would have been such a success. Irma, Jane, Kim, Amanda and Cari...seriously, I appreciate all of you for answering my onslaught of questions, your guidance and your expertise. Thank you from the bottom of my little nerdy heart!

Now that we've got the mushy stuff out of the way...March proved to be a productive month for many and April proves to be even more so. There are a variety of book events and signings coming up and to be honest with you, I'm having a hard time saying no to any of them!

My first event representing myself as a Sister in Crime was the Indie Author Conference & Showcase that was at the Parma library on Snow Rd. the beginning of March. I joined our library liaison, Cari Dubiel, at the Sisters in Crime table that was set up outside of the conference room and followed her lead in promoting the organization and encouraging people to join the national group and our local chapter. I met some very interesting people and had quite a few conversations about the trade.

A woman approached me at some point and asked me about the true benefits of being a Sister in Crime. She commented that writers are solitary individuals and she didn't see much to gain from a group of writers sitting around talking about their books. Before I could say much of anything, she walked away and it left me with a sense of disappointment that I couldn't voice my opinion.

In reality, Sisters in Crime is so much more than a bunch of writers sitting around talking about their books. It's camaraderie. It's a place to go where people get you...like-minded individuals getting together and talking about their passion for the craft of writing. It's where you can go to vent because you're stuck in chapter 9 and can't get out. It's somewhere you will meet someone along the way who will not only be a teacher of sorts, but become a friend. There are so many different levels of experience throughout the group, each person brings variety to the table.

You may be extremely active with other writers or you could stay mostly to yourself. But, either way, you're a sister or a mister and you have a family of crazy, murder-plotting geniuses waiting to talk to you about your next victim or plot twist. And, if you ask me, I wouldn't have it any other way. So, my question is, if you had to tell someone what the benefits of being a Sister in Crime are, what would you say?

No, seriously, tell me. You have my email, don't be shy...and yes, I will put it in the newsletter.

I hope you all enjoy this edition of our *Myst-Erie Blotter*. I know I enjoyed creating it.

Until next time...Happy Writing!

Paula Corrao

April Showers Bring...

Birthdays

Tom Clancy - April 12
Janet Evanovich - April 22
Sue Grafton - April 24
Harper Lee - April 28

The month of April wears many hats. It is: International Guitar Month, National Poetry Month, Mathematics Awareness Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Volunteers Month and Arab-American Heritage Month.

Noah Webster copyrighted the first edition of his dictionary on April 14, 1828.

The United States Library of Congress was established on April 24, 1800.



Indie Author Conference & Showcase

by Paula Corrao

The Indie Author Conference and Showcase, held at the Cuyahoga County Public library in Parma on March 7, had a good turn out with a variety of eager writers from all genres. The conference and showcase included three guest speakers and over forty self-published authors.

Our local chapter had a table set up outside of the conference area encouraging fellow mystery writers to join Sisters in Crime. Alongside us were tables for the Northeast Ohio Chapter of Romance Writers of America, Ingram Spark, SELF-e and the Western Reserve Writers Conference.

The event kicked off with Jim Kukral, the founder of AuthorMarketingInstitute.com, who provided much insight into the world of self-publishing from a business standpoint. Jim shared stories of success, informed the audience of the benefits within the self-publishing world, and noted what to look for when working without an agent or a publishing house.

Next on the panel was J. Thorn, a self-published success story, who shared his trials and tribulations in a segment titled, "How I Went from Selling 2 Books a Day to 200." With pride, J. divulged all the gritty details of his failed first attempts and how they became a learning curve to his end result of success. Today, he is listed as Top 100 Most Popular Authors in Horror, Science Fiction and Fantasy on Amazon and stands among many of his favorite writers.

The conference closed with Carolyn Morris from Bibliolabs who introduced, SELF-e, a free service that is designed to promote self-published authors through the library. Cuyahoga County is the first in the state to currently use this program and its creation has led to the Indie Ohio Anthology. For more information on this, check out: <https://library.biblioboard.com>.

After the speakers concluded their presentations, the attendees were encouraged to move downstairs to the showcase area where independent authors had tables set up promoting their work. In the mix, we caught our very own Gloria Alden and writing team, Matt and Stefanie, who write as M.S. Verish.

While the event itself was centered around self-publishing, there were many writers from both the traditional and independent industries. Overall, it was a great networking tool for those who were published and those looking to be. Of course, the excitement also attracted curious readers who peeked through the doorway before stepping inside and taking a look around. Not only were they enthused to find books for sale by local authors, but the authors themselves!

All in all, I'd say this was a success for the Cuyahoga County Library and I can see it becoming an annual event that will continue to grow.



Gloria Alden



Stefanie and Matt Verish



Where Do You Think You're Going?

Mystery Community Events for April

April 11

Second Annual Local Authors Fair
located at the Dover Public Library
525 N. Walnut Street
Dover, OH 44622
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For more information visit: www.doverlibrary.org

April 12

Medina Railroad and Toy Show
located at the Medina County Community Center
735 Lafayette Road
Medina, OH 44256
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

NEOSinC Member: Jane Turzillo, Ohio rail crime
and Ohio rail disaster books

April 18

Stark County Library Author Fair
located at the Stark County District Library
715 Market Avenue North
Canton, OH 44702
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For more information visit: www.thesmartstore.org

April 25

Ninth Annual Ohioana Book Festival
located at the Sheraton Columbus at Capital Square
75 E. State Street
Columbus, OH 43215
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

NEOSinC Members: Shelley Costa, Kylie Logan,
Amanda Flower, Julie Anne Lindsay, Sam Thomas
and Jane Turzillo

For more information visit:
www.ohioanabookfestival.org

April 25

Rocky River Public Library Festival
located at
Don Umerley Civic Center Auditorium
21016 Hilliard Boulevard
Rocky River, OH 44116
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

NEOSinC Member: D.M. Pulley
For more information visit:
www.rrpl.org

Mystery Community Events for 2015

- Malice Domestic – May 1 – 3 in Bethesda, MD, located at the Hyatt. Check out malicedomestic.org for more details.
- Deadly Ink: August 7 - 9 in New Brunswick, NJ
- Magna Cum Murder – Oct 30 – Nov 1 in Indianapolis, IN, at The Columbia Club
- Bouchercon 2015 – Oct 8 – Oct 11 in Raleigh, NC

Cleveland Rocks!

2015 Cleveland Rocks Romance Conference

Join the Northeast Ohio Romance Writers of America on May 29 and 30 for the Cleveland Rocks Romance Conference at the Holiday Inn in Strongsville, OH located at 15471 Royalton Road (Route 82).

The conference will begin Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. and continue through Saturday until 5:00 p.m. Registration starts at 6:15 p.m. on Friday and 8:15 a.m. on Saturday.

Cost: \$105 for NEORWA members, \$125 for non-members

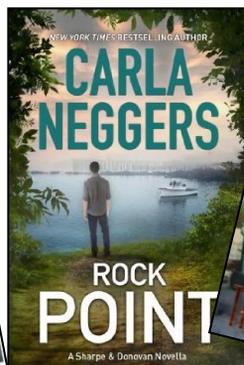
Breakout workshops:

- What's Hot and What's Not (in today's market)
- The Disorganized Organized Revision
- Connecting with your Readers: A Whirlwind Tour of Social Media for Authors

Plus:

- Pitch Appointments
- Meet-and-greet time
- Book fair
- Signings
- Annual Basket Raffles including: Kindle baskets, workshop registrations, critiques by industry professionals and baskets filled with books and other goodies!

For more information about the conference or NEORWA, check out their website at www.neorwa.com or email them at neorwa@neorwa.com

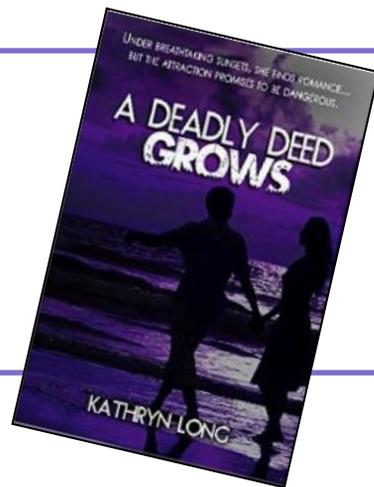


Keynote Speaker:
Carla Neggers
A romantic suspense novelist, Carla is the author of over 40 books and has appeared on both the New York Times and USA Today Bestselling Lists.

What's Everyone Up To?

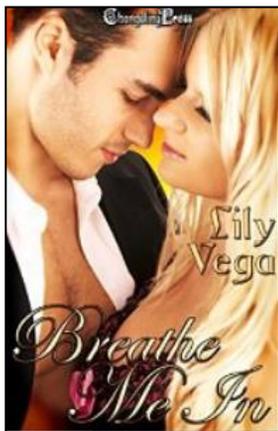
Kathryn Long's new romantic suspense, *A Deadly Deed Grows*, was released on March 20 by The Wild Rose Press. The book is available for purchase on Amazon.com and thewildrosepress.com. Print coming soon!

Kathryn Long



Lily Vega's newest release, *Breathe Me In (Crescent City #1)*, is now available in Kindle version for purchase on Amazon.

Lily Vega



Tired of facing immortality without love, John Rabbitt refuses to consume life energy -- until his protege hires a stripper to dance for him.

Veronika Mason never would have agreed to fulfill her strange client's every desire, but if she doesn't pay off her ex-boyfriend's gambling debts, the thug sent to collect the money may well follow through on his violent threats.

Having denied his late wife's pleas to turn her into an energy vampire, John finds himself guilt-ridden when faced with the same decision again. Given a second chance, will he be able to transform Veronika to save her life? And his own?

Irma Baker

In March, NEOSinC President, Irma Baker presented six talks on mystery fiction to groups in Indianapolis. Topics of the talks were: "Mystery Hits a High Note" featuring mystery series with music settings and "Mystery Meets the Great Northwest" featuring mystery series set in the northwest US. Irma is scheduled to present another series of talks there in July.

What's Everyone Up To?

NEOSinC

During the month of March, a Pinterest page was created to promote the NEOSinC chapter and provide a plethora of fun and useful information for its members. Not only is the Pinterest page geared towards its own members, but the hope is to also attract other interested parties along with avid readers and fans.

The boards will include: member promotion, writer tips and tools, inspiration and so much more.

Stop by to check out the page and start following us! You can find us here: www.pinterest.com/NEOSinC

Want your work to be added to the NEOSinC Publications board? Email paula.corrao@yahoo.com with the title you would like included.



Cari Dubiel represented Sisters in Crime at a meeting of the Adult Reading Roundtable in Deerfield, Illinois. Three authors from the Chicagoland chapter – Clare O'Donohue, Lori Rader-Day, and Susanna Calkins – joined Cari for a mystery panel specifically geared towards librarians. Cari will do a full write-up of the event for the National newsletter, inSinC.

Cari Dubiel

Let's Get Down to Business

The March meeting proved to be an exciting one to attend. After Irma gave a warm and sincere thanks to Kim Hammond for all the help she has contributed as chapter president since the creation of NEOSinC, Cari introduced the guest speaker, Sergeant Mark Kreiger of the Twinsburg Police Department. With 22 years of experience and being the head of the detective bureau, he had many interesting stories to tell and lots of information to provide. While he has been involved in both homicide and narcotics, his specialty lies with the narcotics department and there is no short supply of excitement there.

Mark started the meeting with some basic background information on his experience and how he came to be where he is today. He then moved on to general information on the police department and how things operate. Before you knew it, sisters were chiming in with questions and scenarios for him to answer and confirm. Time flew and we were all disappointed that the meeting was coming to a close, but it seemed that Mark enjoyed the meeting as much as we did and offered to come back in the future with more information for our group. So, if you weren't able to make the first meeting, you definitely don't want to miss his return!

The last portion of the meeting was spent catching up with members on what they're doing and discussing potential events and possible speakers for future meetings. Do you know someone who would make an excellent guest for our monthly meeting? Remember...sharing is caring!

2015 Meeting Schedule

April 14 - 7:00 p.m. at Twinsburg Public Library

- Guest Speaker: NEOSinC Member Wendy Campbell presents on story structure.

May 12 - 7:00 p.m. at Twinsburg Public Library

June 9 - 7:00 p.m. at Twinsburg Public Library

July 14 - 7:00 p.m. at Twinsburg Public Library

August 11 - 7:00 p.m. at Twinsburg Public Library

Saturday, September 12

- One-day writing retreat - Additional details to follow

October 13 - 7:00 p.m. at Twinsburg Public Library

November 10 - 7:00 p.m. at Twinsburg Public Library

December 15 - 7:00 p.m. at Twinsburg Public Library

Check It
Out!!!

www.themysteryplace.com

Home of Ellery Queen and Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazines. Both magazines are North America's leading longest-running short-story mystery magazines.

www.cozy-mystery.com

A comprehensive guide to cozy mysteries. Includes books listed by themes and author names.

Did you
know...?

Want to share
your blog or
website? Send an
email to the
editor!

Agatha Christie waited five years for her first book to reach publication. During that time she was rejected six times!

“Writing may or may not be your salvation; it might or might not be your destiny. But that does not matter. What matters right now are the words, one after another. Find the next word. Write it down.”

--Neil Gaiman

Author of *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*

Coming soon to a newsletter near you!

Watch our newsletter grow! Each month we hope to bring you more and more information from the mystery writing world! Things to come include:

- ★ **Member spotlights** – Let's get to know each other!
- ★ **Have you read it?** – Book recommendations for your writing and reading needs.
- ★ **Event coverage** – Read up on any events you might have missed.
- ★ **Member contributions** – Have something you want to share about an experience you had? We want to know!

If you have suggestions for articles you'd like to see in the newsletter, email paula.corrao@yahoo.com!