

# THE MYST-ERIE BLOTTER



July / August 2017  
Volume 3, Issue 7

# Letter from the Editor



Greetings Sisters, Misters, and Mystery Lovers:

In my wanderings, I've noticed there are a lot of resource books for those who are interested in writing mysteries. There are books on general crime fiction, police procedurals, and the inner workings of being a P.I. And, of course, we can't forget all the books about medical examinations and what goes on in the courtroom. But, there are seldom books that cater to the specific elements of a cozy mystery. So, naturally when I see one, it jumps out at me. A few weeks ago, I purchased this book from Amazon...



It attracted me for quite a few reasons. #1. It has cozy mystery in the title. #2 I can't outline to save my life (pantser all the way) and #3, it's by Sara Rosett!

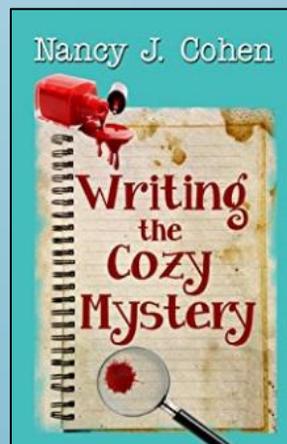
And while you can use it as a stand-alone resource, I didn't realize until after I bought it that it was part of a much larger program offered on Sara Rosett's website.

Naturally, my curiosity was piqued and I went to her website to investigate. First, her website is amazing. The graphic design and layout are very well done, and I found

myself making mental notes for the eventual creation of my own website. But, what really wowed me was the amount of tips, tools and wisdom she shares if you sign up for her newsletter. Since I signed up for her newsletter, I have received emails that contain worksheets that can help you with your writing techniques, information on apps and useful websites, and...be still my heart, she included writer-centric memes in the email! Who doesn't love a good meme?

And if you were wondering about the other cozy reference book, allow me to introduce you to this handy-dandy little guide by Nancy Cohen. What's great about this book is that even if you're experienced in the cozy writing department, there is still something to learn. Nancy shares her own techniques for plotting and keeping track of a series...which I have found to be quite tricky myself.

There's a lot of great information and guidance to be found, and I thank all the authors who take the time to put these together.



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

*Paula Corrao*  
*And sometimes... Vivien Chien*

# Let's Get Together

## *August Meeting*

*Monday, August 7  
7 p.m.  
Twinsburg Library*

**Twinsburg  
Library is food  
friendly!**



**Brown bag it or  
hit a drive  
through for  
take out and  
bring your  
meal to the  
library.**



10050 Ravenna Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087  
Phone: (330) 425-4268

*Stay tuned  
for  
more details!*

**...about a special event coming in October!**

# The 34th Annual Western Reserve Writers Conference

**Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017**  
**Cuyahoga County Public Library**  
**William N. Skirball Writers Center**  
**South Euclid-Lyndhurst Branch**  
**1876 South Green Road / South Euclid, Ohio 44121**

*The William N. Skirball Writers Center proudly hosts the Western Reserve Writers Conference for a second year, making it **free of charge for writers**. New this year, community writing organizations will have information tables at the conference.*

**Register by August 15 and get your name in a drawing for a prearranged editing session with an editor during the conference. The conference offers eight 15-minute individual editing sessions with editors Judy Allen or Claudia Taller. Winners will be notified by email.**

## NEOSinC Featured Presenters...



**Shelley Costa**  
**"Point of View:  
It's Not Just Who Tells the Story"**



**Amanda Flower**  
**"Let's Get Cozy:  
Writing the Popular Who-Done-It"**

*For Details, see next page.*

**To Register: Go to the Events page on Cuyahoga County Public Library Web site**  
<http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/Events/Event-Results.aspx?kw=category-writing&page=2>

# The 34th Annual Western Reserve Writers Conference

## PROGRAM

*Note: Sessions with an asterisk (\*) include a writing exercise.*

**9:00-9:30 AM REGISTRATION, LIGHT BREAKFAST, COFFEE**

**9:30 AM WELCOME & CONFERENCE OVERVIEW:**

Deanna R. Adams, Conference Coordinator

Laurie Kincer, William N. Skirball Writers' Center

**9:40-10:20 AM KEYNOTE SPEAKER: BRIAN A. KLEMS, GETTING PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S WORLD: 10 TIPS TO MAKE YOU A WRITER AGENTS AND PUBLISHERS WANT**

Brian A. Klems, a graduate of the Ohio University E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, is the senior online editor of WritersDigest.com and author of the bestselling book, *Oh Boy, You're Having a Girl: A Dad's Guide to Raising Daughters* (Adams Media). His blog, *The Writer's Dig*, which covers everything writing and publishing, is one of the fastest growing blogs in the writing community. Brian has been a part of the *Writer's Digest* family since 2003 and has overseen the launch of all the *Writer's Digest* blogs as well as helped *Writer's Digest* become a vibrant member of the social media community.

**10:30-11:30 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS, choose one:**

- 1. \*Political Writing without Politics / Erin O'Brien.** Social media and journalism are filled with political hot potatoes. Learn how to keep a tactful balance with in-class exercises that demonstrate these delicate techniques.
- 2. Let's Get Cozy: Writing the Popular Who-Done-It / Amanda Flower.** Learn what it takes to make your cozy stand out from the rest and get the attention it deserves.
- 3. \*Public Speaking for Writers / Ray McNiece.** Learn simple techniques for reading your work to a live audience from a master performance poet. Practice reading your work and get feedback.

**11:30-11:45 AM BREAK & PREARRANGED EDITING SESSIONS**

Judy Allen edits manuscripts for suspense, coming-of-age, short stories, children's, romance, sports, self-help and social commentary titles. Claudia Taller edits poetry, literary fiction, and nonfiction works such as memoir.

**11:45 AM-12:45 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS, choose one:**

- 1. \*Getting Rid of Your Internal Censor / Barbara Snow.** If you still hear that self-doubting voice questioning your talent as a writer, Barbara will help hush that voice and make you realize that Yes, you are a writer!
- 2. \*Agents: When You Need One, When You Don't / Deanna R. Adams.** Deanna will take you through the steps of pitching your book to an agent and also how to get published without one. Query letter writing included.
- 3. Writing for the Young Adult Market / JT Dutton.** Explore what it means to "sound fifteen" and develop a coming-of-age voice that readers will love and remember.

*Continued on next page...*

# The 34th Annual Western Reserve Writers Conference

## PROGRAM *continued*

*Note: Sessions with an asterisk (\*) include a writing exercise.*

### 12:45-1:45 PM LUNCH BREAK PLUS BOOK SALE & AUTHOR SIGNINGS

Brown bag or go out. Restaurant map available at registration table.

### 1:30-1:45 PM PREARRANGED EDITING SESSIONS

#### 1:45-2:45 PM FIRST PAGE CRITIQUE with panelists Brian A. Klems, Deanna R. Adams and Erin O'Brien.

Submit the first page of your work-in-progress at the registration table upon check in. Your page must be double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point, with a title and genre indicated at the top. DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME. Each panelist will raise a hand at the point where they would stop reading and then comment on what stopped them. Submissions will be randomly selected.

### 2:45-3:00 PM BREAK & PREARRANGED EDITING SESSIONS

### 3:00-4:00 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS, choose one:

- 1. Don't Get Fooled Again / Steve Grant.** Learn how to deal with the traditional publishing world and protect yourself from unscrupulous companies in the self-publishing world from an intellectual property attorney.
- 2. \*Point of View: It's Not Just Who Tells the Story / Shelley Costa.** Explore the special features of the most common points of view and, aside from the nuts and bolts of narration, consider each point of view and its meaning.
- 3. Dialogue Do's / Claire McMillan.** With CCPL's new Writer in Residence, Simon & Schuster author Claire McMillan, take a close look at how best to use dialogue to deepen character and serve plot.



### 4:00-4:15 PM PREARRANGED EDITING SESSIONS

### 4:00-4:30 PM DOOR PRIZES, BOOK SALE & AUTHOR SIGNINGS, MEET-UP FOR WRITERS LOOKING FOR A WRITING GROUP

# 2017 NEORWA CLEVELAND ROCKS ROMANCE CONFERENCE

## Registration open! A One-Day Novel Writing Seminar with Editor and International Presenter Margie Lawson

**ABOUT OUR SPEAKER:** Margie teaches writers how to use her psychologically-based editing systems and deep editing techniques to create page turners. She has presented over ninety full day master classes for writers in the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and on cruises in the Caribbean.

Writers credit her innovative deep editing approaches for their writing success: publication, awards, and bestseller lists.

**WHEN:** September 9, 2017

**WHERE:** Strongsville Holiday Inn, 15471 Royalton Road, Strongsville, Ohio  
(8 miles from Cleveland Hopkins airport)

**THE DETAILS:** The 2017 conference will be a one-day novel writing seminar aimed at writers in all phases of their career. Editor and international presenter Margie Lawson will be presenting on an assortment of topics. More details are below! Our annual basket raffle will include workshop registrations, critiques, & baskets brimming with books and goodies galore. Tickets are available at a pre-sale discount when you register and will be sold throughout the event. In the event we reach maximum capacity in our event room, we reserve the right to close registration early. **You do not need to be a member of NEORWA or RWA to attend this event.**

**THE COST:** Cost for the One -day event will be as follows:

**For members of NEORWA, COFW, TRRW, and RWA members living in Ohio:** \$85

**For all others:** \$95

The Holiday Inn provides us with a room block for those who will be traveling into town for this event and wish to stay overnight. Cost for rooms in the block is \$99 (this does not include taxes and hotel fees).

**THE DAY OF THE EVENT:** All events will be held in the Aspen Room at the Holiday Inn. This includes a Continental breakfast and a “create your own” deli buffet lunch.

❖ Registration check-in on the day of the event will begin at 8:30am outside the Aspen Room.

❖ The workshop starts at 9:00 am and will wrap up at 5:30pm.



# 2017 NEORWA CLEVELAND ROCKS ROMANCE CONFERENCE

## **WORKSHOP TOPICS INCLUDE:**

### *A Deep Editing Guide to Make Your Openings Pop*

This power-packed workshop teaches writers how to use deep editing to empower openings. Deep editing techniques that will be covered include power words, linear load, backloading, character-isms, scene-themed words, and cadence-driven rhetorical devices. We will also address what the reader needs in the first few paragraphs and the two promises writers give readers on the first page. Examples of strong openings will be analyzed. Writers will have some time to add power to their openings.

### *Not your Mama's Character Descriptions*

Not Your Mama's Character Descriptions provides writers with dozens of tools for making character descriptions fresh. We'll cover styles of character descriptions, contrasting what was expected with what presents, themed character descriptions, deep editing techniques, and using description to show the POV character's attitude toward a non-POV character. Learn how to use style, structure, and strategy to make your descriptions deepen character and carry more psychological power.

### *Top 20 Rhetorical Devices for Fiction Writers*

Learn 20 rhetorical devices—why, how, and when to use them to add the most power to your scenes. Learn how to strengthen your writing with rhetorical device combos. Learn which rhetorical devices compress time and expand time. Learn how to use some rhetorical devices to slip multiple hits of back story into one eloquent sentence. Learn which rhetorical devices are frequently used by some NYT bestselling authors to empower their openings and turning points.

### *Bestselling Writing: Style, Power, Success*

This workshop will provide an overview of psychologically-based Deep Editing power tools. Tools that could boost your writing toward bestseller lists. Load your toolbox with deep editing tools including Margie's Four Levels of Powering Up Emotion, power words, back-loading, emotional hits, back story management, character-speak and character-isms, as well as scene-themed, character-themed, and emotion-themed words.

**For more information, visit:** <http://www.neorwa.com/conference-2/>

# Immersion Master Class with Margie Lawson

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Margie teaches writers how to use her psychologically-based editing systems and deep editing techniques to create page turners. She has presented over ninety full day master classes for writers in the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and on cruises in the Caribbean.

Writers credit her innovative deep editing approaches for their writing success: publication, awards, and bestseller lists.



**2017 Immersion Class Fee:** \$750

**Dates:** September 10 - 14

**Availability:** 4 Openings

**BRING** a minimum of 150 pages (printed, on one side, double spaced, in a binder), or a full manuscript (first 150 pages printed).

**EXPECT** to work for three full days (plus the afternoon and evening you arrive) dissecting, analyzing, and deep editing.

**PROCESS:** Margie will review her Deep Editing techniques and analysis. She works with the group in the morning and with writers individually in the afternoons. Each writer's voice and style remain intact, while psychological power is enhanced.

**Total immersion in Deep Editing techniques and systems, including:**

- ❖ Deep Editing Tools IMG 7517
  - ❖ Empowering
  - ❖ Openings
  - ❖ Body Language and Dialogue Cues
  - ❖ Visceral Responses
  - ❖ The EDITS System
  - ❖ 20+ Rhetorical Devices
  - ❖ The Four Levels of Powering Up Emotion
  - ❖ Character Descriptions
- (No worries! Margie provides review sheets for each topic.)
- ❖ Participants will analyze and apply Deep Editing strategies to their scenes in layers, with hands-on direction and Deep Editing critique from Margie.

**MORE INFO:** <https://www.margielawson.com/immersion-master-class>

# Immersion Master Class with Margie Lawson

## Immersion Schedule

### Day 1

Arrival: If possible, book your flight to arrive between 12-3.

Kick-off Dinner at Immersion host's home ---- Meet, Greet, and Eat!

**4:30 PM – 6:00 PM** Meet and Greet and Start Working

**6:00 PM – 8:30 PM** Dinner

### Day 2

First Full Day of Immersion Master Class

**8:30 AM – 12:00 PM** Deep Editing Power

**12:00 PM – 12:45 PM** Lunch and Learn

**1:00 PM – 6:00 PM** Individual Deep Editing Sessions with Margie

**7:00 PM** - Dinner.

*Dinner -- Fair game for edu-fun!*

*Rhetorical Ping Pong: Using rhetorical devices in conversation. Review sheets permitted!*

### Day 3

**8:30 AM – 12:30 PM** Deep Editing Power

**12:30 PM – 1:30 PM** Lunch

**1:30 PM – 6:00 PM** Individual Deep Editing Sessions with Margie

**6:00'ish PM** -- Casual dinner at the house. Margie keeps working with some individuals after dinner.

### Day 4

**8:30 AM – 12:30 PM** Deep Editing Power

**12:30 PM – 1:30 PM** Lunch

**1:30 PM – 6:00 PM** Individual Deep Editing Sessions with Margie

### Day 5: The Last Morning

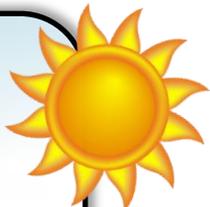
**8:00 AM - 10:30 AM** Immersion Class Wrap-Up



Check It  
Out!

Did you  
know...?

## Birthdays:



July 12 - Donald Westlake  
July 21 - Michael Connelly  
July 23 - Raymond Chandler  
August 3 - P.D. James  
August 5 - David Baldacci  
August 13 - Alfred Hitchcock

## July is:

National Ice Cream Month, National  
Blueberry Month, National Hot Dog Month,  
National Picnic Month and National Pickle  
Month

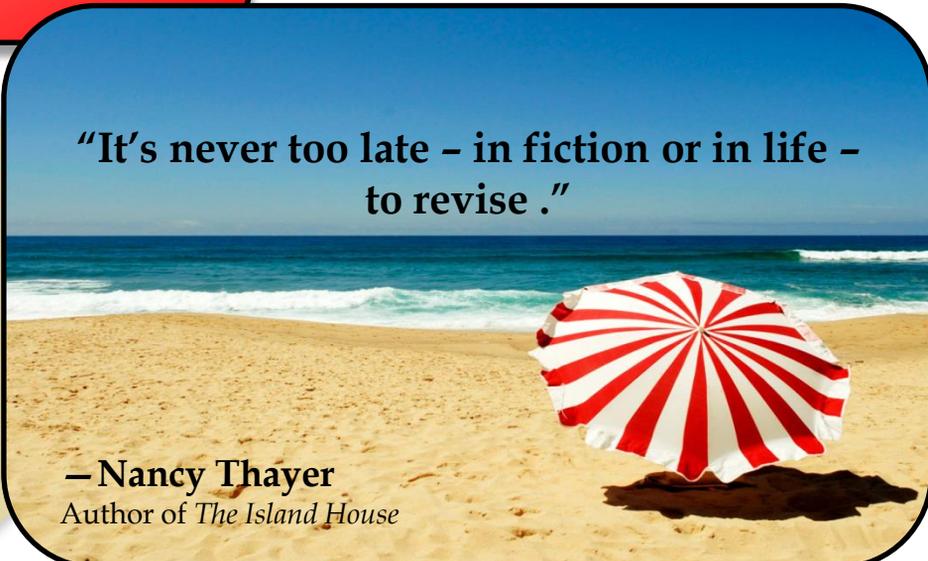
## August is:

National Catfish Month, Harvest Month,  
National Water Quality Month,  
Peach Month, National Immunization  
Awareness Month and Get Ready for  
Kindergarten Month



"It's never too late - in fiction or in life -  
to revise ."

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



— Nancy Thayer  
Author of *The Island House*

## 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.