

THE MYST-ERIE BLOTTER



April 2016
Volume 2, Issue 3



Letter from the Editor

Greetings Sisters, Misterys, and Mystery Lovers:

What's exciting for me in doing this monthly piece in the newsletter is that I feel at times (when I'm on point) that I can take a variety of people on a little journey. I have to admit it's fun to know that some of you I've never met, and others I have...and others have given me donuts. (No pressure.) And really that is a large part of why people write. (The journey...not the donuts.) Some do it for themselves while others have a story that needs to be shared. Some of us like to scare the pants off each other, and others have a love story that will make you cry for days.

Writing is an art form I have loved my entire life. So, it brings me GREAT joy to share with you, strangers and friends, that I have succeeded in breaking into the publishing world. That's right, this teal-haired girl got herself a book deal! Turns out that synopsis I tortured myself with wasn't too shabby after all! I can't describe to you in words what an amazing feeling it was to hear that someone actually liked my writing enough to find it worthy of publication.

Of all days for it to happen, it was St. Patrick's Day...which is a very difficult day for me because it's the day that my grandmother passed away. This woman was an incredibly inspirational person in my life. Top 5 for sure. She was my rock, my cheerleader and my best friend. So when I lost her, it was extremely difficult to handle.

Normally, I take the day off work and my dad and I head to the cemetery and then have lunch. But this year, we've had so many things going on in both our lives, we thought maybe we wouldn't go this year and save it for the weekend. So, I went to work...like any other day, only it wasn't, and immediately upon sitting at my desk, I knew I shouldn't have done it. But, we had a company meeting that day and I convinced myself that free food would solve all of my problems. Because let's face it...when doesn't free food make you smile?

Off I go to the company meeting and who should sit at my table but the president of the company. He's excited about the nice weather and some equipment he got for his new hobby, home brewing. In celebration, after the meeting he gives everyone the rest of the day off! I can now go to the cemetery after all! And, I absolutely can't wait to call my dad to tell him I don't have to work after all.

Back at my desk sits my phone...two missed calls from New York...I have no idea who it could be. (I'm bad at saving contacts in my phone...shame shame) It's my agent and "OMG Paula, where are you?! Call me back!! We have a deal!!!"

And I'm not lying to you when I say I ran into my boss's office and started jumping up and down, squealing like a teenage girl at her first boy-band concert. I'm sure there was a point right then where my boss regretted hiring me...or thought I went





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absolutely insane. Quickly, I blurted out my news and ran into the “book room” – which is where all of our stock is kept – and called back my agent. From then on the details get blurry. I remember jumping up and down, laughing, crying, thinking surely everyone has thought Paula’s lost her mind. All that “non-toxic” hair dye has finally leaked into her brain.

So what actually happened on the call? My agent was more than happy to inform me that St. Martin’s Press loved my book proposal and agreed to a three-book deal! Add in some particulars and some more crying/laughing and that’s the basic gist.

For a minute...or seventeen...I’m not sure, I sat in the book room staring at the wall. My dream had come true. This was it, it was really happening. And, it was not lost on me that it happened on that particular day. I truly felt that my grandmother was there with me in that room, smiling and laughing right along with me. I could almost hear her say, “Look it, Paula Corrao...you can do anything you set out to do.”

So...I’m setting out on a new journey in my life, and I wanted to share it with you. Some of you have already made this journey and know how it feels. For some of you it’s waiting in the future. When it happens for you, be sure we know about it so we can tell everyone your story, too. I think it’s going to be a lot of fun.

Aside from all of that, I wanted to spend some time talking about Death March and what an amazing experience that was. The best part of it, I have to say, was the level of intimacy in the setting. Don’t get me wrong, there were quite a few people there...I’m not good at counting masses, but I would say roughly 80 people. Yet, you didn’t feel lost in the crowd and it seemed like everyone got a chance to talk and ask questions. The panelists were extremely sociable during and after the event and our moderator, fellow NEOSinC member Dr. Katherine Clark, was absolutely amazing ...and wow, what a sense of humor. She kept the day both lively and entertaining with her witty banter and excellent commentary.

I got to spend a little time with S.J. Rozan, and all I can say is, that woman is super cool. She’s down to earth, has a great sense of humor, and is a great speaker. If you missed it, try to catch her the next time she’s in town. You won’t be sorry!

A shout out must go to Laurie Kincer at the Cuyahoga County Library Writing Center and our own Shelley Costa for putting together such a great event. And, also a high five to all my fellow sisters for coordinating so well. We really have a great group of people and it always keeps me smiling..

Until next time...Happy Writing!...and Reading!

Paula Corrao



Let's Get Together

April Meeting

Dinner Meeting
Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 p.m.
London Pickle Works in Brecksville

*Join us for a great night of food, socializing
and talk about mystery writing!*

<http://www.londonpickleworks.com/>

*The London Pickle Works is a neighborhood restaurant and bar in Brecksville serving
pub food, daily homemade specials and hearty soups ~ menu to fit any budget.*



London Pickle Works, 7265 Fitzwater Rd.. Brecksville, Ohio 44141
440-526-0707



May Meeting

**Haunted Housewives, Paranormal
Investigators**
Tuesday, May 10, 7 p.m.
Twinsburg Pubic Library



Chapter Business

Open Offices... The office of **Secretary** is open. We also need a **Publicity Chair** and **Program Chair**. Currently the board is handling these offices as needed but we want to hear from any members interested in taking on these roles. *We promise it won't take over your life.*

*We Need
You!*

*When Do
We Meet?*

Meeting Dates/Flexible Scheduling... Our meetings are tentatively booked for the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. generally at the Twinsburg Library but we adjust the date, time and place based on availability of speakers and opportunity for special events. For instance, this summer we're planning a field trip to "The Power of Poison" exhibit at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. That event will most likely be scheduled on a weekend. Always check the most current newsletter or the website and watch for email meeting notices.

Meeting Locations... This year we're looking at quarterly scheduling that would set two meetings at the Twinsburg Library and a third meeting at a different location. *We're open to suggestions for off-site meetings or events for third and fourth quarter. Would you like to host a meeting at your local library or another location or do you have a suggestion for an event or field trip? Let us know!*

*Where
Do We
Meet?*

*What's
Our
Focus?*

Meeting Topics... We're continuing our theme of "Getting It Right" by scheduling speakers professionally involved in crime detection/prevention, whose expertise can help us get our mystery writing right. We also want to cover craft-related issues and offer opportunities to get together to share experiences and learn from each other. Our April meeting at London Pickle Works is an opportunity to get together and talk about our writing pursuits in a more casual environment.

Death March

Death March: Mystery Readers & Writers Conference

Our chapter was pleased to join the Cuyahoga County Library in hosting the first all-day event at the library's newly launched Writing Center on March 12.

NEOSinC member and mystery expert Dr. Katherine Clark started the day with the hilarious introduction of participating authors by writing style — most gentle to goriest — leading right into keynote author S. J. Rozan's talk on "Categorization and its Discontents" and her interview.

Throughout the day authors shared insights and experiences on panels covering Getting (and Staying) Published, Bring on the Sizzle: Writing to Keep Readers Reading, and Do You Really Need an Agent?

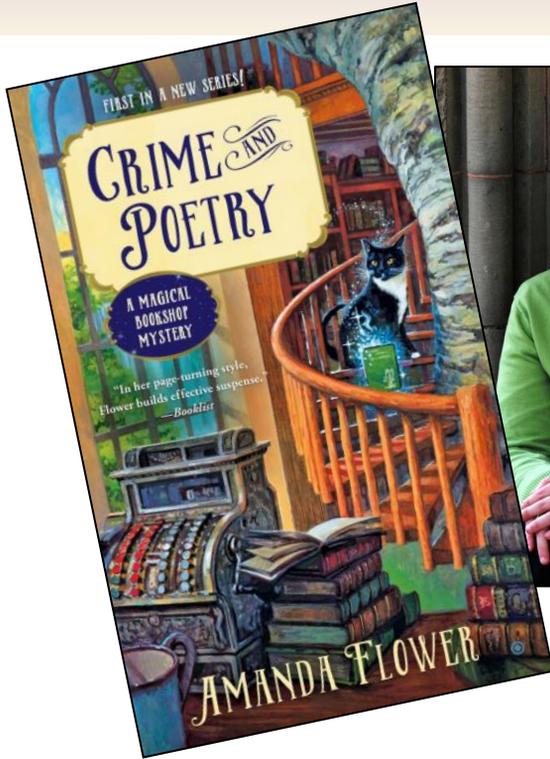
Special thanks to NeoSinc member and author Shelley Costa and CPPL Writing Center Manager Laurie Kincer for developing the program and coordinating the event!



Dr. Katherine Clark introduces Death March participating authors: (from left) Amanda Flower/Isabella Alan, Shelley Costa, Mary Ellis, D. M. Pulley, Sam Thomas, keynote author S. J. Rozan, Andrew Welsh-Huggins, Jane Ann Turzillo and author/literary agent Victoria Selvaggio.



Crime and Poetry Launch Party!!



The long awaited arrival of Amanda's newest book, *Crime and Poetry*, is almost here! Come celebrate and join the fun! Plus...there's going to be giveaways! Who would want to miss that?!

Amanda Flower's Facebook Party

April 7th, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Join her on her Facebook page where she will be giving away prizes every 15 minutes!

<https://www.facebook.com/authoramandaflower>

Special appearances by editors Cheeps and Tummy.

Available April 5, online and in stores!

Amanda Flower's Emily Dickinson Tea Party

April 16th, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

at Twinsburg Public Library
10050 Ravenna Rd
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087
330-425-4268

Registration details:
<http://twinsburglibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails.aspx?EventId=7990&lib>



Where Do You Think You're Going?

Our Authors at Community Events Coming Soon!

April 9

Jane Turzillo
Local Authors Book Signing
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Stark County Library
715 Market Avenue North
Canton, OH 44702

April 13

Jane Turzillo
Dine Around
Lake County Historical Society Event
6:00 p.m.
Willoughby Brewing Company
4057 Erie Street
Willoughby, OH 44094

April 23

Jane Turzillo, Kylie Logan, Amanda Flower,
Mary Ellis, Julie Ann Lindsey, D.M. Pulley
Ohioan Book Festival
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square
75 E. State Street
Columbus, OH 43215

April 11

Jane Turzillo
Books & Cooks
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Madison Public Library
6111 Middle Ridge Road
Madison, OH 44057

April 17

Casey Daniels
1:30 p.m.
Grafton-Midview Public Library
983 Main Street
Grafton, OH 44044



Malice Domestic Mystery Conference

April 30 – May 2

Bethesda, MD

**Gloria Alden, Shelley Costa,
Casey Daniels/Kylie Logan,
Amanda Flower, Jane Turzillo**

*If Traditional Mystery
is your cup of tea!*
www.malicedomestic.org



April

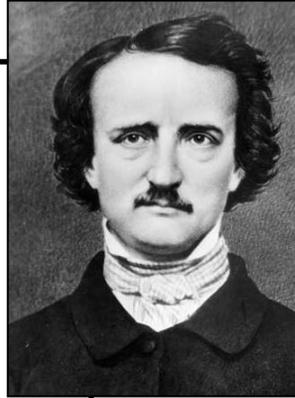
Birthdays:

- April 6 - Vince Flynn
- April 7 - Iris Johansen
- April 10 - Anne Lamott
- April 12 - Tom Clancy
- April 22 - Janet Evanovich
- April 24 - Sue Grafton
- April 26 - Lisa Unger



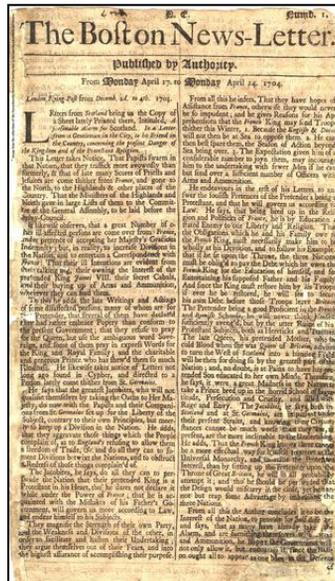
April 20, 1841

The Murders in the Rue Morgue, by Edgar Allan Poe, was published in Graham's Lady's and Gentleman's Magazine.



April is:

National Poetry Month,
National Arab-American
Heritage Month, Jazz
Appreciation Month, Alcohol
Awareness Month and Cancer
Control Month

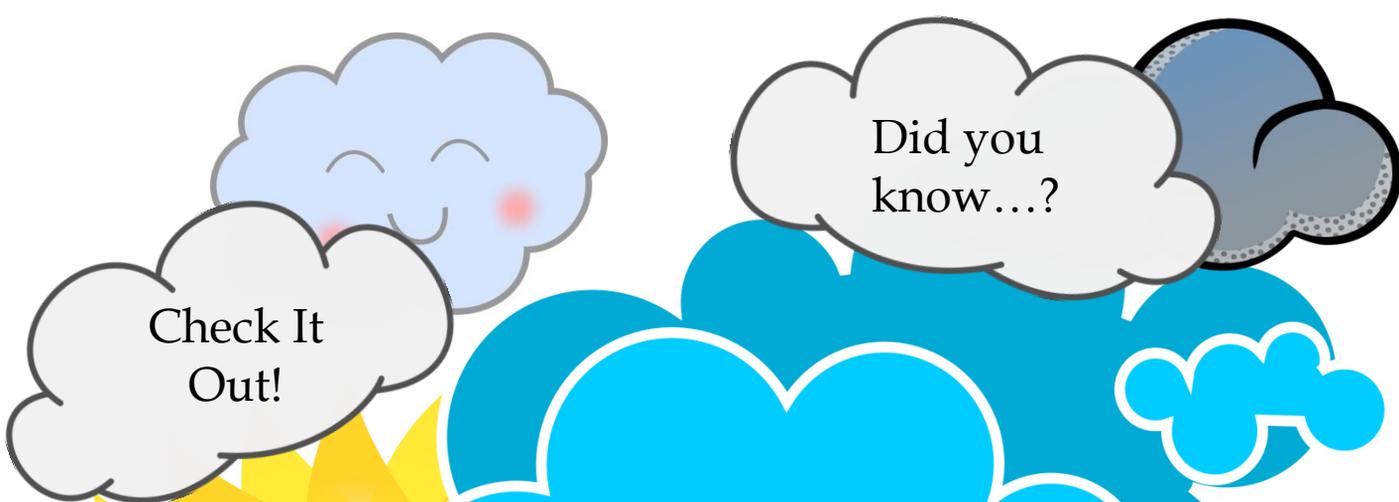


April 24, 1704

The first regular newspaper in British Colonial America, *the News-Letter*, was published in Boston, Massachusetts.

"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything."

- William Shakespeare



Check It
Out!

Did you
know...?



Want to share
your blog or
website? Send
an email to the
editor!
paula.corrao@
yahoo.com

Originally, Edgar Allan Poe wanted a parrot to repeat the word "nevermore." But because of the darker tone of his work he decided a raven would be more fitting.

"Exercise the writing muscle every day, even if it is only a letter, notes, a title list, a character sketch, a journal entry. Writers are like dancers, like athletes. Without that exercise, the muscles seize up."

~ Jane Yolen
Author of *The Devil's Arithmetic*

Who's Who and What's Where

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