

# THE MYST-ERIE BLOTTER



January 2017  
Volume 3, Issue 1



# Letter from the Editor

Greetings Sisters, Misters, and Mystery Lovers:

Happy New Year! This, my friends, is my most and least favorite time of year. It's my favorite because as I mentioned in the last newsletter, New Year's is my absolute favorite holiday. And not only do I get to celebrate New Year's on the first of January, but I also celebrate Chinese New Year. This year, the lunar new year, falls on January 28<sup>th</sup>, and just so happens to be the Year of the Rooster. I'm a Rooster! Naturally, I'm excited because it's MY year, AND it's a fire rooster. AND, I'm a fire sign! What luck. But, according to the Chinese, the sign born into a year is destined to have the worst luck in it's own year. HOWEVER, Paula Corrao logic dictates that I will have a fantastic year because I'm an odd ball and always seem to have good luck with things that bring bad luck. Like Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>...always the luckiest day for me. So, I'm keeping myself optimistic for the coming year despite the superstitious forecast.

So why is this my least favorite time of year, you ask? Well, the weather of course! Being an Ohioan all my life has not given me an appreciation for the colder climates, and January is the longest month in the world! As my dad and I say, "It's 60 days long!" But, don't worry, I have many pictures of Hawaii at my desk to keep me daydreaming while I push through the rest of winter.

As I prepped for the New Year, I did my usual scouring for a new planner. Every year, I look for the perfect planner that's going to help me become an organizing maniac. For those of you who know me, you'll know that I am not the least bit organized. I make an effort, but it never works out. But this is my year, so I was determined to find something—anything—that will make it happen. I found an Erin Condren life planner...\$70!...and I thought to myself, well, no wonder I can't get organized, I'm not willing to throw down \$70 on a planner. Here lies my problem. This fascination led me down another road with a friend at work who mentioned "bullet-journaling." "You know, Paula, that new craze that is all over the internet." NO! I live in a cave, do tell! A bullet-journal is a planner, a to-do list, and a journal all in one. You can use it any way you like really. But, the idea is to keep everything in one place so you don't have a million lists or post-its scattered all over your house. My friend didn't know much about it, so I immediately took to the internet and found some helpful articles. If your interest is piqued, take a look at this. I found this to be the most helpful and fun to read:

[https://www.buzzfeed.com/rachelwmiller/how-to-start-a-bullet-journal?utm\\_term=.vmWRX8J3A#.dvL3QZrgo](https://www.buzzfeed.com/rachelwmiller/how-to-start-a-bullet-journal?utm_term=.vmWRX8J3A#.dvL3QZrgo)

And perhaps you're wondering, how did this all get started and where did it come from. To answer that question, check out this website:

<http://bulletjournal.com/>

One man started it all, and it has spread all over in so many different variations. Seriously, if you have a chance, do a search on bullet journal spreads. It's crazy how creative people have become with this. I love it!





# Letter from the Editor

Now, bullet journaling has become another “paper product” hobby of mine, as well as something to help keep me organized. The big question is, is it working? The answer is “sorta.” I’ve just started and am still getting the hang of everything. I’ll be sure to update you on my progress next month, and maybe even include some pictures.

But, let me stop myself there, or I’m likely to go on a two-hour explanation on washi tape and stencils.

Aside from my excitement for a fresh year, I’m also pleased to say that I’ve officially signed up for this year’s Bouchercon in Toronto! While I was unable to attend last year’s New Orleans event, I’m determined to make it this year and successfully threw procrastination out the window and registered. Canada, here I come! Are any of you fine sisters or misters planning to attend this year? Besides attending the conference, I’ve already got my eye on Toronto’s Chinatown. First officially established in the 1930s, it has become one of the largest in North America and its roots, though originally small, can be traced back to 1878!

As far as writing goes, I am plugging along on book two of my cozy series, and the end is in the foreseeable future. (It better be, the deadline is a only a month away!)

And that wraps me up for this month. Now it’s your turn. How is your writing going? What are you currently working on? What are your aspirations for this coming year?

In the meantime, enjoy the newsletter. And don’t forget to send me your social media info for the new directory page I’m putting together. We want to make sure your fans (present and future) can find you and love you as much as we do!

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!

**YOUR  
VOICE  
MATTERS**



*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!*



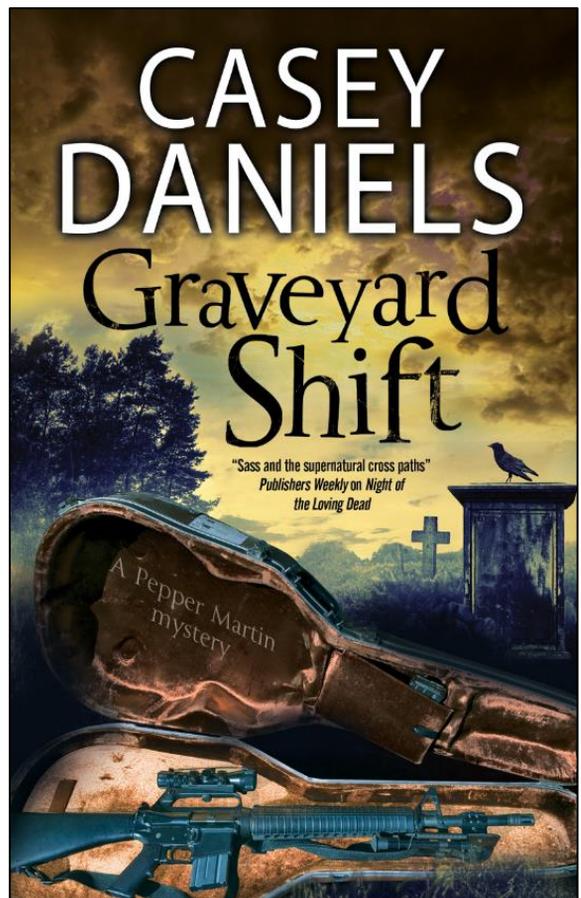
# What's Everyone Up To?

## 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 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Cleveland. The gallery is just north of the West Side Market.**





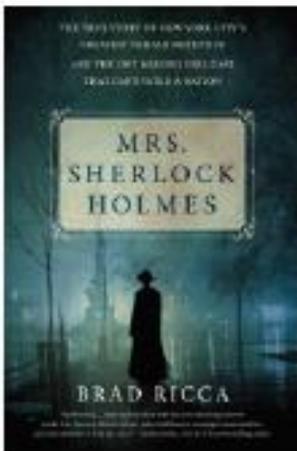
# Upcoming Event

Cuyahoga County Public Library  
South Euclid – Lynhurst Branch



Cuyahoga County  
Public Library

## Meet the Author



**Brad Ricca**

**Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**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](http://cuyahogalibrary.org) or call 216.382.4880.

**South Euclid-Lyndhurst Branch**  
1876 South Green Road / 216.382.4880

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[cuyahogalibrary.org](http://cuyahogalibrary.org)



# January



## Birthdays:



January 19 - Edgar Allan Poe  
 January 4 - Harlan Coben  
 January 6 - Karin Slaughter  
 January 12 - Walter Mosley  
 January 31 - Laura Lippman  
 January 14 - John Lescroart

## January is:

National Book Month, National Thank You Month, National Eye Care Month, National Volunteer Blood Donor Month, National Soup Month

## January 28, 2017

Chinese New Year, also known in modern times as the Spring Festival, begins on the first day of the new lunar cycle and can fall anytime from late January to mid-February.

China holds the world record for biggest organized firework display.



## January 1, 1908

The ball was first dropped at Times Square in New York City.

The first ball was made of iron and wood and was covered with 100 25-watt lightbulbs. It weighed 700lbs!

It wasn't until 1920 when the first ball was replaced with one that was only 400lbs and made completely out of wrought iron.



## January 3, 1899

The first known use of the word "automobile" was seen in *The New York Times*.

Check It  
Out!

Did you  
know...?



2017 is the Year of the Rooster. If you were born in one of the following years, you are a Rooster!

1921  
1933  
1945  
1957  
1969  
1981  
1993  
2005

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

"Good friends, good books, and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life."

~ Mark Twain



Submitted by: Mary Ellis

## 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. 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.