

THE MYST-ERIE BLOTTER



February 2017
Volume 3, Issue 2



Letter from the Editor



Greetings Sisters, Masters, and Mystery Lovers:

I come to you at the tail-end of my *Hot and Sour Suicide* writing experience. That's right, book two is deadlined for mid-February, and I can't believe that it's here already! I feel like it was just yesterday that I had begun book one.

The editing process is something that will continue to amaze AND frustrate me. While the process can be tedious, I find that I learn a lot about myself in the process. Perhaps there is something therapeutic about ripping apart your work and putting it back together. Each time, I've gone through my work, I uncover something new about myself. On this particular trip through the "red pen chronicles," I find that I have little patience for detail until the very end. My draft was riddled with comment boxes reminding myself to "describe her here" and "what does this look like...show the reader."

This made me wonder how everyone else functions when they write. Do you have a pattern that you follow when you're writing your book?

Some time ago, I went to a writer's workshop at Mac's Backs featuring suspense writer, Jenny Milchman. A lot of things she talked about that evening stuck with me, but one thing really held on tight. Someone asked her about her process...or if she had suggestions for success. And she said something along the lines of, "Every book is different. What works for one book may not work for another..."

And, while I was writing this second book, I found that to be true. I started this book with every intention of having my process "down pat." But, as I worked through the story, I found that no matter what I tried, it couldn't be done. No, this book required extensive post-it layouts stuck to the walls, and a big poster board turned into a calendar filled with daily happenings in my fictitious world. This was much different from the scene cards and paper doodles I had made for the first book. Imagine what the maintenance man would have thought had he stopped by!

If there's a lesson to be learned here (for writers and non), it's that we're never done learning about ourselves or how our brain responds to certain scenarios or situations. We are ever-changing individuals who continue to grow through knowledge and life experiences. And, if you ask me, that's pretty cool.

On a totally different note, I happened to discuss my excitement about the whole "fire rooster" thing with my mother. She then promptly told me that I'm not a fire rooster, but instead a metal rooster. In order for me to be a fire rooster, I would have had been born in 1957. See? You really do learn something new about yourself everyday! 😊

Until we meet again...Happy Writing!...and Reading!

Paula Corrao
And sometimes... Vivien Chien

Let's Get Together



Next Meeting!
Monday, February 6
7 p.m.
Twinsburg Library



This meeting marks the return to Monday evening as our regular meeting night.

This is our annual business meeting. We will be reviewing results of the survey that was sent to members and planning 2017 programs. Please come and voice your opinions so we can plan a year that will help you become the mystery writer you want to be!

**MAKE YOUR
VOICE HEARD**

*March
Meeting*

Monday, March 13
Location to be announced

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



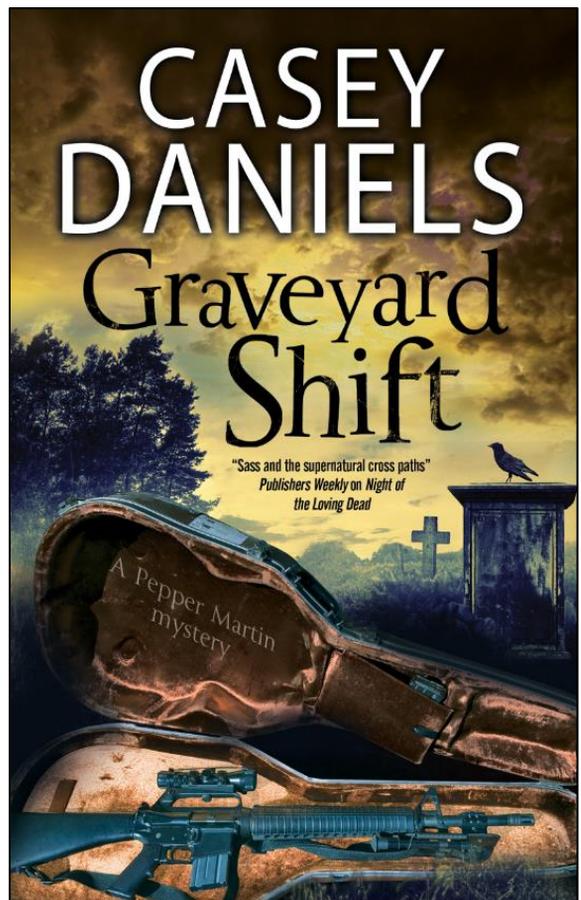
What's Everyone Up To?

Casey Daniels

The latest installment in the Pepper Martin mystery series by Casey Daniels, *Graveyard Shift*, released on January 1.

Pepper Martin is back, and this time, she's working with the ghost of Cleveland's most famous lawman. What with Eliot Ness following her around, a turbulent love life, a murder to solve, and a mysterious and malevolent presence that's possessing the people she loves, Pepper's got her hands full!

Join Casey for a launch party/book signing, Saturday, February 11, from 12:00-5:00 at Something Different Gallery, 1899 West 25th Street, Cleveland. The gallery is just north of the West Side Market.



Author Events

Jane Turzillo

Hosted by:

\$12/Literary Cleveland
Members
\$15/non-members



Wed. Feb. 22, 7-9pm
Gordon Square Arcade
6516 Detroit Ave.

Digging Up the Bodies: Writing About True Crimes in History

If you want to write about true crimes in history, this is the class for you! We'll talk about how to spot an interesting subject and where to uncover the evidence, photographs and more. Then we'll talk about how to turn what you've found into a compelling read. If time permits we'll look at some markets. Bring ideas or works in progress.

Jane Turzillo is an Agatha Award nominee and National Federation of Press Women award winner who writes about true crimes in Ohio history. As an original owner of a large Ohio weekly newspaper, she covered police and fire news and wrote a historical column. She taught writing and literature at the college level and helped keep things rolling in the public information office of the Akron Art Museum. Many of her short stories and articles have been published in newspapers and magazines across the United States and Canada.

Author Events

Jane Turzillo

Dead of Winter Event

02/11/17 6:00pm \$55 per soul
Dragonfly Tea Room
Canal Fulton OH

Dinner Beverages Dessert

Mini programs with authors

Sherri Brake Debra Robinson Jane Turzillo

Haunted history of Stark & Tuscarawas County Ohio

Wild women of NE Ohio and more. Books sales & Signing

Reservations needed
www.HauntedHistory.net



Meet the Author

February 21 – 7:00 pm

Perry Public Library

3753 Main Street

Perry, Ohio 44081

For more information, visit:

<http://www.perrypubliclibrary.org/content/author-visit-jane-turzillo>





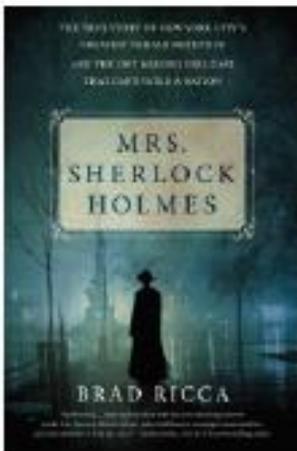
Upcoming Event

Cuyahoga County Public Library
South Euclid – Lynhurst Branch



Cuyahoga County
Public Library

Meet the Author



Brad Ricca

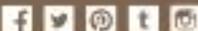
Monday, March 13th
7:00 p.m.

Brad Ricca will visit to discuss his new book, *Mrs. Sherlock Holmes*, a *Kirkus* star recipient and the first-ever literary biography of New York City's greatest female detective. Mrs. Grace Humiston turned her back on society life and became one of the nation's greatest crime fighters during an era where women weren't even allowed to vote. Ricca is a SAGES Fellow at Case Western Reserve University and the author of *Super Boys: The Amazing Adventures of Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster – The Creators of Superman*.

Books will be available for purchase and signing courtesy of Mac's Backs – Books on Coventry. Registration is required. To register, visit cuyahogalibrary.org or call 216.382.4880.

South Euclid-Lyndhurst Branch
1876 South Green Road / 216.382.4880

Connect with us



cuyahogalibrary.org

Register before
February 28th and
save money!

DEADLY
INK!

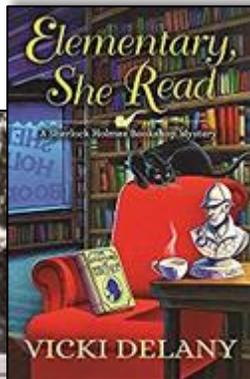


June 16-18, 2017 Hilton Garden Inn, Rockaway, NJ

For more information on the conference and register, visit:

www.deadly-ink.org

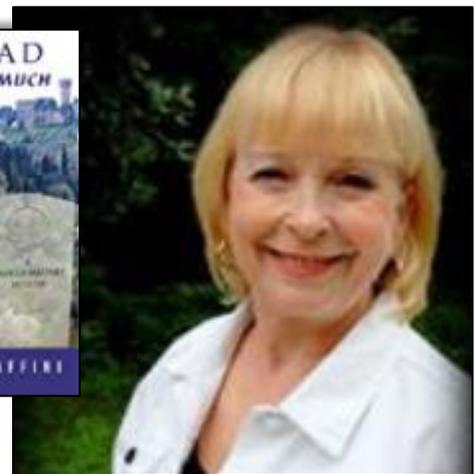
Guest of Honor Vicki Delany



Vicki Delany is one of Canada's most varied and prolific crime writers. Most recently, she is the author of the Year Round Christmas cozy mysteries from Berkley Prime Crime and (writing under the pen name of Eva Gates) the Lighthouse Library mysteries also from Berkley.

Toastmaster Mary Jane Maffini

Mary Jane Maffini writes three mystery series: Charlotte Adams is a professional organizer in upstate New York. The latest Charlotte Adams mystery won the RT award for best amateur sleuth in 2012. Meanwhile crotchety lawyer Camilla MacPhee snoops in Canada's capital, and failed romance writer Fiona Silk must be the most reluctant sleuth in West Quebec.



As Victoria Abbott, Mary Jane co-writes the book collector mysteries with her artist daughter, Victoria Maffini.

February



Birthdays:

February 5 – Stephen J Cannell
February 8 – John Grisham
February 13 – Georges Simenon
February 17 – Margaret Truman
February 26– Elizabeth George

Georges Simenon, a Belgian writer, was best known for his fictional character, Detective Jules Maigret. In 1966, Simenon was given the Grand Master Award by Mystery Writer's of America, which is considered to be the highest honor.



February's birthstone, the amethyst, was believed by the Greeks to protect its wearer from drunkenness. It has also been known as a symbol of love, happiness, humility, sincerity and wealth.



The oldest known Valentine still in existence was a poem written in **1415** by Charles, Duke of Orleans to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. The valentine is retained by the British Library in London.

For more on the history of Valentine's Day, check out:
<http://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day>



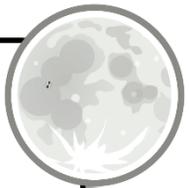
February is:

Black History Month, American Heart Month, Chocolate Lover's Month, National Bird Feeding Month, National Dental Month



February 1865

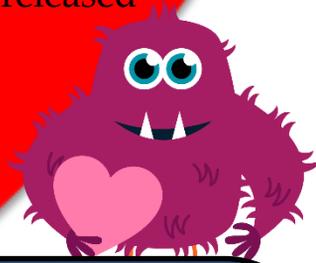
...is the only month in recorded history to not have a full moon. The next February to not have a full moon will be in 2018



Check It
Out!

Did you
know...?

Before becoming a famous novelist, Dan Brown, author of *The Da Vinci Code*, was a musician! One of his solo albums was titled, *Angels and Demons*, which was released in 1994.



Reminder!

Don't forget to pay your dues for 2017! **The membership fee is \$20.**

Checks are made payable to:

Kim Hammond

You may bring your payment to the next meeting or contact a member of the board for more information.

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

"Almost all good writing begins with terrible first efforts. You need to start somewhere."

~ Anne Lamott
author of *Bird by Bird*



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!
<https://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. This year we are trying to schedule meetings on Monday evenings, since that evening seems to work for more members, 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. 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, or others 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.