

# Bloodletter

New York/Tri-State Sisters in Crime Newsletter

[www.nysinc.org](http://www.nysinc.org)

January 2012

## Guppies Swim Toward Getting Published

by Joan Tuohy

Alas, many of us count ourselves among the Great Unpublished. Oh, we may be academics or researchers who have put our talents into reports or medical manuals or newspaper articles, but success in suspense, cozy, thriller, or mystery writing has so far eluded us. What we sometimes forget, or in my case didn't know about at all until someone took pity on me, is that we have a secret weapon; we have Guppies! No, not the fish, but a delightful, committed, enchanted subgroup of Sisters in Crime dedicated to supporting the Great UnPublished/GUPs. (It's OK if you missed the connection; it took me a

while.)

If you are a member of Sisters in Crime, you're eligible to join Guppies. They provide information about classes, workshops, conferences, and perhaps most useful, reading partners.

Through Yahoo they provide a medium for members to communicate with one another about almost anything. Some recent topics included the virtues of Nook versus Kindle, Google Chrome, and Scrivener, and some truly awful puns about the woman who murdered her husband and cooked his body parts and was now seeking parole! Ask a question or make a comment and someone

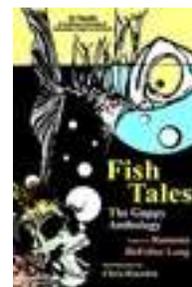
will respond.

Guppies are also a rousing cheering section for members who are successful at cracking the publishing nut. Yes, you can remain a member if you are published and some of our more successful sisters post regular comments and bits of useful information. Roberta Isleib, now also writing as Lucy Burdette, recently suggested a web site:

[www.americansurnames.us](http://www.americansurnames.us) to help deal with the sometimes pesky problem of finding names for our characters.

If you haven't done so already, check out the web site: [www.sinc-guppies.org](http://www.sinc-guppies.org).

Dues are \$12 a year.



*Fish Tales: The Guppy Anthology*

## 2011-2012 Board and Committees

### Board

President: Catherine Maiorisi  
[cmajorisi@gmail.com](mailto:cmajorisi@gmail.com)

Vice-President: Peggy Ehrhart  
[pehrhart@sprynet.com](mailto:pehrhart@sprynet.com)

Secretary:  
(open)

Treasurer: Stephanie Wilson-Flaherty  
[Wilson136@aol.com](mailto:Wilson136@aol.com)

At-Large: Clare Toohey  
[henway00@yahoo.com](mailto:henway00@yahoo.com)

At-Large: Joan Tuohy  
[COG275@aol.com](mailto:COG275@aol.com)

At-Large: Cathi Stoler  
[iesaa@aol.com](mailto:iesaa@aol.com)

**Standing Committees**  
Anthology: Clare Toohey  
[henway00@yahoo.com](mailto:henway00@yahoo.com)

Membership Coordinator: Peggy Ehrhart  
[pehrhart@sprynet.com](mailto:pehrhart@sprynet.com)

Newsletter Editor: Leigh Neely  
[leighneely@yahoo.com](mailto:leighneely@yahoo.com)

Program: Susan Chalfin  
[susan.chalfin@gmail.com](mailto:susan.chalfin@gmail.com)

Web Mistress: Clare Toohey  
[henway00@yahoo.com](mailto:henway00@yahoo.com)

Yahoo List: Laura Kramarsky  
[adept@mac.com](mailto:adept@mac.com)

# *Murder New York Style*

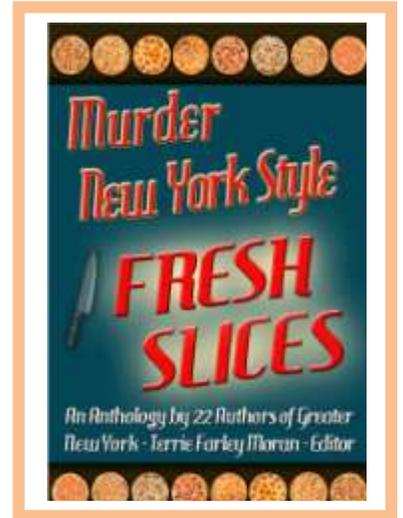
Since our last *Bloodletter*, we've had a wonderful December launch party at Partners & Crime with 19 of the 22 writer on hand to read excerpts from their stories. But that's not nearly all!

The members of the Anthology Committee, which happily includes most of the authors in *Murder New York Style: Fresh Slices*, have been busy!

To promote this chapter project, they've been:

- Placing copies in local consignment shops
- Appearing at library reading/signing events
- Visiting library circulation desks and logging in to request the title
- Getting (lots of) extra reviews added to our Amazon page
- Contacting more outlets, large and small, for online reviews
- Holding multiple giveaways at book places online
- Helping arrange author appearance at upcoming regional book events
- Getting our stories nominated for short fiction awards
- Keeping it visible on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media

In so many ways, chapter members are helping spread the word and make sales, and every effort helps bolster every other one!



*"A professional writer is an amateur who didn't quit."*

*Richard Bach*

---

## **An Evening with a Good Movie and a Great Writer**

Many movies focus on writers and here are just a few to whet your appetite for exploring some more:

### *Misery* (1990)

Stephen King's book becomes a chilling movie that makes you think twice about being a true celebrity writer.

### *Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle* (1994)

Sit at the Algonquin Round Table with Dorothy Parker, Charlie MacArthur, Harpo Marx, and Alexander Woollcott, the founding members of the group.

### *Shadowlands* (1994)

C.S. Lewis makes it easy to believe that everyone has a true soulmate.

### *Wilde* (1998)

He lived in a world that forced him to be dishonest about his true self, yet Oscar Wilde's brilliance and wit made him unforgettable.

### *The Hours* (2002)

You'll enjoy the story of three women's lives, but it is Virginia Woolf's despair that will haunt you long after the film has ended.

### *Capote* (2005)

An intimate look at the friendship between Truman Capote and Harper Lee during his research for the best-seller, *In Cold Blood*.

## Words, Glorious Words by Terrie Farley Moran

The phone rang the other day just as I was leaving for the gym. It was my daughter. When I mentioned that I was heading out, she asked, "Are you done writing for the day?" I said that I probably wasn't and she asked me how many words I had written. I answered four hundred and thirty seven.

I'm not sure which surprised me more her question or the fact that I knew the exact answer. I don't consider myself a word counter. When I sit at the keyboard I am more likely to set a writing goal of: get from where the story is right now to the next place I want it to be, or even the place after that. I

may have three scenes in my head and write all three or only half of the first one before I stop. Still the computer has that trusty "tool" button which leads to the "word count" button and I click it automatically, as I'm sure nearly everyone else does.

I guess there is a certain sense of accomplishment in being able to point to what was a blank page, now filled with brilliant (!) prose.

Knowing how many words I wrote brought an even thornier question to mind as I was bouncing around in the gym. Were they good words? I thought about that for a while and

now am prepared to contend that any word that guides me to the next word is a good word, even if, as our friends in the motion picture trade say, it is ultimately left on the cutting room floor.

And in case you are wondering, this article is two hundred eighty-three words long.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**SATURDAY APRIL 14**

**Workshop with Hallie Ephon**

**9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Tooling Up to Write  
A Crime Novel**

The preliminary agenda includes a morning focused on crafting a page turner—opening hook, story and scene arcs, structuring suspense; and an afternoon focused on crafting compelling characters—building character, taking advantage of viewpoint, adding dimension to dialogue, and avoiding shooting yourself in the foot with back story. There will also be time to write and critique.

## A Note from Our President

*Dear Sister in Crime,*

*Happy New Year. 2012 is shaping up to be another exciting year for members and I'd like to encourage all of you to make an effort to attend our monthly meetings. I guarantee a welcoming, warm, and congenial atmosphere, both at the meeting and at the optional dinner afterward. You will not only learn from the speakers, but you will also learn from the give and take of other members at various stages along the writer's path. And best of all, you will have the opportunity to make new friends.*

*I hope to meet you all this year.*

*Catherine*

## Check This Out: Member Websites

[Anthology](#)  
[Pat Carlson](#)  
[Peggy Ehrhart](#)  
[Tanya Goodwin](#)  
[Anita Page](#)  
[Leigh Neely](#)  
[Laura Joh Rowland](#)  
[Roz Siegel](#)  
[Cathi Stoler](#)  
[K.j.a. Wishnia](#)  
[Pearl Wolf](#)  
[Liz Zelvin](#)

[murdernystyle.com](#)  
[pmcarlson.net](#)  
[peggyehrhart.com](#)  
[tanyagoodwin.com](#)  
[anitapagewriter.blogspot.com](#)  
[neelypowell.com](#)  
[laurajohrowland.com](#)  
[Goodieoneshoes.com](#)  
[cathistoler.com](#)  
[kjawishnia.com](#)  
[pearlwolf.com](#)  
[elizabethzelvin.com](#)





## *Sisters in Crime*

(affectionately SinC, pronounced sink) was founded by a handful of women authors at the 1986 Bouchercon convention. Since then, we've grown to over 3,600 members in 48 chapters worldwide.

As authors and readers, publishers and agents, librarians and booksellers, men and women, we share a love of the mystery genre and are united to offer each other networking, advice, and support. ***The mission of Sisters in Crime is to promote the professional development and advancement of women crime writers to achieve equality in the industry.***

### *Sisters in Crime New York Tri-State Chapter*

Meetings are usually held the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Thursday of the month at the Muhlenberg Public Library in Manhattan, 209 W. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street (near 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue).

Join us for a brief social time at 6 p.m., with the business meeting and program from 6:30 till 7:45. Afterward, members who wish to gather for dinner at a nearby restaurant. Unless noted, meetings are free, open to the public, and guests are cordially invited to attend. In the event the meeting date or time is changed, it will be noted on the group's website [www.nysinc.org](http://www.nysinc.org).

Websites:  
[www.nysinc.org](http://www.nysinc.org)  
local chapter

[www.sistersincrime.org](http://www.sistersincrime.org) national organization