

THE MYST-ERIE BLOTTER



March 2017
Volume 3, Issue 3

Letter from the Editor



Greetings Sisters, Misters, and Mystery Lovers:

Do I have a great story for you!

Many of you have heard me tell the tale about how I got my start in the mystery-writing world. For those of you who haven't, it involved: an Intro to Fiction class in college, an amazing professor, and a short story that begged to be a full-length novel.

I always wondered what happened to that professor, especially after I received my book deal. If it hadn't been for her class, I may not have found such a love for the mystery novel, and I definitely would not have written a short story featuring my female P.I., who I hope will one day get to make an appearance in the publishing world. That same story called my name a thousand times after that class was over. It practically begged me to make it full-length. And, who am I to argue with fictional characters? So, I wrapped up my paranormal fiction novel (which also became a mystery) and set out on lengthening my short story. And, that same story became part of the writing I used to woo my agent. So, you can see why when things started to fall into place, I would want to acknowledge this very special teacher.

However, I didn't know who she was. For the life of me, I couldn't remember her name or when I took the class...nothing. Every once in awhile I'd try and re-jog my memory, but nothing would come. I could see her standing at the front of the class with her quiet smile and pixie haircut, but that's as far as I ever got. And every time I'd tell the story of how I came to be where I am, I would mention the nameless teacher who set me on my path. She didn't even know it! I don't remember ever telling her that I wanted to be a writer in real life and that her class wasn't just for credit, or that her class meant so much to me.

BUT THEN!...about a month ago, I was digging around in my office for a folder to herd all of my stencils...(bullet journal stuff...long story for another day)...and low and behold!!!...I found my folder from her class. The syllabus was neatly tucked in front with her name at the top! And that's when the double-take happened. I knew that name, but in a different context. It was the name of a Sister in Crime...in my very own chapter! She had been under my nose the entire time! But, really? I mean, could that even happen in real life? What were the chances that it was actually her? I had to email her and find out!

Promptly, I emailed her and asked if she happened to teach that specific class in that specific year. And to my surprise, she replied that she had, in fact, taught that class. ARE YOU KIDDING ME? She'd been right there the entire time. I sat with her in meetings and hadn't even realized she was the same person! What a small world!

(For the sake of not putting her on blast, I will omit her name from this newsletter. Let's just refer to her as "Ms. Wonderful Teacher Lady.")

cont.

Letter from the Editor



The aftermath of finding this information out led to a heartfelt email of thanks and then proceeding to tell everyone I know that, "OMG, my mystery class professor is in my writing group!"

I don't know if I can properly put into words the "feel-good" emotions that come with this story. People come in and out of your life during all stages and some impact you more than others. And sometimes, you don't get to tell them just how much you appreciated what they did for you. I'm relieved to say I got the chance to do just that and I think it will make a nice addition to the story I already tell.

For all of you teachers and facilitators of education, thank you. Thank you for putting that hat on everyday and teaching the world all the wonderful (and not so wonderful) things there are to know. You do this country a service that is often unsung and whether you realize it or not, there is someone out there who looks up to you.

But a very special 'thank you' to my lovely Ms. Wonderful Teacher Lady who taught me more than she ever realized and who resonated with me well after the class was over.

The moral of this letter is: Be sure to thank those around you who have influenced your life. They may not know what an impact they've had on you. I mean, not everyone is going to pop up in your writing group. ;)

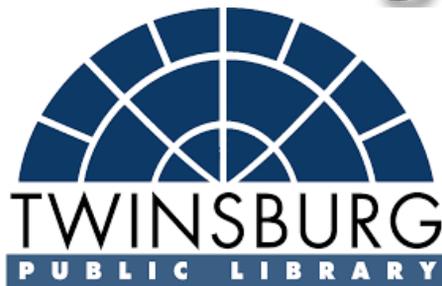
Until we meet again...Happy Writing!...and Reading

Paula Corrao
And sometimes... Vivien Chien



P.S. If you have a story you'd like to share about your writing journey or experiences, send me an email and we can include it in the next newsletter!

Let's Get Together



**Twinsburg
Library is food
friendly!**

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



***What can Scrivener do
for you?***

***Find out at our
Next Meeting!***

Monday, April 3

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

***Room Open at 6 p.m.
Meeting Begins at 7 p.m.***

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!

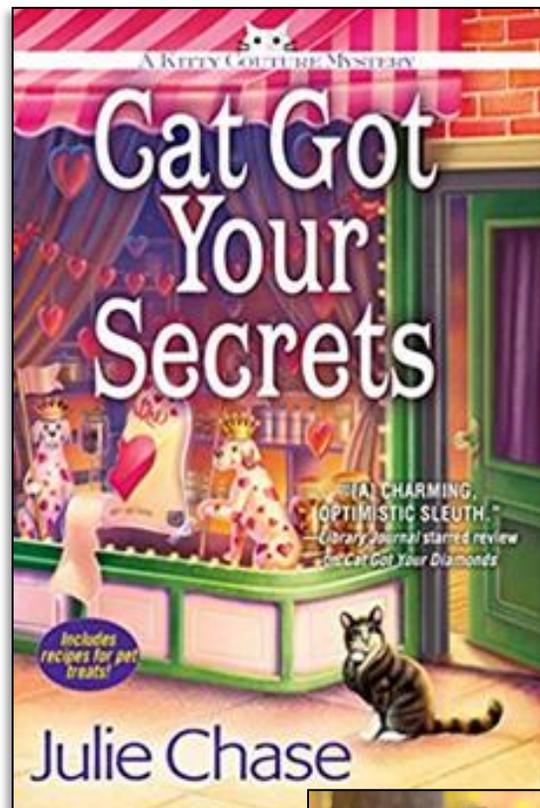
What's Everyone Up To?

Julie Chase

***Cat Got Your Secrets*, the next installment in the Kitty Couture mystery series, will release on April 11.**

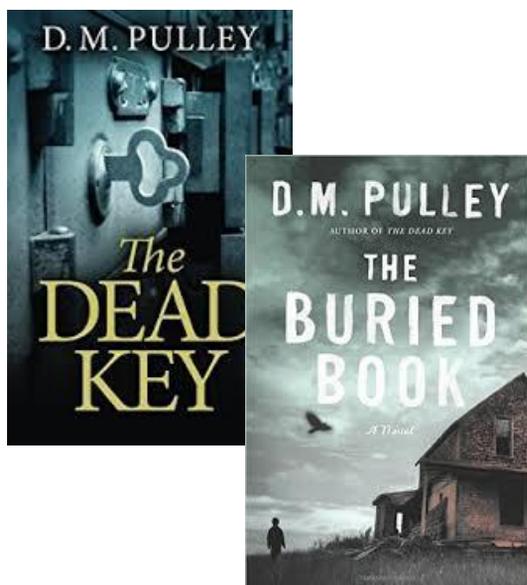
Lacy Marie Crocker has settled into a comfortable groove back home in New Orleans, and with Valentine's Day right around the corner, she's busier than ever running a thriving pet boutique, helping her mother organize the upcoming National Pet Pageant, and untangling her complicated love life. But when delivering a king-sized order of dreidel-shaped doggy biscuits for a Saint Berdoodle's bark-mitzvah, Lacy stumbles into yet another murder scene—and the last person to see the victim alive was her own father.

It's up to Lacy to clear her dad's name from the suspect list before Detective Jack Oliver has to cage him for good. But just when she starts pawing at the truth, she receives a threatening letter from a mysterious blackmailer bent on silencing her with her own secrets. And Lacy's not the only one with bones in her closet. Time's running out in this deadly cat-and-mouse game in *Cat Got Your Secrets*, the delightfully funny third novel in Julie Chase's Kitty Couture mystery series, perfect for "all those feline fanciers who love to read Rita Mae Brown" (*Suspense Magazine*).



Author Events

D.M. Pulley



Meet the Author - Kirkland Library

March 8 – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

9267 Chillicothe Rd

Willoughby, OH 44094

<http://www.kirtland.lib.oh.us/content/dm-pulley-local-author-speak-march-8th>

Meet the Author – Lakewood Library

April 6 – 7:00 -8:00 p.m.

15425 Detroit Ave

Lakewood, OH 44107

<http://lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/programs/author-event-the-buried-book-book-by-d-m-pulley>

Left Coast Crime Convention – Honolulu Havoc

March 14-19

Attendee

Lake Community Branch Local Authors Fair

March 23 – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

565 Market Ave N, Uniontown, OH 44685

starklibrary.org

<http://events.starklibrary.org/event/58075>

Ohioana Book Fest in Columbus

April 8

Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square

75 E. State St., Columbus, OH 43215

<http://www.ohioana.org/programs/ohioana-book-festival/>

Julie Anne Lindsey



Hudson Library Launches Writing Critique Group



**Do you like to write?
Are you looking for a group of fellow writers
with whom to share your work and writing goals?**

On **Wednesday, March 29 at 7 pm**, the Hudson Library and Historical Society will launch the first meeting of Hudson Writers, a new writing critique group to meet monthly at the library in Brewster Café. Whether you write for fun or have dreams of being published, this group is the place where you can share your work and receive feedback from others. All genres and writing styles are welcome. Bring your work to share and be ready to read and comment on work of other writers in the group. Light refreshments will be provided for this opening meeting.

**Hudson Writers will meet in Brewster Café
on the last Wednesday of every month at 7pm.**

No registration is required.

For more information visit hudsonlibrary.org or call (330) 653-6658 x1010.

Contact: Amanda Flower, 330.653.6658, x1010,
amanda.flower@hudson.lib.oh.us

DEADLY INK

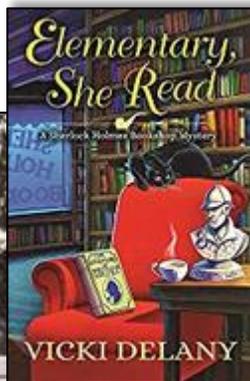


June 16-18, 2017 Hilton Garden Inn, Rockaway, NJ

For more information on the conference and register, visit:

www.deadly-ink.org

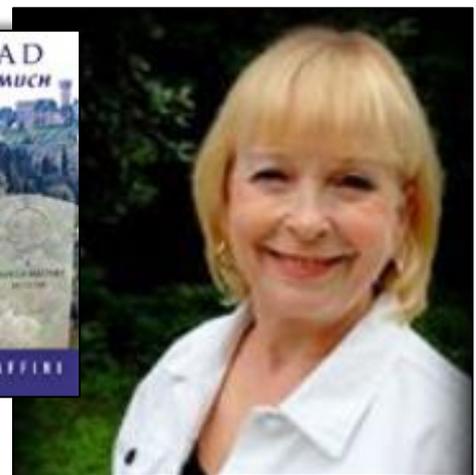
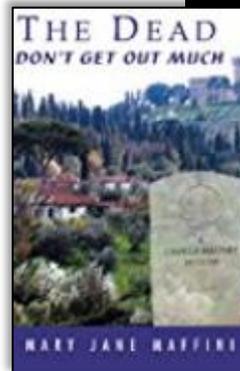
Guest of Honor Vicki Delany



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.

Short Story Submission Opportunities

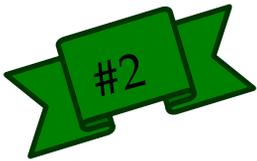
Check out Level Best Books for opportunities on submitting short stories for publication. Currently, there are two anthology submissions that are open.



Snowbound: Best New England Crime Stories 2017

Submission Deadline: May 31, 2017

Story must be set in New England or be written by a New England author and must not exceed 5,000 words.



The Dames of Detection & Level Best Books announce a new anthology in 2017:

Noir at the Salad Bar, Culinary Tales with a Bite

Submission Deadline: April 30, 2017

Short crime fiction focused on culinary stories that must include food or drink, restaurants or bars and may be set in any location. Story must not exceed 5,000 words.

For more information and specific submission guides for each anthology, please visit:

<https://levelbestbooks.com/submissions/>

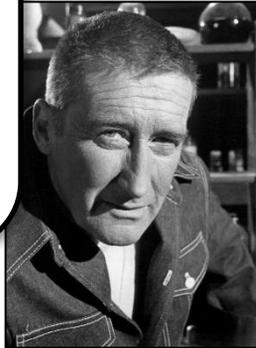


March



Birthdays:

March 4 - James Ellroy
March 12 - Carl Hiaasen
March 12 - Sandra Brown
March 9 - Mickey Spillane
March 22 - Diane Mott Davidson
March 1 - Nevada Barr



Mickey Spillane started his writing career with comic books in the 1940s and wrote plot lines for many of the Marvel comic characters including Captain Marvel, Batman, and Captain America. He also wrote for the Superman comics, as well.

In the late '40s, he wrote his first novel, *I, Jury*, which he completed in 19 days. It was published in 1947.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in New York City in the 1760s.



What's in a Name?

March was named after the Roman god of war, Mars. This was due to the fact that winter was considered to be over and militias would begin their campaigns on war again.

With the exception of the War on Afghanistan, this holds true in all major US-NATO led military operations since Vietnam.

To see more, visit:

<http://www.rd.com/culture/month-of-march-facts/>

March is:

Women's History Month, National Nutrition Month, American Red Cross Month, Fire Prevention Month



Check It
Out!

Did you
know...?

St. Patrick's color was actually a light blue hue. Green was only associated with the holiday after the Irish independence movement in the late 18th century.

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

"Don't just plan to write – write. It is only by writing, not dreaming about it, that we develop our style."

~ P.D. James

*Photo of Dingle, Ireland
Taken by Ian Schneider*

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.