Winter 2013

# BLOODLETTER





## Big News! New Chapter Anthology in 2013

The Board of Directors of Sisters in Crime New York/Tri-State Chapter proudly announces the third MNYS anthology featuring short stories by published and unpublished chapter members.

Details of the submission process will be available by the end of March. The anthology editor will be long-time member Anita Page.

Her short stories have appeared in anthologies, ezines, and print journals including Murder New York Style: Fresh Slices (L&L Dreamspell), The Gift of Murder (Wolfmont Press), The Prosecution Rests (Little, Brown), Murder New York Style (L&L Dreamspell), The Back Alley, Mysterical-e, Word Riot, Mouth Full of Bullets, and Ball State University Forum.

Anita received a Derringer Award from the Short Mystery Fiction Society in 2010 for "'Twas the Night," which appeared in *The Gift*  of Murder.

Damned If You Don't, Anita's first novel, is a dark traditional mystery set in the Catskill Mountains. She is working on her second novel set there.

Anita is a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, the Short Mystery Fiction Society, and the Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Weeds and Dust (APCWD) of which she is the proud founder.

**Catherine Maiorisi** 

# Letter from Our President

#### Dear Sisters in Crime:

In June my term as president will end. Besides our usual monthly meetings with interesting speakers followed by collegial dinners, we have three important initiatives happening between now and then, and all require your active participation.

Election: Board member Cathi Stoler is chairing the Nominating Committee, which is responsible for putting together the slate of nominees to fill the positions of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer plus three at-large board members. Watch for your ballot.

By-Laws: The board is proposing changes to by-laws that would extend the terms in office for officers and at-large members from one to two years. We believe the change will allow for more long-term planning and strengthen the organization. Watch for e-mails about the changes and vote.

Anthology: I'm happy to announce the chapter will begin work on its third short-story anthology. Anita Page will be the editor. Like the previous two, the anthology will be titled *Murder New York Style*, and the stories will be written to a particular theme. Anita will issue the call for manuscripts by the end of March so watch your e-mails for details.

#### Catherine

# Special points of interest:

- Terrie Moran talks about shorts
- Remembering Robin Hathaway
- New publishing
  opportunity
- Member
  Announcements

#### BLOODLETTER



# Do Sell Your Story Short

I've had a string of good luck lately. A short story I wrote, set along the banks of the Caloosahatchee River in southern Florida, is titled "Fontaine House," and appeared in the August 2012 issue of Ellery Queen *Mystery Magazine*. In the blink of an eye it was followed by a New York tale "Jake Says Hello," a story of revenge executed by a 1930's flimflam man. The story debuted in the December issue of Alfred Hitchcock Mystery

Magazine. And recently I signed a contract with AHMM for an entertaining academic mystery, "Knowledge is Deadly."

How did I get so lucky? The answer is simpler than you imagine. I wrote these stories for an MWA anthology and when a story didn't make the final cut, I sent it right back out again.

I've heard from a lot of writers that the MWA anthology is a tough market with too few story slots. Maybe so. But if you write a

#### by Terrie Moran

story and it doesn't make the cut, it's still a good story to send out. Remember, your story isn't bad, it just didn't fit what the judges and editors had in mind.

Autumn will be here soon bringing the next MWA anthology call for submissions; details about submitting for our chapter anthology will arrive in March. And when the call comes, answer it.

Ready? Set! Tap those keyboards! You can't sell what you haven't written.



Robin Hathaway 1934-2013

# Goodbye to a Treasured Friend

Our SinC chapter lost a great friend on Feb. 16 when Robin Hathaway Keisman lost her battle to cancer. Robin lived in Philidelphia but she and her husband also had an apartment in New York City, where she attended meetings as often as possible.

With her husband's encouragement, she began writing mysteries at age 50 as Robin Hathaway. Her protagonist, Dr. Andrew Fenimore, was a cardiologist, which meant her doctor husband provided information and resources. After ten years of rejection, she entered St. Martin's Malice Domestic Contest and won for Best Traditional Mystery with *The Doctor Digs a Grave*. The book also won an Agatha Award in 1998, and Robin's career began in earnest. In 2003, she introduced readers to Dr. Jo Banks with *Scarecrow*. Robin went on to write eight books and continued to attend meetings of SinC and Mystery Writers of America until illness prevented that. When Robin wasn't writing, she did freelance editing, taught mystery writing, and lectured on mystery novel at schools, libraries, and other institutions.

She will be missed for her sweet smile and kindness and remembered for her dedication to writing.

#### News and Notes from Members

Dorothy H. Hayes book, *Murder at the P&Z*, will be released April 1.

**Triss Stein** is promoting her book, *Brooklyn Bones*, on various blogs. She continues to serve as moderator for panel discussions at the Mid-Manhattan Branch of the NYPL. The topic for March is "Mysteries with a Military Background" and in April, it's "Memorable Characters."

On April 30, **Catherine Maiorisi** will moderate "Mystery Characters," a panel at the Mid-Manhattan Branch of the NYPL. Panelists are mystery writers Lyndsay Faye, Sharon Linnea, Julia Pomeroy, and Cornelia Reade.

Elaine Will Sparber's short story, "Cover Story," is in the SinC Guppy chapter's second anthology, *Fish Nets*, coming out in May from Wildside Press.

Terrie Farley Moran made a second sale to AHMM, an academic mystery called "Knowledge is Deadly."

# BLOODLETTER

# Harlequin Launches Digital First Series

Harlequin is launching a new digital first series program in 2013. We are currently accepting a broad range of editorial, including:

- Mystery
- Contemporary Romance
- Fantasy and Fantasy Romance
- Erotic Romance
- Science Fiction and Teen Romance
- Science Fiction Romance
- Your Brilliant Idea\*\*\*



\*\*\*Authors have always been the innovators in publishing. Do you have a trilogy that just never fit anywhere? Do you have a burning idea that keeps you up at night, but there has been no market for it? Now is the time to submit as we commit to the freedom to experiment in digital publishing.

How to Submit:

Please submit only completed, fully polished manuscripts along with a query/cover letter and synopsis. In the subject line of your query, please type the manuscript title, your name and the genre of the manuscript. Queries must include the following and will not be reviewed if any piece is missing:

1. A brief, introductory query letter including genre, word count and a short description of the book, as well as any pertinent information about the author, including both legal name and pen name and any writing credits.

2. The full manuscript saved as an RTF file and attached, with file name TITLE\_MANUSCRIPT where you substitute your book's title in place of TITLE.

3. A 2–5 page synopsis of the book detailing character development, plot and conflict/story resolution. Attach as an RTF file with file name TITLE\_SYNOPSIS where you substitute your book's title in place of TITLE.

Please be sure to put the following information on the first page of all files: manuscript name, author pen name/legal name, email address, phone number, genre and word count (stories can be any word length above 10,000 words).

Submissions should be sent to Submit\_HDigital@Harlequin.com.

TIPS: • Use a professional email account; for example: Jane Doe, not Fluffy Bunny

- It is helpful if your author name and email account name are similar
- Select a readable font (not Courier)

• Make sure your synopsis answers all the questions raised in your plot—if we read your synopsis will we understand why the murderer committed the crime? We are not seeking previously published material; however, we are open to self-published material "If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot." — <u>Stephen King</u>

#### BLOODLETTER

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



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.

#### Websites:

www.nysinc.org

www.sistersincrime.org national organization



#### About Our National Organization...

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.





Open Mic Night in January

