

BLOODLETTER

New York Tri-State Sisters in Crime Chapter

Winter 2010-11

Dear Sisters:

After last season's submissions, judging, and manuscript preparation, it's wonderful finally to announce our latest chapter anthology, entitled *Murder New York Style: Fresh Slices* (Terrie Farley Moran, editor), has been verbally accepted by our publisher! We're also delighted to report that we'll be releasing our local crime collection to coincide with our third appearance at the Brooklyn Book Festival on Sunday, September 18th!

And while we're still in the process of getting the final contract and individual author agreements drafted and signed, we can finally share the stories and authors within: "Tear Down" by Anita Page; "The Doorman Building" by Anne-Marie Sutton; "The Sneaker Tree" by Terrie Farley Moran; "Taking the High Line" by Fran Bannigan Cox; "The Brighton Beach Mermaid" by Lina Zeldovich; "Justice for All" by Catherine Maiorisi; "A Morbid Case of Identity Theft" by Clare Toohey; "Only People Kill People" by Laura K. Curtis; "The Greenmarket Violinist" by Triss Stein; "The Understudy" by Lois Karlin; "Murder on the Side Street" by Stephanie Wilson-Flaherty; "Out of Luck" by Cathi Stoler; "Tell Me About Your Day" by Lynne Lederman; "He's the One" by Cynthia Benjamin; "A Vampire in Brooklyn" by Leigh Neely; "Remember You Will Die" by Susan Chalfin; "The Cost of Cigarettes" by Nan Higginson; "A Countdown to Death" by Deirdre Verne; "A Poet's Justice" by Eileen Dunbaugh; "That Summer" by Joan Tuohy; "Death Will Tank Your Fish" by Elizabeth Zelvin; and "North on Clinton" by k.j.a. Wishnia.

Over the next six months, we'll have lots of opportunities for all NYSinC members to make suggestions, to celebrate our latest project, and to help us promote this title, which benefits the chapter-at-large. Thanks again, everyone, and YAY!



*Bloodletter is your newsletter,
and if you'd like to write an
article, make announcements, or
promote events, send it to
leighneely@yahoo.com. I
reserve the right to edit and
refuse to publish, but with this
talented group, it shouldn't be a
problem.*

"Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights." Pauline R. Kezer

Making Changes by Anne White

Writing a mystery, especially one that will kick off a series, involves making many decisions, then remaking them as necessary. When my first Lake George Mystery, *An Affinity For Murder*, was published ten years ago, I thought I had created a strong character in Ellen Davies, a writer who'd come to the upstate New York lake to write about one of its most famous summer residents, Georgia O'Keeffe. Ellen's discovery of water colors which appeared to be long-lost O'Keeffe paintings started me reading up on O'Keeffe's life and work and also on art forgery. Both proved to be fascinating subjects that required trips to libraries, art galleries, and museums, exactly the kind of research a former librarian enjoys.

In my second book, I wanted a character more connected to the lakeside town I was creating. Since Ellen had been an outsider, I introduced Loren Graham, a thirty-something ex-New Yorker, who spent summers at the lake as a child. After her grandparents died, Loren moved back into the lakeside house they left her, took an active role in the life of sleepy little Emerald Point and, with only a gentle push from me, got herself elected mayor.

Loren's been more than willing to hang out with some of the characters I created in the first book – Kate, the caterer who oversees some fabulous parties and her sometimes rebellious teenage daughter Josie, a composite of several of my former students. Plus, each new book has offered a chance for new characters – a Sheriff's Department Investigator who keeps the mayor informed about area crimes, a romantic figure from Loren's past, friends of her grandparents, a down-to-earth assistant who, along with her husband, knows all the town's secrets, a newspaper reporter, and of course, at Loren's insistence, a present-day love interest or two.

The setting itself offers a wide range of possibilities. Lake George, the 32-mile-long upstate New York lake, comes to life in the spring. The owners of the big lakeside houses, some so elegant they're nicknamed McMansions, return for the summer. Tourists flock in. Seasonal workers arrive to take the jobs in hotels and motels, in restaurants and bars and on the big white boats which carry sightseers up and down the lake. It's a busy, fast-paced time. Sometimes tempers flare. Hot summer nights can be a perfect time for murder. In fact, after a couple of books, there'd been so many murders in my charming lakeside town, I started worrying about *Jessica Fletcher Syndrome* and moved a couple of them off site.

When I started my fifth Lake George Mystery, I decided on a change of season. After four books set in summer, or at most extended a few weeks into fall, winter was an obvious choice. *Cold Winter Nights* appealed to me as a title, but would there be enough activities to write about? During the winter months, the lake has frozen; the summer visitors have gone. Some of the resorts and motels are closed, and many businesses have cut back their hours.

On the plus side, it seemed a perfect time to introduce a character I been wanting to include—an Adirondack Woodsman who lives alone far back in the mountains and sometimes breaks into empty cottages and stays for a few nights to escape the cold.

Emerald Point isn't safe from murder even in winter, and Loren can't help getting involved. She's a buttinksi. She asks questions, plays detective. She still attends the usual holiday festivities, including the annual Lake George Village Polar Bear Plunge, a special New Year's Day extravaganza when almost a thousand men, women and teenagers creep or dash into the ice-rimmed waters of the lake for ritual cleansing. Then, after the lake has frozen, Loren helps promote a new Emerald Point event, a Mardi Gras on the Ice, where she comes face to face with a masked murderer who thinks she's asked too many questions. So far, despite her amateur detecting, Loren's managed to escape with her life, and I haven't killed off any ongoing characters the way one of my favorite authors, Dana Stabenow, did with Kate Shugak's Jack. But I am serving notice—there's always a first time.



Lake George Mysteries: *An Affinity For Murder*, Oak Tree Press, Malice Domestic Best First Mystery Nominee, available on Kindle. *Beneath The Surface*; *Best Laid Plans*, *Secrets Dark and Deep*; *Cold Winter Nights*. Last four published by Hilliard and Harris and being considered for Kindle. All five chosen for Harlequin's Worldwide Book Club.

Anne lives in Glens Falls, NY, and is a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, the Lake George Arts Project, the Adirondack Center For Writing, and the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council. In conjunction with her novels, she writes articles for *Mystery Scene*, *Mystery Readers Journal* and local and regional publications. She is married and the mother of six

Murder, They Wrote

Terrie Moran reports that 2010 was a fabulous year for many of our chapter members who aspired to have short mystery fiction published in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*. In August, EQMM published Liz Zelvin's first historical fiction, "[The Green Cross](#)," which has been nominated for an Agatha for "Best Short Story." Shortly thereafter, Hilary Davidson received acceptance for her short story, "[Hedge Hog](#)," which will appear in the spring issue. On November 9, Lina Zeldovich received an EQMM contract for her story, "[Marsh Island](#)," and on the same day, nearly the same hour, Terrie Farley Moran (who was so wrapped up in pushing *Murder to Mil-Spec* for the Veteran's Day market that she almost missed the notification) also got an EQMM contract for her story, "[Fontaine House](#)." By then the December 2010 issue was on the stands and the Department of First Stories featured "[The Actress](#)" written by Cynthia Benjamin. To round out the year, this year's January issue featured another historical story focused on Christmas (and a secret Chanukah) by Liz Zelvin. Anita Page's short story, "The Anniversary," can be read in *The Back Alley* webzine now.





SinC's New Membership Committee Seeks Help

The national organization of Sisters in Crime's newly formed Membership Committee is looking for help on several fronts.

Formed in response to SinC's recent drop in membership, the committee's purpose is to explore new approaches to retain current members, to lure back former members, and to attract new members. Among the first projects the committee is undertaking is promoting the organization to editors, agents, and publicists with the goal of having them encourage their authors to join. SinC's membership benefits such as Mentor Monday, "SinC Links," *inSinC*, and the Guppies Chapter help members become especially savvy about the publishing industry, book promotion, research, and so on, making the editor's, agent's, and publicist's jobs easier.

To accomplish this project, the Membership Committee is asking for help. SinC members with an agent, in-house editor, or publicist are asked to send the names and contact information to Beth Wasson at sistersincrime@juno.com. The committee will send out information packets.

SinC members who don't have an agent, editor, or publicist can still help the committee. Volunteers are needed to spend two to four hours a month helping with tasks such as writing notes to potential members and sending out membership information. The committee is also interested in receiving additional ideas for attracting members, as well as more volunteers to serve on the committee.

Current committee members are authors Beth Groundwater and Sandra Parshall, *inSinC* editor Molly Weston, SinC executive secretary Beth Wasson, and New York/Tri-State Chapter member Elaine Will Sparber.

To sign up to join or help the Membership Committee:

1. Log in at www.sistersincrime.org.
2. Click on News and Press Room on the left side of the homepage.
3. Click on Volunteer Opportunities.
4. Fill out and submit the volunteer form.

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 Officers

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Website:
www.nysinc.org – local chapter
www.sistersincrime.org – national organization

SISTERS IN CRIME NEW YORK TRI-STATE CHAPTER

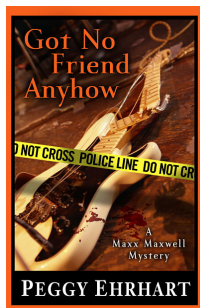
Meetings are usually held the third (3rd) Thursday of the month at the Muhlenberg Public Library in Manhattan, 209 W. 23rd Street (near 7th Avenue).

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.



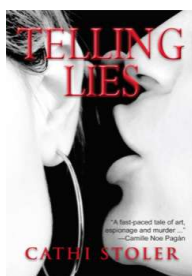
Writing is a socially acceptable form of schizophrenia. ~ E.L. Doctorow

News-worthy Notes



Got No Friend Anyhow by Peggy Ehrhart

Maxx Maxwell (real name: Elizabeth) knows a CD will make her band irresistible to festival organizers. But before the CD is finished, producer Rick Schneider disappears. When Maxx searches for the CD's master in Rick's studio, she finds a pool of dried blood. The next day, she identifies Rick's body at the county morgue. The cops believe Rick was pirating CDs and was murdered in a mob territory battle. Maxx is determined to find his real killer and clear his name. In classic whodunit style, **Got No Friend Anyhow** takes the reader on a ride that keeps pages turning all the way to a dramatic and unexpected climax. Available now.



Telling Lies by Cathi Stoler

Telling Lies, which was selected as a finalist in the Brigid's Fire Books Fiction Contest, takes on the story of a missing person and stolen Nazi art. A chance encounter in Florence's Uffizi Museum plunges *Women Now* editor Laurel Imperiole and private investigator Helen McCorkendale into a deadline maze of greed and deceit. From Italy to the gritty streets of New York, the two women pursue their perp in this non-stop crime thriller.



Goodie One Shoes by Roz Siegel

After 25 years as an editor in New York publishing, Roz Siegel has published her first novel, a mystery that takes place on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. The protagonist/ amateur detective is "a woman of a certain age" (according to SinC's new study, the perfect target reader), who opens a shoe store as a second career. The murder weapon is a designer shoe.



Anita Page's novel, ***Damned if You Don't***, a dark, traditional mystery set in the Catskills, will be published in late 2011 by L&L Dreamspell.

Upcoming Events

March Program – A Cool Cold Case Cop - Veteran Detective Sergeant and Commanding Officer of a Cold Case Squad has investigated hundreds of homicides, cold cases, and missing persons. Joe is the author of *The Criminal Investigative Function: A Guide for New Investigators* published by Loose-leaf Law Publications, Inc.

"From the Autopsy Room to the Courtroom: How Medical Examiners and Lawyers Speak for the Dead," with moderator, Bernard Whalen, and panelists, Alafair Burke, Linda Fairstein, Jonathan Hayes, and Robert Knightly of Mystery Writers of America. Wednesday, April 13, 6:30 p.m., Mid-Manhattan Branch, New York Public Library.

"Researching The Historical Mystery: The Importance of Accurate Detail," with moderator Jillian Abbott and panelists, Megan Abbott, Thomas H. Cook, Stefanie Pintoff, and M.J. Rose of Mystery Writers of America. Tuesday, March 22, 6:30 p.m., Mid-Manhattan Branch New York Public Library.