

THE MYST-ERIE BLOTTER



March 2016
Volume 2, Issue 2

Letter from the Editor



Greetings Sisters, Misters, and Mystery Lovers:

About a week or so ago, I was cleaning up my home "office"—which has really turned into a room for random junk, a desktop that I hardly ever use, and all of my wonderful books—and I found in a pile of random papers, the very first issue of The Mystery Blotter. And, as luck would have it, it is exactly a year ago that this newsletter was created. Immediately, I knew that it was what I wanted to write about in my monthly letter. So, again, procrastination has been pushed to the side. It'll be an on-going theme this year, I promise.

Anyhow, what memories it brought back for me! It sparked a thought that trailed into the next and so on, and before I knew it, this entire journey of the past year came flowing through my brain like some crazy montage in an '80s movie.

A little over a year ago, I was struggling with my writing and trying to find who I used to be (which is a story for another day). And, during a conversation with a girl I worked with, who ended up becoming a great friend of mine, I mentioned Sisters in Crime and the local chapter. She encouraged me to go back to the meetings and get more involved with my writing. Because you see, during this time, I had shoved my writing to the side, not having much confidence in the way of the mighty pen...er...keyboard. But, like I usually do, I listened to her. And before I knew it, I was sitting in a circle at the Twinsburg Library getting to meet Kim Hammond for the first time, and re-acquainting myself with Irma Baker, Casey Daniels, Jane Turzillo, Amanda Flower and Cari Dubiel. (And, if anyone hasn't told you, they're an amazing group of women.) That night we discussed chapter business and, what luck, I was there for my first election of the board. Not only that, but that was the night, the newsletter came about. I brought it up as a fleeting idea and before I knew it, these women were saying that I should do it. Me! I was more than surprised and a little freaked out, I'm not going to lie. And thus it started.

Moving on later down the journey, these same group of women (plus Shelley Costa) sat with me and listened to me talk about my book...and they said...and I quote..."...WHEN you get published..." WHEN. That is key, people. Because for the first time in my life, I was sitting with people who said "when" and not "if." I doubt those ladies knew how much that meant to me or even remember that conversation, but it set my perspective in a totally different direction. Here were people, a lot of them published, telling me that it would happen one day for me, too. And, with such confidence...it's admirable.

Letter from the Editor



From then forward, I took myself more seriously. I wrote more and planned for "the eventual." Even my friends noticed. They'd say to me, "Paula...you actually talk about yourself like you're a writer." And, I'd reply, "That's because I am...I'm just not paid yet." (insert wry grin)

And now...I am proud to say that a book proposal of mine is sitting in New York City, as we speak. I don't know that they'll buy it, and really I don't know if it will make it past this point. But, I will tell you...what a feeling! The fact that I made it this far is more than I would have ever thought could happen as I sat talking with my friend a little over a year ago.

Why am I telling you this? Several reasons. One is, well...yay!! The next is that if you've never been to a meeting and are thinking about it. Do it. If you need to borrow my friend for encouragement, let me know, it can be arranged. You never know who you will meet or who will inspire you. Sometimes people just say things and they click. Don't miss out on that chance. After that, I will tell you...always believe in yourself and your dreams. No matter what they are. It doesn't have to be about writing. Believe that you can do it, you will succeed and it IS possible. I think one of the toughest things in life is to do just that.

And lastly, I will say...put yourself out there. Don't be afraid of it. I've spent a lot of my life standing in the corner avoiding eye contact (as I'm sure most writers do), but one of the best things I've done in this past year is force myself to meet new people and let them know what I'm about. Getting involved with different activities creates a plethora of opportunity...and can also be good fodder for writing!

So enough with the sappy, enjoy the newsletter. I'm off to find my next donut.

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

*Yours Truly,
Paula Corrao*



Chapter Business

Say Hello to the 2016 NEDSinC Board!

President - Irma Baker

Vice President - Jane Turzillo

Treasurer - Kim Hammond

Secretary - Open

Library Liaison - Cari Dubiel

Newsletter Editor - Paula Corrao

Members-at-Large - Shelley Bloomfield, Lisa Kaplan, Laurie Kassim

Notes from the President...

Open Offices...As you can see from the list of officers, 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, instead of holding a regular chapter meeting on the second Tuesday in March, we're partnering with Cuyahoga County Public Library to present *Death March*, a free, all-day event ,on Saturday, March 12. (See page 7 for details.) Always check the most current newsletter and watch for email meeting notices .

Cont'd



Chapter Business

Meeting Locations... We've heard requests to have our meetings at a more central location, so 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. In the first quarter, instead of holding a regular meeting, we're co-hosting *Death March* on Saturday, March 12, at the Cuyahoga County Public Library's Writing Center in South Euclid. In the second quarter, the April meeting will be at London Pickle Works in Brecksville. *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? Let us know!*

Just as an aside, Twinsburg is surprisingly central to our active membership. We have members coming to meetings from as far east as the Warren area, south coming from Wooster and west from Bay Village. Twinsburg is convenient to I-271, I-480 and Rte 82 and has a very accommodating library staff, especially our own Cari Dubiel, who's a manager there.

*What's
Our
Focus?*

Meeting Topics... In general, 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. *Death March*, our March 12 event with the Cuyahoga County Public Library Writing Center, focuses on the craft of mystery writing. Our April meeting at London Pickle Works is an opportunity to get together and talk about our writing pursuits in a more casual environment.

Looking forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting or event!

Irma Baker
President

Mark Your Calendar



March -
Event in place of Meeting

Death March
Saturday, March 12
Cuyahoga County Library Writing Center

*Free event hosted by Cuyahoga County Public Library
and NEOSinC!*
See the next page for details!

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!*



May Meeting

Speaker TBA
Tuesday, May 10, 7 p.m.
Twinsburg Public Library

Flexible Scheduling

Our scheduling system revolves around availability of space, speakers and demonstrations; opportunities to host events; and opportunities to hold meetings at a variety of sites. Our intent is to have a meeting each month, generally around the second week of the month, though the date, time and location may vary. We hope the flexible scheduling will give us more options for interesting and helpful presentations and enable more members to take advantage of these opportunities and resources.

Death March

NEOSinC partners with the Cuyahoga County Library Writing Center

Death March: Mystery Readers & Writers Conference

Saturday, March 12 ~ 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Cuyahoga County Public Library Writing Center

1876 South Green Road • South Euclid, Ohio 44121 - Phone 216-382-4880

Keynote speaker SJ Rozan. Rozan has written 13 novels, including the popular Lydia Chin/Bill Smith series. She is one half of the writing duo behind the pseudonym Sam Cabot. Her latest novel as Sam Cabot is *Skin of the Wolf*.

NEOSinC members participating as panelists or moderators are **Katherine Clark, Shelley Costa, Casey Daniels/Kylie Logan, Mary Ellis, Amanda Flower, Kim Hammond, D.M. Pulley, T. K. Starr, Sam Thomas and Jane Ann Turzillo.** Other Ohio mystery authors are Andrew Welsh-Huggins and Scott Lax and literary agent Victoria Selvaggio.

Books will be available for purchase and signing courtesy of Mac's Backs - Books on Coventry.



This free conference will break for lunch.

You are welcome to bring a packed lunch to eat at the library, go out for lunch, or reserve a box lunch to eat at the library for \$10 through the Sisters in Crime – link is on the registration site.

To register, go to

<http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/Events> and enter Death March in the Keyword box.



Cuyahoga County
Public Library

SJ Rozan, a native New Yorker and former architect (for police stations, fire stations and zoos), is the author of fifteen novels and four dozen short stories. Her work has won the Edgar, Shamus, Anthony, Nero, and Macavity awards for Best Novel and the Edgar for Best Short Story. She's also the recipient of the Japanese Maltese Falcon Award. *Bronx Noir*, a short story anthology SJ edited, was chosen NAIBA "Notable Book of the Year."

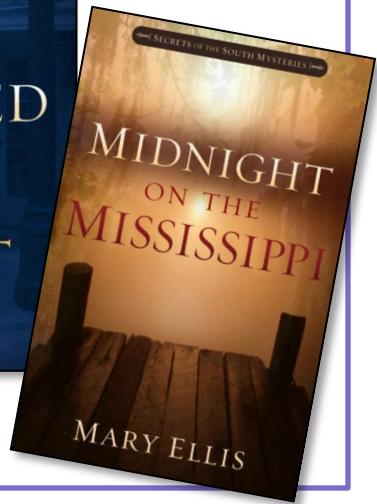
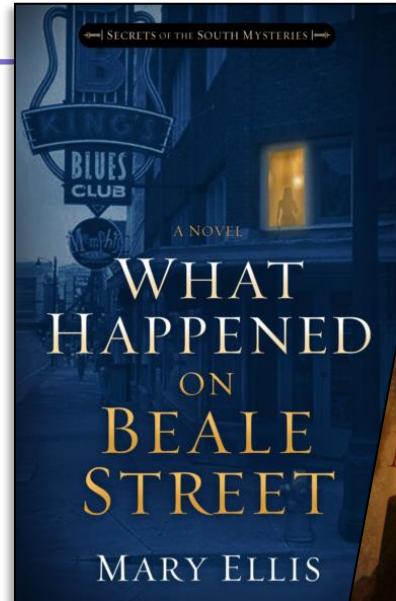
SJ has served on the National Boards of Mystery Writers of America and Sisters in Crime, and Private Eye Writers of America. She has been Guest of Honor at Left Coast Crime, Toastmaster at Bouchercon, and an invited speaker at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Along with writing and lecturing, she runs a summer writing workshop in Assisi, Italy.

What's Everyone Up To?

Mary Ellis

Mary Ellis is pleased to announce the release of book 2 in the Secrets of the South Mysteries. Book 1, *Midnight on the Mississippi*, has been nominated for a Reviewer's Choice Award by *Romantic Times* magazine. *What Happened on Beale Street* hits store shelves on April 1, and book 3, *Magnolia Moonlight* will be available August 2016.

Her publisher has just offered a contract for book 4 in the series, tentatively titled *Sunrise in Old Savannah*.



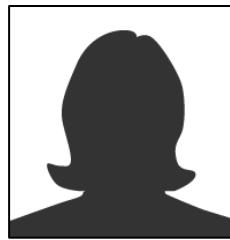
Malice Domestic Mystery Conference

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



Your Name Here

Insert flattering
image or book
cover here.

Book deals, releases,
awards, etc.

Your awesomeness here

Do you have a book coming out? Won an award recently? Have exciting news to share with other writers and fans?
Email paula.corrao@yahoo.com today!



Corned beef and cabbage is a traditional St. Patrick's Day dish. In 2009, roughly 26.1 billion pounds of beef and 2.3 billion pounds of cabbage were produced in the United States.

Check out more fun facts about St. Patrick's Day at:
<http://www.history.com/topics/st-patricks-day/st-patricks-day-facts>

March is:

Women's History Month,
National Nutrition Month,
American Red Cross Month,
and Fire Prevention Month



Peeps are the most popular non-chocolate Easter candy and it is estimated that Americans buy more than 700 million Peeps during Easter

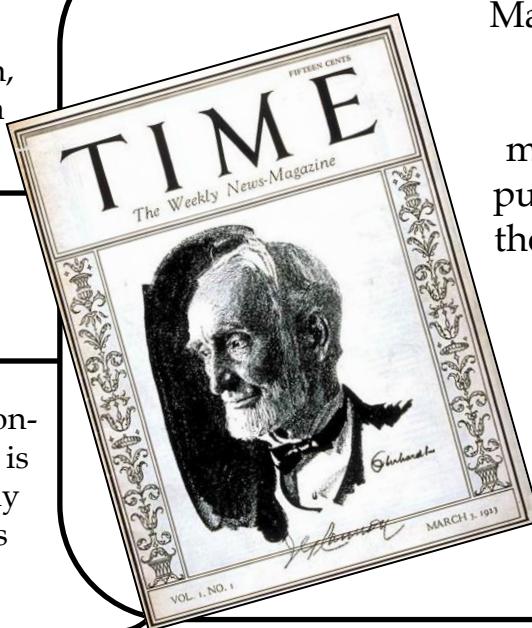
Birthdays:

March 1 - Nevada Barr
March 9 - Mickey Spillane
March 12 - Carl Hiaasen
March 22 - James Patterson

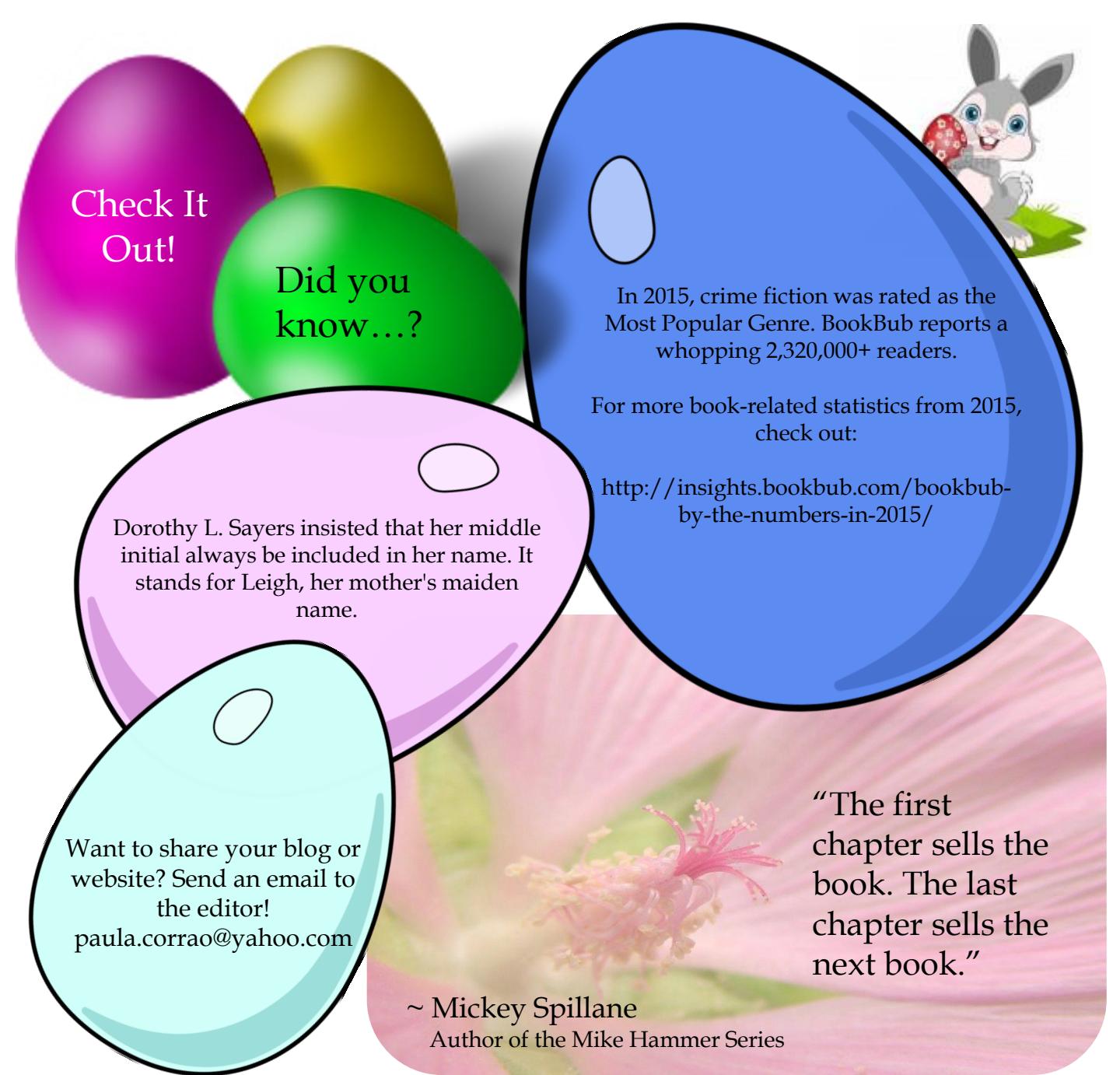


March 3, 1923

TIME magazine is published for the first time.



The first issue was only 15 cents!



Check It Out!

Did you know...?

Dorothy L. Sayers insisted that her middle initial always be included in her name. It stands for Leigh, her mother's maiden name.

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

In 2015, crime fiction was rated as the Most Popular Genre. BookBub reports a whopping 2,320,000+ readers.

For more book-related statistics from 2015, check out:

<http://insights.bookbub.com/bookbub-by-the-numbers-in-2015/>

“The first chapter sells the book. The last chapter sells the next book.”

~ Mickey Spillane
Author of the Mike Hammer Series

Who's Who and What's Where

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Treasurer – Kim Hammond

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<http://neosinc.org/wordpress/>