

THE MYST-ERIE BLOTTER



November 2015
Volume 1, Issue 9

Letter from the Editor



Greetings Sisters, Misters, and Mystery Lovers:

Ahhhhh, November...the time of year has come where we dream about turkey dinners, holiday sales, and bakery as far as the eye can see. At least those are the more positive things to look towards. I won't go on about winter coats, snow up to your eyeballs or pants that won't fit after the above mentioned turkey dinner. But...believe me, I could. Especially the pants not fitting thing...for days, I could yammer on.

Instead, let's be "merry" and talk about exciting things going on...like NaNoWriMo. For anyone who is not familiar with National Novel Writing Month, it began back in 1999 with 21 people in the San Francisco Bay area. At first, it wasn't taken very seriously, and their account of how things began and advanced is definitely a great story in itself. This is where I'll tell you to go check out their website...here: <http://nanowrimo.org/>. Now, all these years later, people all over the place take part in this awesome event and it IS taken seriously by many. So, what about you? What goals have you set for NaNoWriMo? Are you writing an entirely separate piece or are you finishing a novel that's been hanging out on the backburner?

In our events section, you'll find two "write-ins" dedicated to NaNoWriMo, so be sure to check those out.

Also, on the menu of excitement, the NEOSinC Members Holiday Pot Luck and Gift Exchange is coming up early December. Members, be on the look out for emails with details.

Speaking of December, can you believe that it's already the end of the year? I'm still trying to figure out what happened to March through October! No doubt, the next couple of months will be busy with writing, reading hibernation days and holiday festivities. And, of course, yours truly wants to hear all about it. I foresee a great holiday issue coming next month, and I'll need help from all of you to achieve that. Let's chat about what you're up to. Tell me about your holiday traditions, recipes you can't live without and what writing events you've got coming up. Do you have a favorite Christmas song or movie? What about a fantastic memory from childhood...or adulthood even, I'm taking it all.

And, that's my plug for this month. I'll leave you to the reading of the newsletter. Be sure to check out the great "feel-good" story by our lovely T.K. Starr. It involves a spirited turkey named Waldo and his ambitious dream to keep on keepin' on.

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!

Mark Your Calendar

2015 Meeting Schedule



When is that meeting? Flexible Scheduling

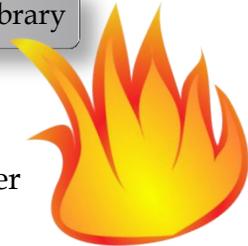


Please note that specific dates, times and locations for meetings are tentative until confirmed closer to the date.

Our scheduling system revolves around 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.

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

Arson Investigation
Getting It Right in Your Manuscript
Cleveland Fire Captain Debera Schroeder
See page 4 for details.



December 8 – 7:00 p.m. at Twinsburg Public Library

Holiday Party for members only. Details to follow!

2016...



NEOSinC Meeting:
Tuesday, November 10,
7 p.m. at the Twinsburg Library



Arson Investigation – Getting It Right in Your Manuscript

Guest speaker:

**Captain Deberra
Schroeder**

The only female fire captain in the Cleveland Fire Department. As an arson investigator, Captain Schroeder is both a Cleveland Firefighter and a Cleveland Police Officer. In addition to helping us understand arson investigation, she'll also talk about her recent experience as the victim of an attempted carjacking in a local grocery store parking lot.



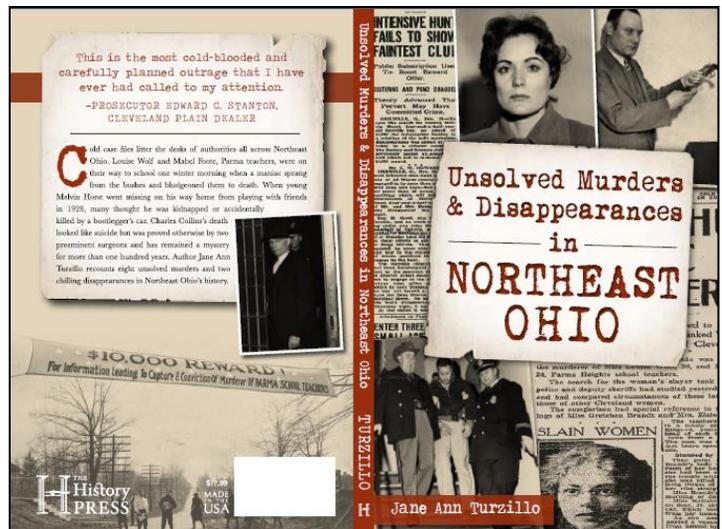
What's Everyone Up To?

Jane Turzillo

Jane is very pleased to announce the upcoming release of her latest true crime novel, *Unsolved Murders & Disappearances in Northeast Ohio*.

The book's release date is **December 7**.

In other news, Jane was recently a guest on Sirius XM radio's, *the Dave Nemo Show*, where she talked about her book, *Murder & Mayhem on Ohio's Rails*.



Shelley Costa

Shelley has launched her monthly newsletter, *The Evidence Locker*, with news and articles of interest to mystery lovers.

Monthly giveaways!...occasionally, cats (photos, not giveaways).

To sign up, go to Shelley's website www.shelleycosta.com and click on the News tab.

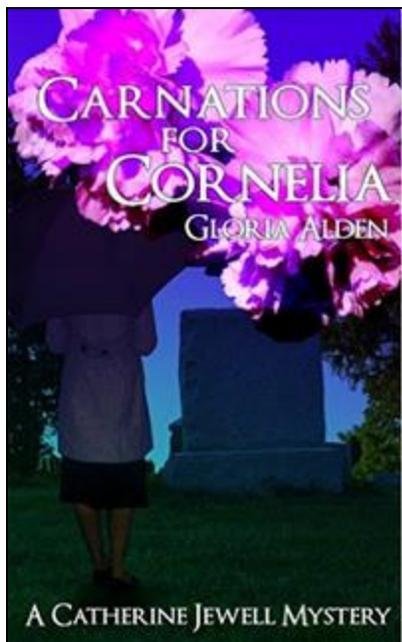


Shelley Costa



What's Everyone Up To?

Gloria Alden



Gloria brings us the sixth installment in her Catherine Jewell mystery series, *Carnations for Cornelia*.

The skeleton found in the last book turns out to be that of a young woman in her late teens or early twenties, who has been dead for twenty years. Now it's up to the police chief, John MacDougal, to find out who she is and who murdered her. Added to this, Father O' Shawnessy discovers a dead body in his church, Our Lady of the Roses, which now gives John two murders to investigate with his girlfriend Catherine Jewell especially interested in the skeleton of the young girl after the girl's diary was found.

Available on Amazon in both print and e-book formats!

Julie Anne Lindsey

Julie “got her brave on” and sent a query letter to her dream agent, Jill Marsal at Marsal Lyon Literary Agency. Jill requested Julie’s manuscript immediately and offered representation the next morning.

Jill sold Julie’s new cozy mystery to Crooked Lane Books a week later, negotiating a nice deal and three books to start.

The cozy series is currently untitled, but is set in New Orleans featuring Lacy Marie Crocker and her pet boutique, Furry Godmother.



What's Everyone Up To?

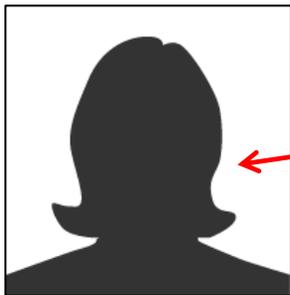
Amanda Flower

Amanda's, Amish Sweetshop Mystery Series, in which an NYC-based chocolatier visits her Amish grandparents in Ohio for what is supposed to be a brief stay, but the visit is suddenly extended when her grandfather is framed for murder, has been picked up by Kensington in a three-book deal.



congratulations

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!

Like Whatever

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

By T.K. Starr

Waldo – An Ohio Turkey Tale

Based on a True Story that happened November 2014 – February 2015 in a small town on a Great Lake

He was named Waldo by the school kids. They often saw him trotting along some fence on frosty winter mornings as they waited for their bus near the local YMCA. “Where’s Waldo today?” they’d asked and so the name stuck. Waldo had become a local celebrity by that time with sightings in and around the lakefront neighborhood. It was never clear where exactly he stayed or how he survived such a harsh winter. But residents reported that the neighborhood cats and wild birds seemed to be eating more food than usual. How he found that food or knew where to look was another mystery. My bet was on a certain family cat named Buddha. But I’m getting ahead of myself. I suppose the most logical place to start *this* story is in the middle.

Once upon a time, in a small neighborhood, not too far away, a turkey was stuck in a tree...



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...Mmmm...on second thought, I'll start at the beginning...

□ *A couple days before Thanksgiving 2014...*

□ They wanted a live turkey for Thanksgiving dinner, or at least Eldest Son did. He was a back-to-nature, off-the-grid kind of guy who wanted to do it the old-fashioned way, like the Pilgrims (if you still believe those stories of elementary school). He'd done it before on the Co-op where he lived out west and thought the family would like it. In any case, the decision was made. Off to the local turkey farm in the southern part of the county they went to choose the plumpest Tom of the lot. They found one strutting around showing off his stuff and decided he was the one. As the farm owner packed him up and money was exchanged, she gave them some last minute instructions. Make sure you walk him around a bit when you get home and "before" the you-know-what. Something about stress hormones during the car ride making the meat tougher, etc., etc., etc. The farm owner always did this and believed the meal was better for it. Okay. Gotcha.

□ The ride back was full of anticipation, but no incidents. After all, having a live turkey in your back seat could be somewhat precarious. But everyone was chattering about one thing or another and Turkey behaved. At home, the family re-settled themselves letting Eldest Son take care of Turkey. The family cat, Buddha, rescued by Eldest Son out west, but who now belonged to the family, just looked at Turkey in his cage. Turkey looked back and sounds were exchanged. Who knows what was actually said. Perhaps a bond was developed as Buddha neither hissed nor growled at the feathered fowl in her presence (so it's told). She seemed relaxed and accepting. She stayed near Turkey for a time then wandered off. There were still falling leaves to be chased and so she did.

□ Eldest Son came back to let Turkey out to walk around as Farm Owner had suggested. He didn't put a leash on him. Turkey, obviously glad to be free for a bit, wandered the yard under Buddha's watchful eye. After awhile, Turkey wandered farther into the unfenced portion in the back, perhaps looking for any acorns or other errant nuts or berries that had fallen and missed the attention of the local squirrels.

□ At some point, Eldest Son decided Turkey was done walking. He went to grab Turkey to bring him back for, well, you know what, when Eldest Son got a surprise. See, the live turkeys he was used to dealing with all had their wings clipped...

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By T.K. Starr

Not this Turkey. As Eldest Son started to grab Turkey, the startled Tom flapped his large wings, hitting Eldest Son square in the face with full force and sent him falling backwards. Turkey was now free and took full advantage, flying up to a side fence post near the patio. There he paused for a bit giving Eldest Son, now joined by Family, a second chance at grabbing him. Eldest Son, having recovered, now realized Turkey was unclipped and very much capable of flying. He reached for Turkey again. Buddha, watching off to the sidelines, growled and hissed (so they say) and Turkey took off again, this time landing in the tree. After several hours of trying to lure Turkey down from the tree with food, calls back to the farm owner, and other more physical attempts, Eldest Son and Family gave up and Mom headed to Giant Eagle.

Turkey stayed in that tree for 6 days. He might well have ventured down to get food and water at some point, but Family never saw him. Mom was concerned. A turkey used to life on a farm would not fare well in the urban wilds where cars, lack of food and shelter, and other animals were the norm. Mom was afraid he would suffer a much crueler fate than what had originally been planned, so she kept an eye out for Turkey, now called Waldo, the entire winter.

But the worry was for nothing. Waldo was one tough turkey. There were several sightings of Waldo in the neighborhood from November 2014 to February 2015.



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By T.K. Starr

As the frigid winter pressed on, it was thought he might have taken shelter in one of the various tree houses lining the backyards or the back shed at the local YMCA. He had lost weight, and some of his swagger, but he remained looking surprisingly healthy. He had no problem venturing up on backyard decks to eat leftover cat food or wilting pumpkins. No one seemed to complain much as he kept to himself. But it couldn't go on forever. Spring would come and people would come out of hibernation. Neighbors might not appreciate a full grown turkey living in their backyard. The dogs certainly wouldn't. It was time for Waldo to find a safer place to live.

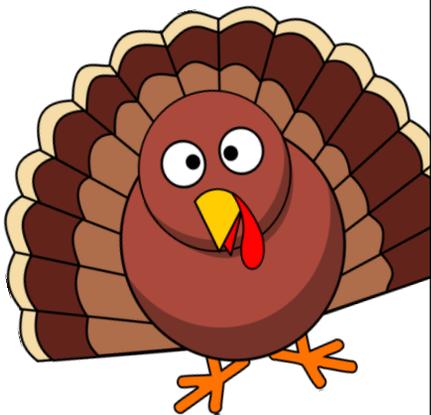


In February 2015, with Mom's full approval, a local non-kill animal society was called to trap Waldo. Perhaps he was tired of fending for himself in the cold or maybe he was just lonely. In any case, Waldo was safely and humanely caught without incident. He is now living out his natural life on a no-kill "retirement farm" just a few miles from where he was born. Waldo has found home.

Thanksgiving Traditions

For me, Thanksgiving isn't about a big turkey dinner or shopping on Black Friday, it's about fruitcake. Stifle your groans about the traditional, gloppy, sticky, doorstop fruitcake that has inspired so many bad jokes. My mother's family recipe is a lighter, fruit-and-nut-filled cake that family and friends actually enjoy. No, they don't say so just to be polite. When I was growing up, baking the batch was the highlight of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. We'd get out the super-large stainless steel mixing bowl that could hold enough batter for at least a dozen cakes. More recently, about seven or eight years ago, my youngest brother gave the recipe a tropical twist with pineapple tidbits and macadamia nuts and named his version Hawaiian Holiday Loaf. Now both versions are part of our holiday traditions.

Irma Baker



On the night after Thanksgiving, I put up the tree and invite the grandparents over to decorate it with the kids. Afterward, the kids ice cut-out cookies for us, and I put on the spiked apple cider.

Spiked cider:

1 bottle caramel vodka + 1 gallon apple cider
In a slow cooker with a couple cinnamon sticks.

A few mugs of cider and no one cares that all the tree decorations are hanging on the same four branches two feet from the bottom of the tree.

Julie Anne Lindsey



November

Birthdays:

- November 5 – Carole Nelson Douglas
- November 9 – Emile Gaboriau
- November 10 - W.E.B. Griffin
- November 14 – Cara Black
- November 28 – Rita Mae Brown

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln declares that Thanksgiving will land on the last Thursday of November.

November is:
American Indian Heritage Month, Good Nutrition Month, Aviation Month, American Diabetes Awareness Month, National Stamp Collecting Month, and National Peanut Butter Lover's Month

November 4, 1948

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

Who's Who and What's Where

- President – Irma Baker
- Vice President – Jane Turzillo
- Treasurer – Kim Hammond
- Secretary – Amanda Flower
- Library Liaison – Cari Dubiel
- Newsletter Editor – Paula Corrao



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