

THE MYST-ERIE BLOTTER



November 2016
Volume 2, Issue 10

Letter from the Editor



Greetings Sisters, Misters, and Mystery Lovers:

A few months ago, a friend of mine had asked if I would speak to her English class about my experience with writing and being a soon-to-be published author. Immediately I became nervous and wondered what I would tell these students who are no doubt young and impressionable. I found myself speechless...which, believe me, is a rare occasion. What would I tell her class? My experience, while both awesome and amazing, is not standard. And there are parts of my journey that could be filed under "Stephanie Plum-esque." So, I wanted to make sure that I got it right, not just about my journey, but about the journey.

That's when I began my typical scouring of Pinterest for random ideas or inspirations. I have quite a few boards dedicated to writing, the love of books and good ole fashioned nerdery. And that's when I came across a blog post that I pinned a while back that had to do with the term "aspiring writer."

The title of the blog post, "*Why You Are Not an Aspiring Writer*" is what caught my attention. Here I thought I'd stumbled across a negative writing post where yet another jaded person had listed out the several reasons why writing professionally is too difficult to hack. I'm not sure how many others of you have seen these sprinkled about the internet, but for some reason, I seemed to be finding them left and right for about a two week period. BUT, was I pleasantly surprised when I opened the link and found that it was the complete opposite of what I'd thought. This woman had written an amazing blog about how you're not an aspiring writer...YOU ARE A WRITER. From the minute you pick up a pen, pencil, or dance your fingers across a keyboard with the purpose of telling a story, you're a writer.

We all "aspire" to be something in life and the word fits nicely in front of many goals and dreams. But, I think (as the blogger also comments on) in certain situations, the word itself does not apply. And writing happens to be one of those instances. When we're first starting out and fumbling around in the writing universe, we tend to be a little hard on ourselves and wait for validation that we are legitimate. We want to know that, yes, we were given our writer pin and handbook, and we're on our way. But, unfortunately there is no handbook...and sadly, no pin.

And that's when I knew...this is what I was going to tell them. What we must rely on (since there is no pin) is the belief in ourselves that no matter where we are in the process, we're all writers. And the only thing we need is to keep at it.

So, if you also need a little motivation, be sure to check out this blog: <http://verilymerrilymary.com/2016/05/aspiring-writer.html>

I hope you love it as much as I do.

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

*Paula Corrao
And sometimes... Vivien Chien*

Let's Get Together

November Meeting

Monday, November 7

Come right from work.

Mavis Winkle's in Twinsburg
(in the Hooley Room)

8870 Darrow Rd, Twinsburg, OH 44087
330-405-3663



Located in Twinsburg Town Center
Shopping Center (Giant Eagle) on Rt. 91,
just northwest of the I-480 exit.

Everyone enjoyed last month's restaurant meeting so we're doing it again this month. It's back to our roots. Our chapter began as a casual gathering of local published and aspiring mystery writers at neighborhood eateries. It was a chance to discuss our work in progress, get help with snags and roadblocks, and just spend an evening with like-minded writers. That's what we're doing this month along with planning our major event for 2017!

Looking forward to seeing YOU at
Mavis Winkle's in Twinsburg!

P.S. If you have a restaurant with a meeting room and would like us to look into scheduling a meeting there, please let us know!

December Meeting

Holiday Get-Together for members only.
Details will be sent via email.

Where Do You Think You're Going?

Our Authors at Community Events Coming Soon!

November 2016

Jane Turzillo

Perry Library
Presentation
Nov. 8, 7 pm
Perry Library
3753 Main St.
Perry, OH 44081



Jane Turzillo

North Royalton Library
Presentation
Nov 17, 7 pm
North Royalton Library
5071 Wallings Rd.
North Royalton, OH 44133

Mary Ellis

Presentation/Signing
Nov 14, 6:30 pm
Duncan Falls/Philo Branch Library
22 Main Street
Duncan Falls, OH 43734



December 2016

Jane Turzillo

December 1, 7 pm, Lakewood Library,
MAIN LIBRARY
15425 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

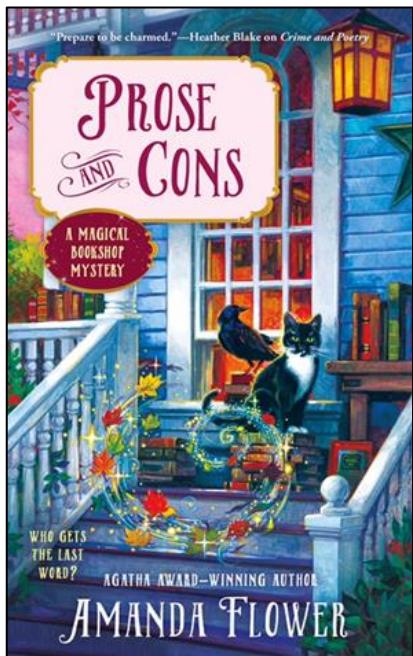
*Are you making a presentation? Having a signing or book launch?
Teaching a writing class? Other mystery writing-related activities?*

Send the info for upcoming months to the editor at

paula.corrao@yahoo.com.

What's Everyone Up To?

Prose and Cons Giveback!



Amanda Flower



Prose and Cons will be Amanda's 20th published book, so she is giving back to celebrate!

Preorder or purchase any edition of *Prose and Cons* by Tuesday, December 20, 2016, and Amanda will donate \$1 for every book sold to a local food pantry, The Landing, located in Akron, Ohio.

Her brother and sister-in-law, Andrew and Nicole Flower, manage the Landing in the basement of Akron Christian Reformed Church with a group of dedicated volunteers. The food pantry feeds more than sixty families in the church's neighborhood on \$200 a week.

The Learned Owl will also be donating \$1 to the Landing food pantry for every copy of *Prose and Cons* sold. All copies sold through the Learned Owl will be signed and personalized.

Amanda will have a signing on Saturday, December 10, 1-3pm at the Learned Owl to launch *Prose and Cons*. All copies of *Prose and Cons* sold at the signing will be included in the giveback.

What's Everyone Up To?

Kim Hammond

Kim and her sister, Kerry, have opened up a new Etsy shop, **CrimeSceneSisters**, especially for writers and mystery lovers! Stop by their shop and check out the great items they have for sale!

Kim is also able to take special requests for NEOSinC logo items, much like the nifty tote bag you've seen her sporting! Send her a message for details!

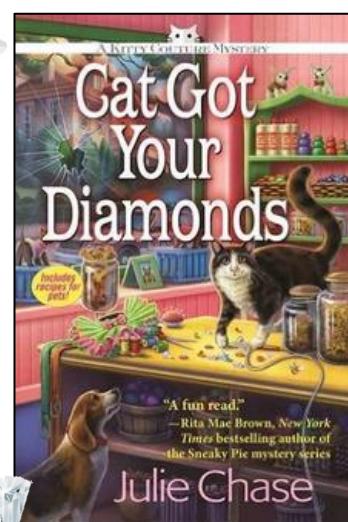
Etsy Shop Link: https://www.etsy.com/shop/CrimeSceneSisters?ref=shop_sugg



CrimeSceneSisters



Julie Anne Lindsey



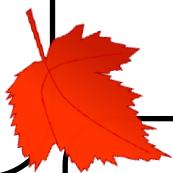
Julie Anne's debut cozy mystery, *Cat Got Your Diamonds*, releases November 15th. This will be book one in the Kitty Couture Mysteries that she will be writing as Julie Chase.

Julie also signed a 2-book contract with Crooked Lane Books for a Christmas cozy series! Book one, *The Twelve Slays of Christmas*, releases October 2017.

November

Birthdays:

November 5 - Carole Nelson Douglas
November 10 - W.E.B. Griffin
November 14 - Cara Black
November 28 - Rita Mae Brown
November 30 - John Dickson Carr



November 1, 1604

William Shakespeare's *Othello* is presented for the first time.

November is:

National Novel Writing Month, National Blog Posting Month, American Indian Heritage Month, Good Nutrition Month, Aviation Month, American Diabetes Awareness Month, National Peanut Butter Lover's Month, National Stamp Collecting Month



November 11, 1921

On November 11, 1921, the Unknown Soldier of World War I was buried at Arlington National Cemetery, after lying in state at the Capitol rotunda in Washington, D.C., 1921



November 4, 1948

T.S. Eliot wins the Nobel Prize for Literature.



November 26, 1789

George Washington issued the first Thanksgiving Proclamation by a President of the United States.

Check It Out!!!

Did you know...?



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



In 2015, 431,626 people over six continents participated in NaNoWriMo. This year, NaNoWriMo expects near 500,000 people to participate. Participants include educators and students in Kindergarten through 12th grade.

For more interesting facts on NaNoWri month, check out:
<http://www.ibtimes.com/what-national-novel-writing-month-10-facts-about-nanowrimo-2438674>

“Finish. The difference between being a writer and being a person of talent is the discipline it takes to apply the seat of your pants to the seat of the chair and finish. Don’t talk about doing it. Do it. Finish.”

~E.L. Konigsburg
American author and illustrator

Who's Who and What's Where

President – Irma Baker

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,
Lisa Kaplan



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



<https://www.pinterest.com/NEOSinC>

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... Generally our meetings are held once a month on a weekday evening but we adjust the date, time and place based on the focus of the meeting, availability of speakers and opportunity for special events.

Meeting Locations... Meetings are often held at the Twinsburg library or local eateries such as last month's meeting at Panera's in Solon and this month's meeting at Mavis Winkle's in Twinsburg. Meeting details are announced via email and the newsletter. *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... Presentations generally focus on the theme of "Getting It Right" with speakers professionally involved in crime detection/prevention, whose expertise can help us get our mystery writing right. We also cover craft-related issues and offer opportunities to get together to share experiences and learn from each other. Meeting presentations, such as those on paranormal investigation and lock-picking, and special events expand our knowledge to enhance our writing.