

News, Notes, and Novels from the New York/Tri-State Chapter of Sisters in Crime

BLOODLETTER

The Merits of E-Publishing

Sisters in Crime NY/Tri-State's year got off to a good start September 18 at our new venue, the Jefferson Market branch of the New York Public Library, on the topic of e-publishing.

Member Tanya Goodwin created her own publishing company and uses Amazon's Kindle, as well as in other e-book formats.

Rosemary Harris, on the other hand, hired an e-publishing company to handle the technical details of her new e-book project, *The Bitches of Brooklyn*. Rosemary's Dirty Business series appeared in print, making her a "hybrid author." It means she publishes in both print and digital format.

Lois Karlin offered more details on the technical aspects of e-publishing. Her company, Winged Books, provides guidance, design, and conversion services for self-publishing authors.

Guests Judi Culbertson and Kate Gallison added further perspectives on e-publishing. Judi's new book, the second in a series that started with *A Novel Death*, is published by Harper/Collins in a new imprint that first releases a book in digital form and then follows with print.

Kate also re-released most of her print backlist, for which she owns the rights, in e-book format, and self-published her YA suspense novel, *Monkeystorm*, in both e-book and print-on-demand formats.



Clockwise from upper left: Rosemary Harris, Tanya Goodwin, Lois Karlin, Kate Gallison, Judi Culbertson.

Writing True Crime

It was a full house at the Jefferson Market Branch of the New York Public Library when SinC New York members met October 16 to hear Lisa R. Cohen discuss her book, *After Etan*.

Starting in 1990, the then network television producer created a trio of stories about the case of 6-year-old Etan Patz, who went missing in 1979. While preparing these, Cohen gained a wealth of knowledge and contacts that were her starting point for a book written to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the boy's disappearance.

She told us about the experiences, including the people who avoided her inquiries, such as a troubled caregiver to the Patz children, before reading an extended passage from her book for us. It described prosecutors and police working with a medium who believed Etan's body lay in the waters off Hell's Gate.

This and other little known aspects of the tragic case offered how capturing the truth can be more daunting than creating fiction.



Lisa R. Cohen





Tanya Goodwin, Peggy Ehrhart, Dorothy Hayes, and Anne-Marie Sutton. At right Mitzi Morris and Ken Wishnia.

Brooklyn Book Festival

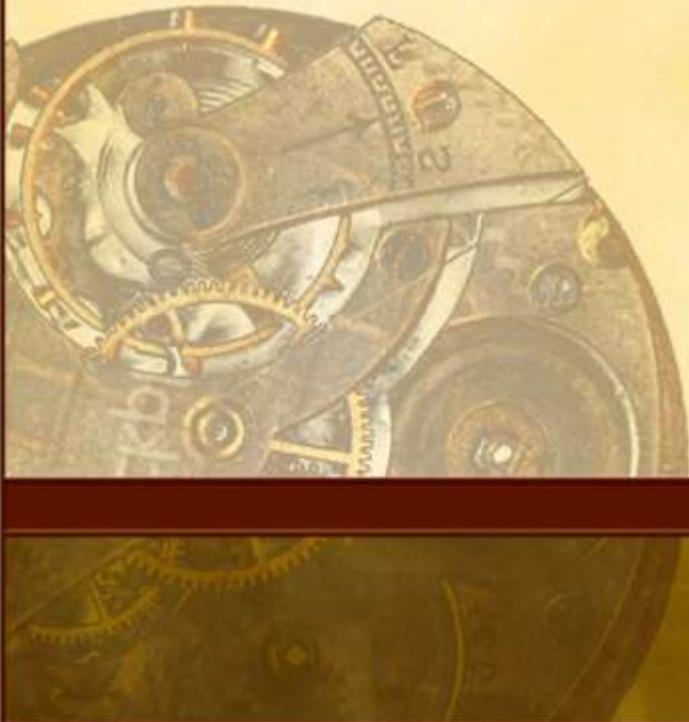


Tanya Goodwin and Laura Joh Rowland



Holiday Party

SinC NY/Tri-State's annual holiday party took place December 3 at La Luchonette, a charming bistro at Tenth Avenue and 18th Street. From left to right: Cynthia Benjamin, Catherine Maiorisi, Liz Zelvin, and Karen D'Onofrio.



Murder Across the Hudson

This year's Deadly Ink Conference was in New Brunswick, NJ. The guest of honor was Hank Philippi Ryan, the toastmaster was our own Rosemary Harris, and the fan guest of honor was Bob Daniher.

The conference began Friday morning with an optional all-day add-on, Deadly Ink Academy. Hank Philippi Ryan gave an overview of mystery writing, Rosemary Harris discussed character and setting, and Jane Cleland explained how to use red herrings.

Author and agent Lois Winston gave the top ten reasons manuscripts get rejected.

The conference proper launched Friday evening with the Deadly Dessert Party, a luscious Deadly Ink tradition. As we helped ourselves from a table full of goodies, mystery-writer, guitar-player, and singer Roberta Rogow entertained us with "Dark Deeds and Desperate Men (and Women)." Her fascinating program of traditional songs reminded us that tales of crime have always thrilled audiences.

Panels and programs filled the schedule all day Saturday and Sunday morning. Among the panel topics were mystery structure: "Subplots," "Character or Plot: What Drives the Story?," "Bookends: How to Create Strong Beginnings and Even Stronger Endings"; subgenre: "Mysteries with History," "Thrillers," "Get Cozy with Us"; and even paranormal: "Things That Go Bump in the Night."

Special guests included Donald Bain and Renée Paley-Bain, authors of the *Murder She Wrote* books, who interviewed each other;

John Reisinger, who gave a fascinating presentation on locked-room mysteries; and medico-legal death investigator Michelle Clark, whose lecture included startling scenes that fully lived up her title, "Now That's Something I've Never Seen Before."

Hank Philippi Ryan was amusing and encouraging as she shared events from her own life to show determination is the key to success.

What sticks in my mind is a wonderful quote from her mother, who when Hank told her that she wasn't sure she could finish her first mystery, commented, "If you want to, you will."

The conference venue in previous years was further north in New Jersey and seemed always to overlap with a lavish Indian wedding. Amazingly, the first thing we saw at the new venue was a splendid Indian wedding in progress. It went the entire weekend, with women in gorgeous saris and men in splendid silk trousers and long silk coats strolling through the lobby.



Deadly Ink (Aug.2-4) Panel: "Bookends: How to Create Strong Beginnings and Even Stronger Endings."

Above panelists clockwise from upper left: Hank Philippi Ryan, Jane Cleland, Rosemary Harris (moderator), E.F. Watkins, Irma Baker, and Peggy Ehrhart, who wrote the article.

November Meeting Features Story-Telling Cop

When he retired after twenty years in the New York Police Department, Steve Osborne began writing short stories. A friend encouraged him to try out for the Moth storytelling competition. His first story was a huge success and he soon became a Moth favorite.

Steve has twenty years' worth of material to draw on, and he knows what makes a good story. It was hard to know whether to laugh or cry at the tale of the mother who added the mug shot of her dead son to her collection of family portraits because it was the only photo of him she would ever have.

His career started in the Village and the Lower East Side, where he worked undercover, shadowing bad guys in a perfect facsimile of a New York taxi. Then he joined a detail assigned to clean up a backlog of 170,000 open arrest warrants. Who knew that the best time to nab a target was five a.m.? Bad guys are more manageable when they're sleepy, though the hours are tough on the cops. His final assignment was with the Manhattan Gang Squad, which investigated anything from theft to homicide, as long as gangs were involved.

Steve observed that the public doesn't always understand what cops go through, but his talk certainly enlarged our understanding of a cop's life.



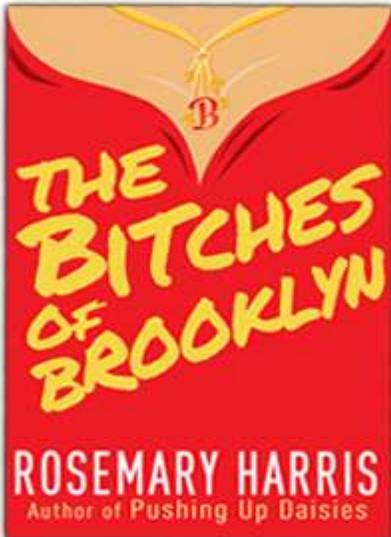
Steve Osborne



Announcements

Terrie Farley Moran is pleased to announce that her short story "Jake Says Hello" (Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine, December 2012) has been listed as a "Distinguished Short Story" in Best American Mystery stories 2013, Editor Lisa Scottoline, series editor Otto Penzler. She also sold her "Read 'Em and Eat Cafe" mystery series to Editor Michelle Vega at Berkley. This "nice" deal was negotiated by Kim Lionetti of BookEnds. Terrie Farley Moran's story "Bobby Wycoff is Dead" appeared in the June 2 issue of the E-zine *Beat to a Pulp*.

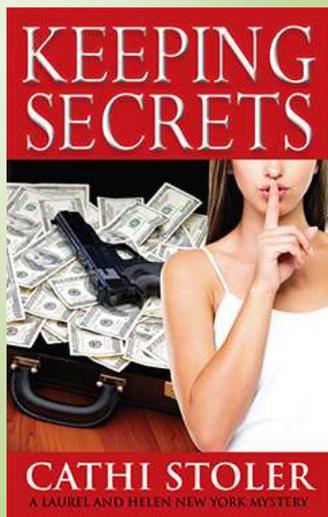
"Darkness in the City of Light" by Hilary Davidson is in the November issue of Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine and "Knowledge is Deadly" by Terrie Farley Moran is in the November issue of Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine. Both chapter members were thrilled to have their names on the covers.



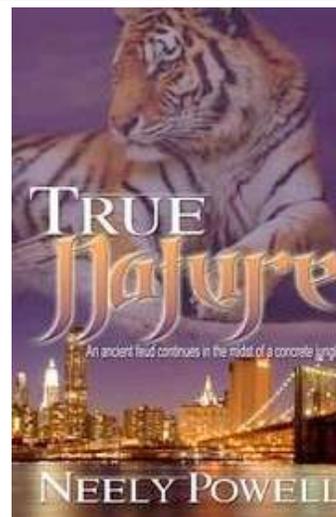
The trade paperback of *The Bitches of Brooklyn* has an official pub date of December 5, but is available now on Amazon. The story of five lifelong friends from Brooklyn- or is it four? One of them doesn't show up for an annual all-girls outing - has she really run off with one of their men or is she missing? Visit Rosemary's website for more info and an excerpt.
www.rosemaryharris.com.



Liz Zelvin's short story collection, *DEATH WILL TANK YOUR FISH & Other Stories*, was released for Kindle this month. The title story was a Derringer nominee. "A Breach of Trust" is in the e-zine, *Mysterical-E*, and you can see the entire issue at <http://mystericale>.



Cathi Stoler's second novel in the "Laurel and Helen New York Mystery" series, *KEEPING SECRETS*, was published as an ebook and quality paperback by Camel Press Nov. 1. The book launch party was at The Mysterious Bookshop. Cathi's novella, *NICK OF TIME*, was released by Glenmere Press (our own Lois Karlin) as an ebook and paperback Nov. 25.



Leigh Neely and Jan Powell are pleased to announce the release of *TRUE NATURE* by Neely Powell from The Wild Rose Press. The first book in their miniseries, "The Connelly Witches," is *WITCH'S AWAKENING*, which comes from Harlequin e in March 2014.

Writer's Workshop

Peggy Ehrhart led a half-day workshop, "Powerful Plots," at the third annual conference of Women Who Write, a group based in Madison, New Jersey. Other featured presenters were agent Barbara Poelle and Sean Nevin, who directs the MFA Program in Poetry and Poetry in Translation at Drew University. Peggy also served as a critiquer for manuscripts submitted by attendees.

Remembering Grace Aqualina

We are sad to announce the death of member, Grace Aqualina, 70, on September 26. Grace loved attending meetings and learning the craft of mystery writing. She taught elementary and middle school in the Hackensack school system for more than 30 years and published memoirs and short stories. She was also an accomplished artist who never hesitated to try something new. A graduate of Ladycliff College in Highland Falls, NY, and received her masters degree from Columbia University. Grace, a member of Holy Trinity R.C. Church in Hackensack, served as Eucharistic Minister at Hackensack University Medical Center and was a member of the Bio Ethical Board. She will always be remembered with great fondness.

New York Tri-State Sisters in Crime

Meetings are held the third Wednesday at the **Jefferson Market Branch** of the New York Public Library--**Sixth Avenue at 10th Street** in the Village. There is a meet-and-greet at 6 p.m. and programs are 6:30-8 p.m.

Members who wish then go to dinner at a restaurant in the area.

It is easy to reach by public transportation: <http://www.nypl.org/locations/tid/39/directions>

Anthology Update

Congratulations to the following writers whose stories will be included in our chapter's third anthology, *Murder New York Style: Family Matters*:

Cynthia Benjamin, Fran Bannigan Cox, Eileen Dunbaugh, Lindsay Curcio, Lynne Lederman, Kate Lincoln, Catherine Maiorisi, Terrie Farley Moran, Dorothy Mortman, Leigh Neely, Anita Page, Ellen Quint, Roslyn Siegel, Triss Stein, Cathi Stoler, Anne-Marie Sutton, Clare Toohey, Deirdre Verne, Stephanie Wilson-Flaherty, Elizabeth Zelvin

A Note from the President

Most of us are trying to fit our writing into already-busy lives, and the upcoming holidays can seem more a threat than a treat. Whole chapters could be written in the time it takes to gather supplies for the gargantuan feast, set the perfect table, and prepare each complicated dish—not to mention the way hosting an ill-assorted batch of relatives can deplete one's mental resources. And that's only Thanksgiving. A whole season of cooking, gifting, and gracious hostessing looms.

But where would our fictions get their vitality if we led our lives with only our computer screens for company? Let's all enjoy these end-of-year celebrations and keep our eyes and ears open for those moments of humor, drama, and beauty that we can use to enrich our story-telling.



Peggy Ehrhart