

THE MYST-ERIE BLOTTER



February 2016
Volume 2, Issue 1

Letter from the Editor

Greetings Sisters, Misters, and Mystery Lovers:

It's good to be back! After a little winter hiatus, I feel refreshed and ready to get back into the swing of things. Hard to believe that we're already looking February in the eye. Normally, January is sixty days long and we're buried under fifty feet of snow.

Not only do I think that the tolerable weather has helped move time along, but the fact that there is so much going on. I have so much fun stuff to share with you, but to fit it all here would be the equivalent of a novel!

So, I'll start with a new favorite topic of mine. Since I've started my job at GIE Media, I've become very interested in the back end of the writing process...which is of course, publishing. And, I've found myself looking at trends in the market and keeping up with industry news. And wow, is there some fascinating stuff out there. So fascinating that I find myself suddenly in need of a blog. (One thing at a time, Paula.)

But until then, I'll wave my hands at you here and ask...do you as writers and readers do the same? I'm interested in knowing how much others keep tabs on the industry? And...how do you feel about Amazon? There have been quite a few heated discussions going on about them, but everything I've read has been from the standpoint of a bookseller. I'd like to hear what fellow writers and readers feel about what is considered to be a "growing concern for booksellers everywhere."

It's been a few months. Let's catch up with each other. Send me an email and tell me what's been going on with you. How are your New Year's Resolutions coming along? Have anything exciting planned for 2016?

I'll tell you mine if you tell me yours!

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



Next Meeting

**Tuesday, February 9
7 p.m. at Twinsburg Library**

This is the annual business meeting and election of officers.

Come and be heard...

Help us plan meetings and events to
help you advance your writing
pursuits!



March Meeting

**Death March
Saturday, March 12
Cuyahoga County Library Writing Center**

*This free event takes the place of our regular March meeting.
See page 4 for details!*

Flexible Scheduling

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.

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 purchase a boxed 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.

Where Do You Think You're Going?

Our Authors at Community Events Coming Soon!

February 7

Jane Turzillo - Book Signing
Medina Train and Toy Show
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Medina Fairgrounds
Medina, OH 44256
Admission: \$6
Phone: 330-948-4400

February 20

Jane Turzillo
Author Talk and Book Signing
Mac's Backs-Books
7:00 p.m.
1820 Conventry Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
Phone: 216-321-2665
www.macsbacks.com

February 27

Jane Turzillo - Book Signing
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Books-A-Million
335 Howe Avenue
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

February 20

Casey Daniels and Shelley Costa
Winter Fictionfest: A Mini-Conference
Loganberry Books
13015 Larchmere Blvd
Shaker Heights, OH 44120
Registration Cost: \$28.00
\$23.50 for Literary Cleveland members
For more information, visit:
<http://www.litcleveland.org/classes--workshops.html>

February 22

Jane Turzillo
Cuyahoga County Library
North Royalton Branch
7:00 p.m.
5071 Wallings Road
North Royalton, OH 44133
Phone: 440-237-3800

...and beyond

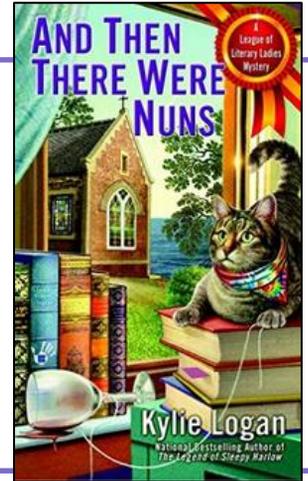
April 30 - May 2

Gloria Alden, Shelley Costa, Casey Daniels,
Amanda Flower
Malice Domestic Mystery Conference
Bethesda, MD

What's Everyone Up To?

Kylie Logan

Kylie Logan (aka Casey Daniels) is pleased to report that *And Then There Were Nuns* has been named the Top Pick in Amateur Sleuth mysteries in the March issue of *Romantic Times* magazine. The book got a 4-1/2 star review and the reviewer calls the series "highly addictive." *And Then There Were Nuns* hits store shelves on March 1.



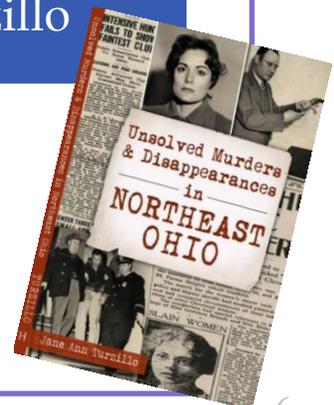
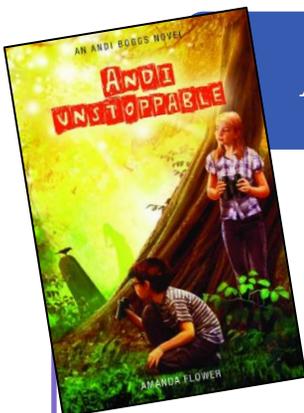
C.L. Wilkinson



C.L. Wilkinson's short story, *Toasting Catherine*, was published by Kings River Life Magazine. It is her second publishing credit this year. You can read it here: <http://kingsriverlife.com/12/28/toasting-catherine-a-new-years-eve-short-story/>

Amanda Flower & Jane Ann Turzillo

Congratulations! Amanda and Jane are nominees for the Agatha awards at the upcoming Malice Domestic Mystery Conference. Amanda for her children's book, *Andi Unstoppable*, and Jane for her nonfiction book, *Unsolved Murders and Disappearances in Northeast Ohio*.



Like Whatever

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

By T.K. Starr

SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE EVOLUTION OF HUMANITY: THE CATS ARE IN CONTROL

I'm giving up FaceBook. And Pinterest. At least for awhile. I have to. It has become as addictive as a bowl of chocolate chip cookie batter. I do think my mind is turning into the mushy consistency of said batter too. Ever since I entered the murky, mesmerizing world of social media (oh was it less than a year ago), I find my personal productivity continually decreasing. How can I do the vacuuming, finish that chapter, or actually try all those recipes I Pin online when I need to keep up with my newsfeed, re-post and re-pin, comment, download, and share?

It crept up on me, like all those unwanted pounds from Christmas. You know, you think you have the holiday eating under control then BAM! The loads of extra snowballs, pecan cookies and Kahlua coffees hit your hips like a Marshmallow Fluff avalanche. A year ago I didn't know how to "Like" or "Share" and I thought you made friends the old fashioned way. You know, you met them. In person. Not in cyber space, but in real time space. At a party or work or through other friends. Friendships seemed to do fine that way. Had for hundreds of years. And it was manageable. You only had the number of friends you could keep up with along with acquaintances to whom you might send a Christmas card every year. No real pressure.

But now, you might not even be able to say what many of your *friends* look like. Unless they post a true profile pix, you may be thinking "Betty S" is an adorable black cat with green eyes and long white whiskers or TK Starr an amorphous wacky cartoon character (I'm actually more of a smokey, mysteriously shadowed silhouette, but close enough). And then there's the stress to post and stay active and get as many "Likes" and "Shares" and "Followers" as you can. My "public" expects it. If I stop, I'll be dropped. I've been followed and unfollowed by several on Pinterest already. For each unreasonably deep moment of over importance I feel receiving notification of being re-pinned or shared, I also feel the even more unreasonably deep, physical pain of rejection from being unpinned or unfollowed from people I don't even know or know if I care to know. Hey, you, what did I do? Why did you Unpin or Unfollow me? Don't you like me? How could I have been better for you? Oh, be still my hypersensitive ego.

Continued...

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Look, social media is all well and good, but it's taken over. It's conservatively estimated we Americans spend anywhere from 40- 90 minutes a day on-line. It's the go-to for those of us needing a break. I've already broken off twice writing this article to see what's happening on Facebook and answer some emails. Sure, I would 've taken a break anyway to pet the cat, grab more coffee, or hug the husband, but that's just it. I'd have to get up and consciously go *do* those things and *accomplish* something. With social media and the internet in general, it's so easy to flit from one thing to another without getting anything actually done. I may be at the most important sentence while editing my book when I see an ad from Amazon pop-up advertising 60% off Calphalon cast iron cookware and think, gee, that would make a great Birthday gift for hubby. And off I go.

Sure, this might just be a personal issue I need to work on, but I think the lack of focus and discipline and feeling of time wasted is not just me. Or is it? It started innocently enough. I was advised by my (former) agent that a fixed presence and following on social media would be a huge selling point to potential publishers (sounded backwards to me, but what did I know). So I reluctantly ventured into the world of websites and blogging. I found an amazing web designer who did a great job. I was pretty good for a bit blogging away, but writing your own stuff several times a week or month is tough when you have a full time job and blogging is only a collateral duty. Especially recipes. I'm usually too busy getting the darn recipe made for some work or social function to be bothered about documenting it. I knew I was sinking fast, much like my failed pumpkin caramel mini-cheesecakes (don't ask).

Then I took a social media class through adult extension and discovered "re-posting". Oh joy. I could be active without being blogged, I mean bogged, down. I also discovered Pinterest (I never bothered with Twitter or any of the others...thank goodness). I'd spend hours at night in front of the TV pinning away to my boards. Mostly devilishly good recipes. Of course, it never really occurred to me that I may not be able to make all the delicious creations if all I was ever doing was pinning them. But whatever. Aren't pinning and re-posting accomplishments in themselves anyway? Who actually needs to do anything else besides pass it on and claim it as yours?

I was Hooked. Bewitched. Bedazzled. It was heaven.

But now I'm so OVER it. Really.

Continued. 8

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By T.K. Starr



Like Harry Potter resisting the *Imperius Curse*, I'm breaking free. Listening to that faint voice in the corner of my mind questioning why I'm watching yet another Surprise Kitty video. I resolve to *do* more and scan less. Be more active or at least finally finish the book edits for my editor and clean out the closets. I vow to actually talk with my husband at night instead of the "uh, huh" and "wait a minute, honey, while I finish this" conversations the poor man's been getting. I figure this pledge is good for at least 30-60 days. About the time the gym memberships and diets start flying out the window, remnants of all the best of 2016 intentions and amiable resolutions. Well, at least I can say I tried. But, whatever. By then I'm sure there'll be a whole new set of crazy cat and 15 layer Magic Bar videos up anyway. One can only hope.

Despite her reluctance, TKStarr will continue to blog more on her website TKStarrMysteries.com, remain on FaceBook (TKStarmysteries), and Pin on Pinterest (TKStarr). But she will hate every minute of it.

Note: Although this article is all in fun, there has been a great deal of research on the effect of excessive social media/texting especially on teens and young adults. If interested, some recent studies include:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/09/150911094917.htm>;

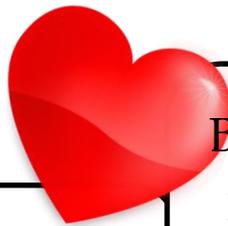
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/10/151005095738.htm>;

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/04/130411131755.htm>

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/04/130411131755.htm>



February



Birthdays:

- February 5 - Stephen J Cannell
- February 8 - John Grisham
- February 17 - Margaret Truman
- February 26 - Elizabeth George

February was named after the Latin word *februum* which means "purification."



February is:
 Black History Month,
 American Heart Month,
 Chocolate Lover's Month,
 National Bird Feeding
 Month, and National
 Dental Month



For 60 more fun facts about Valentine's Day, check out:
<http://facts.randomhistory.com/facts-about-valentines-day.html>

When Valentine's Day was first introduced to Japan in 1936, a translation error made by a chocolate company resulted in only women buying Valentine chocolates for their spouses, boyfriends, or friends. In fact, it is the only day of the year many single women will reveal their crush on a man by giving him chocolate. The men don't return the favor until White Day, a type of "answer day" to Valentine's Day, which is on March 14.



Check It
Out!

Did you
know...?

www.eadeverell.com

This is an awesome website that is filled with information geared towards both readers and writers.

There also are lots of helpful templates and tools to help writers with their creative process!

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

The Saint Valentine's Day Massacre is the name given to the 1929 murder of seven mob associates and a mechanic of the North Side Irish gang led by Bugs Moran during the Prohibition Era. It resulted from the struggle - between the Irish American gang and the South Side Italian gang led by Al Capone - to take control of organized crime in Chicago.

"You don't have to be great to get started, but you have to get started to be great."

~ Les Brown

Motivational speaker

Who's Who and What's Where

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