

THE MYST-ERIE BLOTTER



September 2015
Volume 1, Issue 7

Letter from the Editor

Greetings Sisters, Misters, and Mystery Lovers:

Well, friends, I must confess to you...the guilty pleasures idea did not work out so well. And, I know that a lot of you are probably Play-Doh sniffers and don't want to admit it. But, keep in mind...the first step is acceptance. And, I will be the first to admit...I have a donut problem. However, that is no secret. My REAL secret... [REDACTED]

Redaction...tricky buggers.

So, I soldier on with my next mission. This one will be less invasive, I promise. In honor of Halloween, tell me what is your all time favorite scary movie. Don't have one? That's ok. Do you have a favorite tradition? Do you carve a pumpkin? Throw a really awesome party? Sniff Play-Doh through a Jason mask? We won't judge.

Aside from this silliness of typical Paula shenanigans, I did want to mention some exciting things. First on my list...we have a new website! Be sure (if you haven't already) to thank Cari Dubiel for taking the time to begin the awesomeness that is our new stomping ground. If you're one of our published writers, don't forget to throw together some information on yourself so we can show you off to the world. To check out our new website, go to <http://neosinc.org/wordpress/>

Secondly, we have an official logo! (Which you will also find on the website.) Yes people, we rock. This fine graphic design (I hate when I rhyme) comes to us through a collaboration of ideas from the NEOSinC board and the artistic talent of Tyler Hatch.

And thirdly, I am very excited to say, we have a new addition to our newsletter. I'd like to welcome T.K. Starr to my world of mayhem with her new article, "Like Whatever: A monthly column on Anything Mystery Writing or Crime Related or, you know, whatever..." This month she brings us tales of murder by baked goods. It was definitely an enjoyable and fascinating read. Didn't scare me off though...I'm still daydreaming about my next donut.

Lastly...how fabulous is this?! We are totally sold out for our Getaway event coming up in just a few days! We even have a wait list started! It's going to be a really great day and I'm so excited to meet Nancy Pickard that I can barely stand myself.

So, as you can see, lots going on, and lots more to come. If you haven't joined us for this ride yet, hop on! And, as my dad always says, "Hold on to your hat!"

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

Paula Corrao

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



Mystery Writers One-Day Getaway



Mystery Writers and Aspiring Mystery Writers!

Get away from the house, the spouse, the kids, the cats (and dogs), the job, the neighbors, well-meaning friends and relatives and the mile-long to-do list.

Registration Now Open for the Northeast Ohio Sisters In Crime Mystery Writers One-Day Getaway!

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015

10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Twinsburg Public Library

10050 Ravenna Rd.

Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

Phone: 330-425-4268

www.twinsburglibrary.org

SOLD OUT

**Keynote Speaker:
Best-selling Author
Nancy Pickard**

Keynote Presentation

"Mystery Writing: A Most Mysterious Occupation"

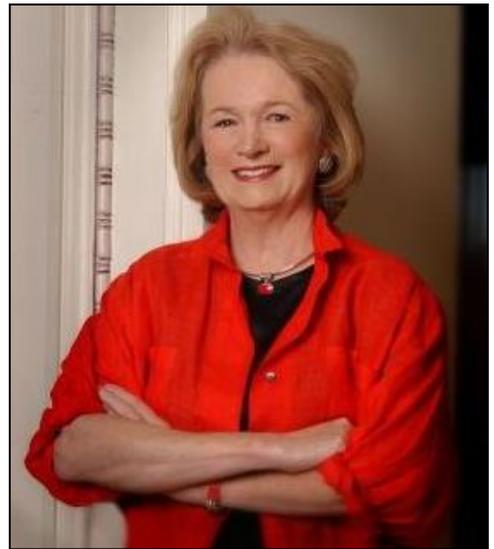
Mystery writing and the "greater mystery" of creativity. The strange and wonderful and unexplainable things that happen when a writer is "in the flow," and how to get into that flow.

Writing Workshop

"First Sentence, First Paragraph, First Page"

How do you get there? What makes it work? How do you keep going?

Nancy Pickard's most recent novel, *The Scent of Rain and Lightning*, is currently being turned into a feature film. It was a Barnes & Noble "Recommends" selection and stayed five weeks on the New York Times best seller list. Her previous stand-alone novel, *The Virgin of Small Plains*, was an Edgar Award finalist for best novel, as have been two of her other novels, *The Whole Truth*, and *I.O.U.* Nancy is a winner of multiple Macavity, Agatha, and Anthony awards for her novels and short stories.



Nancy is a founding member and former president of Sisters In Crime, and she founded her local chapter in the Kansas City area. She is a former national board member of the Mystery Writers of America. Before writing stand-alone novels, she wrote 10 books in the Jenny Cain mystery series, and three books in the Marie Lightfoot series. She lives in Prairie Village, Kansas, where she is working on her 19th novel.

Registration now open at the Twinsburg Library Web site

<http://twinsburglibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails.aspx?EventId=6897&lib=>

Mystery Writers One-Day Getaway

Mystery Writers and Aspiring Mystery Writers!

Victoria Selvaggio: "Composing the Query Letter"

Mastering the art of writing that well-polished manuscript takes time and skill. So does composing the query letter. Victoria will cover the essentials of a query, including a few do's and don'ts. She'll also include, as time allows, a bit about The Jennifer De Chiara Literary Agency and herself—her protocol on reviewing queries vs. manuscripts, what she looks for in submissions, partial vs. full manuscript requests, and Victoria's overall agent goals. Victoria is an associate agent with the Jennifer De Chiara Literary Agency, drawn to publishing first as an author writing all genres, with her most recent publication in the 2015 Children's Writer's and Illustrator's Market. Her passion for honing the craft carried over into reading manuscripts for the agency. She also brings more than seven years of actively working as a volunteer and regional advisor for SCBWI: Northern Ohio, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Currently, she is excited to read compelling manuscripts that will resonate with her long after she's done.



Megan Testa, MD: "Crime and the Mind"

Dr. Testa is a physician specializing in adult, community and forensic psychiatry. She completed medical school at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. During her psychiatric residency, Dr. Testa became interested in the criminalization of mental illness and the social effects of having severe and persistent mental illness. She currently practices at University Hospitals, where community contracts allow her to care for individuals with mental illness and criminal histories at local mental health agencies. Previously she practiced at Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare as a psychiatrist for individuals who were found incompetent to stand trial on criminal charges.



Registration fee includes:

- All presentations: Nancy Pickard, Dr. Megan Testa, Victoria Selvaggio
- Nancy Pickard Writing Workshop
- "Ask Me Anything" sessions with NEOSinC published authors
- Food: continental breakfast, lunch, afternoon break
- Opportunity to meet, talk and mingle with local mystery authors
- Book signings (Learned Owl bookstore will be onsite with participating authors' books)
- Entry in door prize drawing and other surprises

Cost:

NEOSinC members	\$30
Non-members	\$35
Members of other SinC chapters	\$30

Registration now open at the Twinsburg Library Web site

<http://twinsburglibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails.aspx?EventId=6897&lib=>

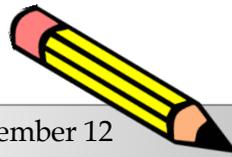
Mark Your Calendar

2015 Meeting Schedule

When is that meeting? Flexible scheduling in progress

Please note that specific dates, times and locations for future meetings are tentative until confirmed closer to the date.

We've moved to a scheduling system based on availability of space, speakers and demonstrations. 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.



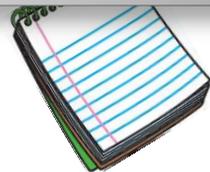
Saturday, September 12

- Mystery Writers One-Day Getaway
- *See details on pages 3 and 4

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

- FBI Evidence Response

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





Where Do You Think You're Going?

Our Authors at Community Events Coming Soon!

September 8

D.M. Pulley
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Happy Dog
5801 Detroit Ave
Cleveland, OH 44102

September 13

Amanda Flower
Kerrytown Book Festival
Ann Arbor Farmers Market
11:00 am-5:00 pm
For more information, visit:
<http://www.kerrytownbookfest.org/>

September 16

Hosted by Medina County District Library
Amanda Flower, D.M. Pulley, Kylie Logan, and
Irma Baker
Writers Live Series: Mystery Panel
12:00 p.m.
Weymouth Country Club
3946 Weymouth Rd.
Medina, OH 44256
Cost: \$25.00

September 17

Jane Turzillo
7:00 p.m.
Nordia Hills Library
9458 Olde Eight Rd
Northfield, OH 44067

September 19

Amanda Flower, Kylie Logan,
Shelley Costa, Kathryn Long,
D.M. Pulley, Sam Thomas,
Jane Turzillo, and Julie Ann Lindsey
2015 Western Reserve Book Festival
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
The Kennedy Center
11730 Garfield Rd
Hiram, OH 44234
Located on the Hiram college campus
For more information, visit:
<http://www.hiram.edu/wrbf>

September 24

Jane Turzillo
7:00 p.m.
Sharon Township Sharon Center
Town Hall
1322 Sharon Copley Rd
Sharon Center, OH 44274

September 26 & 27

Julie Ann Lindsey
Fall Word Lovers Weekend
Idlewyld Bed & Breakfast
310 Walnut Ave
Lakeside, OH 43440
For more information, visit:
<http://www.idlewyldb.com/>

Where Do You Think You're Going?

Mystery Community Events Coming Soon!

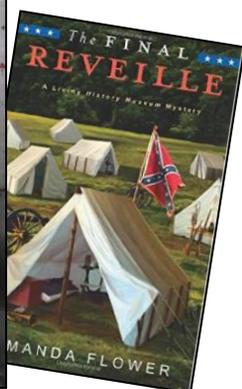
September 16

"Killing People for a Living," a discussion and workshop with national bestselling suspense author Jenny Milchman will be at Mac's Back-Books, 1820 Coventry Rd. Cleveland Heights, Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m. Jenny will explore the appeal of some of today's bestselling authors while taking you from premise to plot in a novel you may wish to write. Participants will leave with a reading list and an action plan for beginning a book.

October 21

Amanda Flower will be at the Northwest Branch Library in Akron, OH at 2 p.m. for an author talk about her book, *The Final Reveille*. Book signing to follow!

Northwest Akron Library Branch
1720 Shatto Avenue
Akron, OH 44313
330-836-1081
northwestakronbranch.akronlibrary.org/



September 27

Berea's First Ever Author Crawl!

Where: Downtown Berea
Time: 12:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Cost: \$20.00 each

Celebrate Berea with a local author crawl between the Berea Branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Riverside Gables Bed and Breakfast, Mike's Bar and Grill and Baldwin Wallace University.

At each stop there will be an author discussing books and sharing appetizers courtesy of the establishment. The crawl will begin at the library with transportation provided by West Side Shuffle so in the course of a few hours, you will enjoy the hospitality of three Berea sites and personally meet authors Casey Daniels, Sam Thomas and Shelley Costa Bloomfield, returning to the library for coffee courtesy of Red Cedar Coffee Company. There will be books for sale and all of the authors will be available to sign your copies.

Visit or call the branch at 234-5475 for additional details and to register. Tickets are limited so register soon!

Mystery Community Events for 2015

- Bouchercon 2015 – Oct 8 – Oct 11 in Raleigh, NC
- Magna Cum Murder – Oct 30 – Nov 1 in Indianapolis, IN, at The Columbia Club

What's Everyone Up To?

Mary Ellis

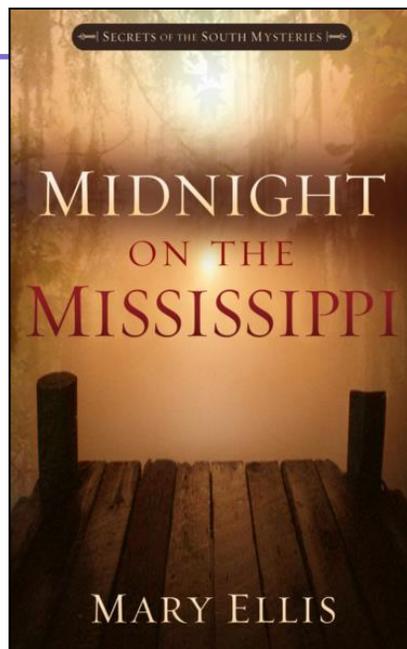
Mary Ellis brings us the first in her new Secrets of the South mystery series, *Midnight on the Mississippi*:

When a new P.I. teams up with a New Orleans stockbroker accused of murder, blackmail, death threats, and danger swirl around them like the mysterious dark water of the bayou.

Here's what *Romantic Times Book Reviews* said about *Midnight on the Mississippi*.

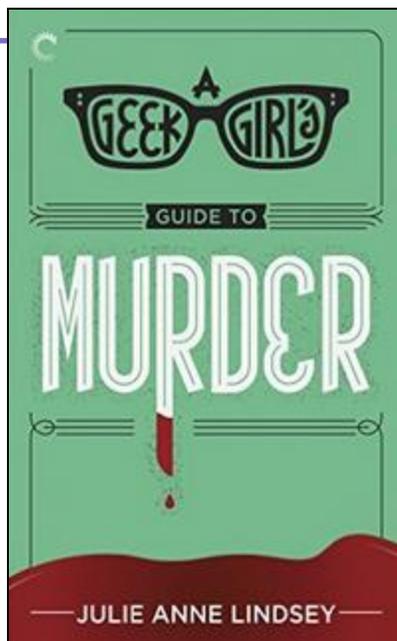
"This kicks off a new series with quirky but lovable characters who are determined to make the world a better place, one complex crime at a time. The storyline has many interesting layers for readers to discover, with twists and unexpected turns throughout. Ellis is a multi-talented author who has proven she can write an outstanding suspenseful book while keeping true to her faith and values."

Four and a half-stars.



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!

What's Everyone Up To?



Julie Anne Lindsey

Julie Anne's newest book, *A Geek Girl's Guide to Murder*, released on Amazon August 31st. The book is available on Kindle Edition and kicks off the beginning of her new cozy mystery series, *The Geek Girl Mysteries*.

IT manager Mia Connors is up to her tortoiseshell glasses in technical drama when a glitch in the Horseshoe Falls email system disrupts security and sends errant messages to residents of the gated community. The snafu's timing couldn't be worse – Renaissance Faire season is in full swing and Mia's family's business relies on her presence.

Mia doesn't have time to hunt down a computer hacker. Her best friend has disappeared, and she finds another of her friends murdered – in her office. When the hunky new head of Horseshoe Falls security identifies Mia as the prime suspect, her anxiety level registers on the Richter scale.

Eager to clear her name, Mia moves into action to locate her missing buddy and find out who killed their friend. But her quick tongue gets her into trouble with more than the new head of security. When Mia begins receiving threats, the killer makes it clear that he's closer than she'd ever imagined.

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!

Like Whatever

A monthly column on Anything Mystery Writing or Crime Related or, you know, whatever...

By T.K. Starr

Cookies as Co-Conspirators: Bake 'em Dano!



The incident of the two prison escapees in New York earlier this summer marked the latest criminal misadventure for Baked Goods. True, maybe the prison guard really didn't know the hacksaws were actually in the frozen meat, but he still broke protocol in exchange for plates of "baked goods." Sigh. I hate it when "baked goods" behave badly. All you need is one bad batch and then everyone thinks all of them are criminally inclined!

However, it does give a baking enthusiast pause. How can a passion that's only supposed to bring sighs of contentment and fudgy tooth smiles be so corrupted? It seems that just about anything can be misused these days, even brownies! And it's not like baked goods haven't been abused before. We've all heard the stories about files in cakes, knives in bread or pies, and keys in cookies. But does that really happen? Has anyone actually been successful with in making a jail break? I mean, before now? Apparently, yes. Or at least possibly.

Fun articles by *Smithsonian Magazine* like this one: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-file-inside-the-cake-true-tales-of-prison-escapes-15653967/?no-ist>,

or this one on MentalFloss: <http://www.doozly.com/a-short-history-of-baked-goods-and-prison-escapes/> lay out a few of these half-baked "jailbreaks" as far back as 1804. There was the revolver hidden in two cakes (cut in half apparently), the prison wedding cake and mince pie with the knockout drugs for the guards, and files hidden in gingerbread. Of course, non-baked goods (like meat) were also used. While interesting, the Smithsonian article does cast some doubt on the veracity of some of these stories pointing out that there were never follow-up articles to verify the incidents. Oh well. Urban legends they'll remain at worst I guess.

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□ *Cont.*

MURDER BY SWEETS

While those possible abominations of sugar are bad enough, there are even worse ones. Specifically, their use as the murder weapon! Most of these cases involve poison of course. And there are ALOT of them! Here are just a couple that still remain unsolved:

Poisoned Pie Plotters

During the summer of 1922, at least six people died (and over 50 sickened) from eating pie from the popular Shelburne Restaurant on Broadway in New York City. The pie dough was laced with enough arsenic to kill 100 people. The police determined it was a deliberate act and not an accident, but were at a loss for motive or suspect. As the restaurant's flour and other supplies were deemed clean, it appeared the arsenic was added sometime during the pastry making process. The manager, chef and assistant were questioned to no avail. However, the assistant (unnamed and no description) disappeared without a trace (for the newspaper account visit <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026749/1922-08-04/ed-1/seq-2/>). One theory was that the case was linked to the arsenic poisoning deaths of two people the previous October (1921) at the Postal Restaurant in New York City. The employees disappeared in that incident as well. (to see article visit <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030214/1921-10-21/ed-1/seq-9/>). Yet another theory was that the arsenic poisoning was connected to a plot in 1916 to poison guests at a dinner for the new Bishop Mundelein in Chicago. At that event, over 100 guests fell ill from arsenic in the soup (not really a baked good but it works). Turns out, the missing cook was an Italian anarchist named Nestor Dondoglio. He was also never caught. Both the Postal and the Shelburne Restaurants were put out of business by these incidents.

To view article, visit: <http://www.wbez.org/blog/john-r-schmidt/2012-02-10/death-comes-archbishop-96087>

Death By Wedding Cake

Yet another unsolved poisoning case involved the Steretts, a husband and wife who lived in Devon, Pennsylvania. Around October 1922, the couple received a neatly wrapped parcel post package containing two large slices of wedding cake. Although it is not known why the couple decided to eat an anonymously received cake, they did and became ill soon after. Mr. Sterrett died, but Mrs. Sterrett eventually recovered. Although a nationwide investigation was launched, the case was never solved.

To view this story, check out the following pages:

Page 1: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86063381/1922-12-26/ed-1/seq-1/>

Page 2: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86063381/1922-12-26/ed-1/seq-2/>

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□ *Cont.*

Other Misuses of Blameless Baked Goods

Besides being used as hiding places for escape tools or murder weapons, some innocent baked goods have also allegedly been forced to house razor blades, bits of glass/metal or other objects designed to maim or kill. Most of these “incidents” over the years have been more hype than truth. Some turned out to be the work of the “victim” who was looking for a quick payday or attention. However, in 1984, reports were being made nationwide about razor blades and pins found in Girl Scout cookies. It is sad that not even the Thin Mint or Do-Si-Do is sacred anymore. Anyway, the FBI and FDA took the complaints seriously enough to investigate dozens of complaints. Some local troops were so concerned that they had their cookies x-rayed before selling them. Luckily, most complaints turned out, again, to be more legend than truth.

To view this article, check out the following pages:

<http://www.nytimes.com/1984/03/31/us/x-rays-aid-drive-on-tainted-girl-scout-cookies.html>

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1985-02-03/news/8501070350_1_girl-scout-cookies-cookie-sale-box-of-cookies-costs

In addition to true crime examples, baked goods have been “criminally” used fictionally for ages. Luckily, most of the time, in fun, “cozy”, and delectable ways. But not always. Even Agatha Christie found baked goods a favorite medium and fairy tales too. I mean who bakes 4 and 20 blackbirds in a pie anyway? What a waste of a good pie crust.

I guess the moral of this little essay, if there is one, is that you might want to refrain from biting into that luscious piece of devil’s food cake with the lovely marshmallow cream filling (too bad about the slightly bitter almond aftertaste), that you just received anonymously by overnight express. Unless, of course, you don’t mind becoming the next “Death by Chocolate” cliché. But you know, just saying. Whatever.

September

Welcome Back Fall

Birthdays:

September 15 - Agatha Christie

September 17 - John Creasey

September 19 - Thomas H. Cook

September 21 - Stephen King

September 21 - H.G. Wells

John Creasey, a British mystery novelist, wrote under 20 different pseudonyms and wrote more than 600 books!

For a full listing of his titles, check out:
<http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/c/john-creasey/>

September 18, 1851

The first edition of *The New York Daily Times* (now *The New York Times*) was published.

September 21, 1937

J.R.R. Tolkien published *The Hobbit*.

Published in September 1937 by Allen & Unwin, the original print run of 1,500 copies sold out by December. When the manuscript arrived, George Allen gave his ten-year-old son a shilling to write a reader's report that would help determine whether he should publish it.

For more interesting facts about *The Hobbit*, check out:

<http://www.scotsman.com/what-s-on/film/30-facts-about-the-hobbit-the-book-the-author-and-the-new-film-1-2683005>

September is:

National Hispanic Heritage Month (begins Sept 15), National Potato Month, National Chicken Month, National Piano Month, and National Biscuit Month

Check It
Out!!!

Did you
know...?

Ireanne Chambers, one of our NEOSinC members, has her very own newsletter! You receive a monthly newsletter with free book and gift card giveaways, author spotlights, recommended books for your next fictional journey, and so much more! Sign up today at: <http://www.ireannechambers.com/home/>

www.topmystery.com

Jam packed with the best mystery books, movies and authors.

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

“Remember: Plot is no more than footprints left in the snow after your characters have run by on their way to incredible destinations.”

~Ray Bradbury

Who's Who and What's Where

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