

THE MYST-ERIE BLOTTER



August 2016
Volume 2, Issue 7

Letter from the Editor



Greetings Sisters, Misters, and Mystery Lovers:

The summer is quickly coming to a close and it's hard to believe we are staring August in the face. I believe this time of year is a mixed bag for many. While some are dreading the foreboding winter months and lack of days without jackets, others are anxious for kids to go back to school, life to return back to "normal," and of course, the return of pumpkin spice and falling leaves. Meanwhile, I haven't even gotten any sun on these translucent legs of mine!

So, if I haven't been basking in this sweltering summer sun, working on my tan, what have I been doing?

Editing.

The editing process is an interesting one. Reviewing your own work is even more interesting. Since I started writing way back when, I've never truly taken the time to edit a full length novel. The paranormal mystery (my first completed manuscript) that I finished some years ago sits happily in a pink binder with all of its errors and inconsistencies. I've read through it a few times and occasionally I'll laugh at some of my silly errors and make notes to myself in the margins. But, I have never taken on the actual task of editing and revising the whole thing so it's shiny and perfect. So this current novel, *Death by Dumpling*, is definitely a new experience for me. My initial reaction after my first read-through was..."OMG...this can't be right. I should burn it." In my eyes, all hope was lost. But after a mini freak-out and a package of mint Oreo Thins, I got some perspective.

One piece of advice that seemed to be consistent from the many writers that listened to me gripe was ultimately the same. "Step away and give it time. You're looking at it too closely." Even the essays I found on revising your first draft had the same message. So I sat down and I said to myself..."Paula...Vivien...whoever you are...calm down, it's going to be wonderful, and when your book is published, you can hug it and carry it around and show it to everyone in sight. So, don't lose hope...or else no more donuts." And truthfully, that last bit is what got me in line. Idle threats against pastry consumption are no laughing matter.

With that being said, thank you to my fellow writers who listened to me go through panic mode and helped me find my way back on track. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

If anyone out there reading this is a first-time writer, or simply in the same position I'm in, take warning and give yourself a break. Nothing is as bad as you think. Step back. Chill. And most importantly, find the nearest Dunkin Donuts. Life is always better with a Boston Crème in hand.

(Those Oreo Thins might do the trick too. Just sayin'.)

Paula Corrao
And sometimes... Vivien Chien

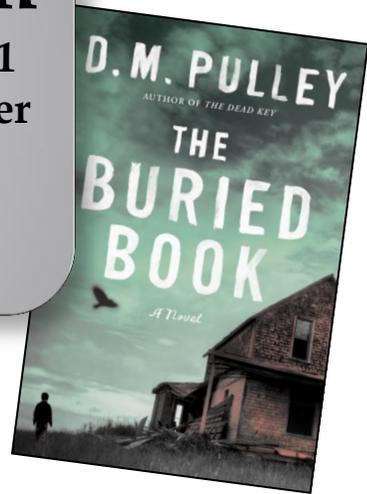
Let's Get Together

August Event

Stone Garden Farm

Richfield, Ohio ~ Sunday, August 21
2-4 p.m. Hosted by NEOSinC Member

D. M. Pulley
Author of *The Dead Key*
and *The Buried Book*



You must be registered to attend this event.

Come and tour Stone Garden Farm (<http://www.ohiofarmmuseum.com>) This family-run historic farm and village provided the hands-on experience that helped inspire D.M. Pulley's new novel, *The Buried Book*.

Homemade snacks and lemonade will be provided along with a free signed copy of the book! Bring farm-ready walking shoes. Children are welcome. Parking is limited.

To register...

Send your name and number attending to: dmp@dmpulley.com by August 18. Please put "Farm Visit" in the Subject. Free books are limited to one per family.

September Meeting

Tuesday, September 13, 7 p.m., at the Twinsburg Library. We are in the process of scheduling a prosecuting attorney as our guest speaker for the September Meeting. Watch for *more info in the September newsletter*.

What's Everyone Up To?

Mary Ellis

The next in the Secrets of the South Mysteries, *Magnolia Moonlight*, released on August 1.

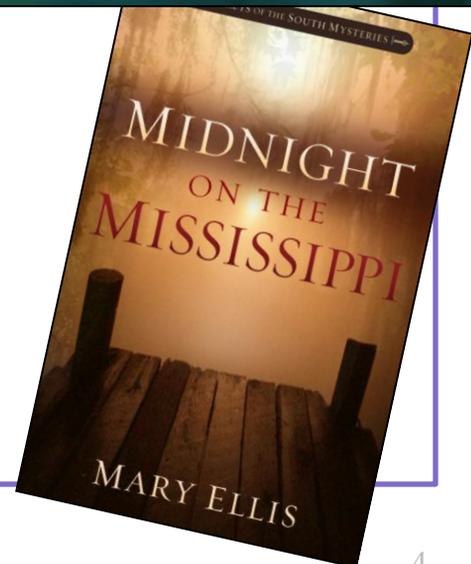
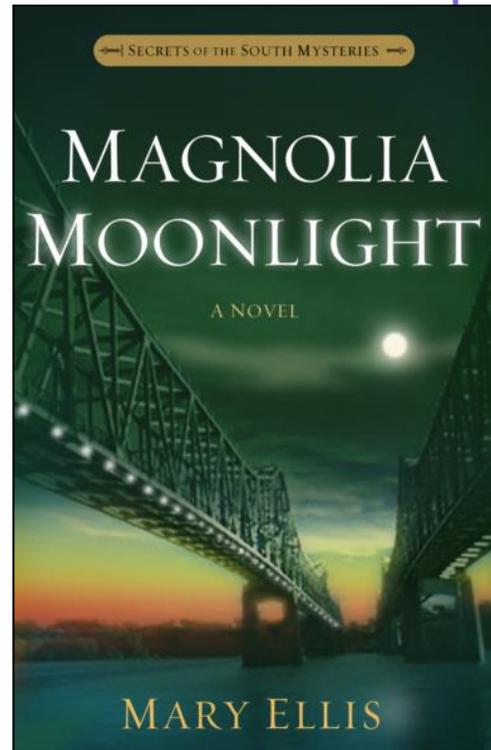
After being jilted by his fiancée, Michael Preston, a former CPA, pursues a new job as a private investigator specializing in forensic accounting. And what better place to work than the new office of Price Investigations in Natchez, Mississippi?

Unfortunately, Michael's partner, Elizabeth Kirby – a crack shot ex-cop with a past she wants to escape – resents having to work with someone whose only surveillance experience comes from television and video games.

Their boss and his wife, Nate and Isabelle, are two insanely busy newlyweds who are forced by their friends to finally take their honeymoon. However, their romantic trip turns into an investigation when they bump into Izzy's ex-husband, Craig, who seems to have taken up his gambling addiction once again. In an attempt to save Craig, Izzy discovers her ex doesn't hold all the cards.

Back in Mississippi, Michael and Elizabeth are left to take on their first case without Nate's oversight when a preacher allegedly commits suicide. His widow suspects foul play, but things look grim when Michael discovers the Reverend may have been stealing from his congregation.

Midnight on the Mississippi, first in the Secrets of the South Mysteries, was nominated for a Daphne du Maurier Awards for Excellence in Mystery/Suspense in the Inspirational category. Kiss of Death is the Mystery/Suspense chapter of Romance Writers of America.



What's Everyone Up To?

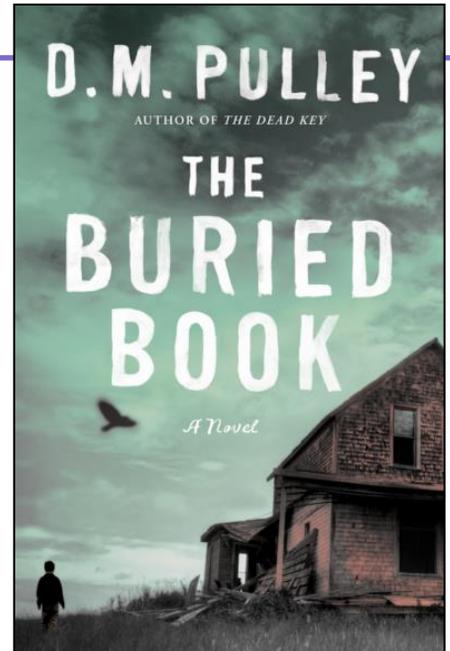
D.M. Pulley

D.M. Pulley's novel, *The Buried Book*, will be available August 23.

When Althea Leary abandons her nine-year-old son, Jasper, he's left on his uncle's farm with nothing but a change of clothes and a Bible.

It's 1952, and Jasper isn't allowed to ask questions or make a fuss. He's lucky to even have a home and must keep his mouth shut and his ears open to stay in his uncle's good graces. No one knows where his mother went or whether she's coming back. Desperate to see her again, he must take matters into his own hands. From the farm, he embarks on a treacherous search that will take him to the squalid hideaways of Detroit and back again, through tawdry taverns, peep shows, and gambling houses. As he's drawn deeper into an adult world of corruption, scandal, and murder, Jasper uncovers the shocking past still chasing his mother – and now it's chasing him too.

See August Event notice on page 3 for info on a tour of the farm that helped to inspire this book.



Beachwood Public Library will be hosting a book launch event for *The Buried Book* at 7 p.m. on August 23.



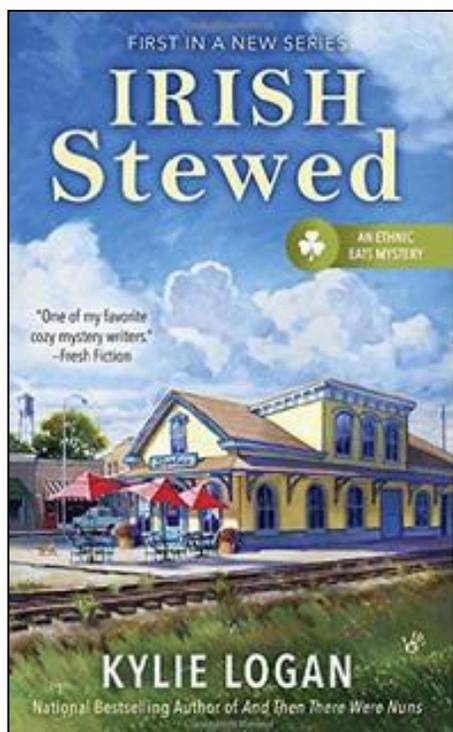
Wendy Campbell

Congratulations are in order to Wendy Campbell who took first place in the Mainstream category of the Daphne du Maurier contest!

Not only did she win the award, but one of the final round judges was an agent from Book Cents Literary Agency and requested a copy of Wendy's full manuscript!

OMG, Have You Read This Book?!

by:
Paula
Corrao



Kylie Logan's latest mystery series, *Ethnic Eats*, kicks off with *Irish Stewed*. In this first book, you meet Laurel Inwood, who's had a recent spot of back luck in California. Turns out being a personal chef for a Hollywood movie star diva isn't without its problems. After losing her job and no other options, Laurel travels to Hubbard, Ohio to help her Aunt Sophie in her swanky restaurant, The Terminal on the Tracks. Only when Laura gets there, she finds out that it's not the restaurant she thought, but a dilapidated mess in need of desperate help.

On top of that, she finds the body of a famous local news reporter deceased in said restaurant. Jack Lancer, fondly known as the "Lance of Justice" by the public, is not exactly what you'd call a stand-up kind of guy either. He's a jerk with a healthy list of enemies, and one of them happens to be the cook at Aunt Sophie's restaurant. Not only does Laurel take on the task of keeping the restaurant running while her aunt is on the mend from a surgical procedure, but she finds herself involved in a murder investigation that takes her in every direction possible. And if all that wasn't enough, add in a charming and very handsome Irishman who is bound to make things more complicated than they already are.

What I liked most about the book was the tension that steadily built throughout the story; the feeling of anticipation as you follow Laurel on her adventure in this small, close-knit town that clearly takes her out of her comfort zone. In my opinion, Logan has set up a great platform for a lot of fun to be had in this series, along with an opportunity for great character development. I look forward to reading the coming books and following Laura on her journey of self-realizations and great recipes!



August

Birthdays:

- August 4 - Dennis Lehane
- August 5 - David Baldacci
- August 9 - Jonathan Kellerman
- August 12 - Mary Roberts Reinhart
- August 21 - Anthony Boucher
- August 28 - Jack Vance

August 18, 1587

Virginia Dare, daughter of Ananias and Eleanor Dare, granddaughter of Governor John White of the Colony of Roanoke, becomes the first English child born in the Americas. She and the rest of the colonists at Roanoke disappeared at some point before August 18, 1590. The only clue was the word "Croatoan" carved into a post.



August is:

National Catfish Month,
Harvest Month, National
Water Quality Month, Peach
Month, National
Immunization Awareness
Month, Get Ready for
Kindergarten Month,
National Picnic Month,
Family Fun Month



August 9, 1854

Henry David Thoreau published
Walden

August 19, 1848

The New York Herald published the news to the East Coast of the US about the Gold Rush in California.



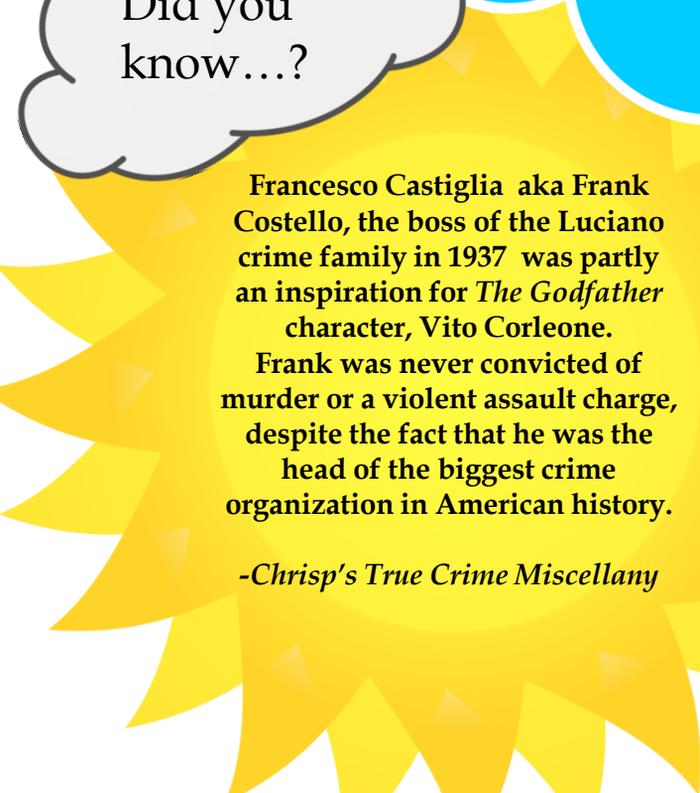


Check It
Out!

Did you
know...?



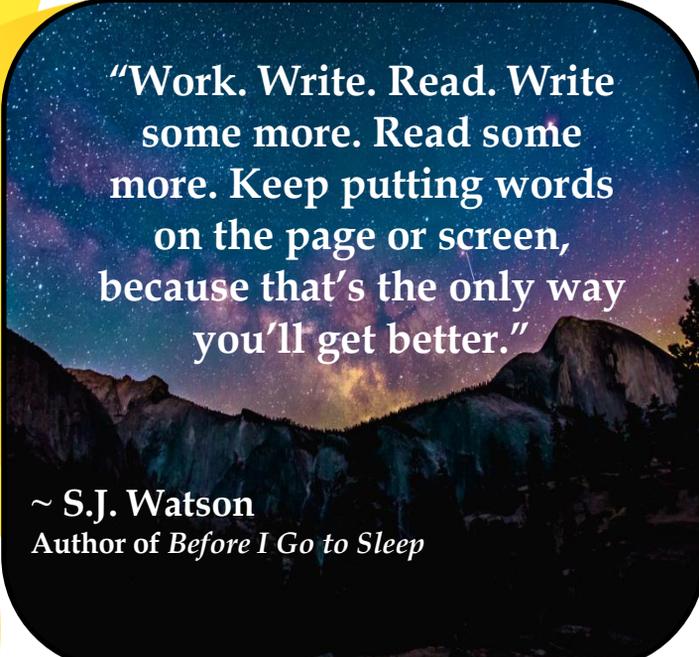
Want to share your blog
or website? Send an
email to the editor!
paula.corrao@yahoo.com



Francesco Castiglia aka Frank
Costello, the boss of the Luciano
crime family in 1937 was partly
an inspiration for *The Godfather*
character, Vito Corleone.

Frank was never convicted of
murder or a violent assault charge,
despite the fact that he was the
head of the biggest crime
organization in American history.

-Chrisp's True Crime Miscellany



"Work. Write. Read. Write
some more. Read some
more. Keep putting words
on the page or screen,
because that's the only way
you'll get better."

~ S.J. Watson
Author of *Before I Go to Sleep*

Who's Who and What's Where

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Vice President – Jane Turzillo
Treasurer – Kim Hammond

Secretary – Open

Library Liaison – Cari Dubiel
Newsletter Editor – Paula Corrao
Program Chair – Donna Feldman
Members-at-Large - Shelley Bloomfield,
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Check out our website!
<http://neosinc.org/wordpress/>



Chapter Business

Open Offices... The office of **Secretary** is open. We also need a **Publicity 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, such as this month's Stone Garden Farm tour, hosted by member author D. M. Pulley.

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 May meeting with the Haunted Housewives, June's Power of Poison exhibit and last month's lockpicking presentation expand our knowledge to enhance our writing .