

# DEAD TO WRITES

A MALICE IN MEMPHIS NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2016 ISSUE

FROM THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT:

All,

Last month we held a round table meeting. We discussed our upcoming retreat in October at St. Columba and a few discussions about schedule for upcoming programs. There will be openings for officers for next year.

Our program for this month: Elaine Meece will lead us with her program on Pacing - Creating a Page Turner. For July we don't have a scheduled program so possibly another round table discussion or if anybody has an idea for a program they would like to do.

Hope to see everyone Saturday!

**Melissa Royer**  
**President**  
**Malice in Memphis**

**Kristi Bradley**  
**Vice President**

If you have not paid your dues please get them to Barbara this month at the meeting. If you are a visitor wanting to join us, we welcome you and Barbara can give you the prorated amount for joining. Welcome to our group

## WRITING TIP:

Joe says my work is great.  
Janice says this needs a lot of work.  
Mary says you're going to make a lot of money on this one.  
Judy says the POV is all wrong.  
Eddie says they ought to make a movie out of this.

Joe Mary and Eddie are good friends. Janice and Judy are published writers. Which comments do you take with a grain of salt and which ones do you take to heart. Friends mean well, but they are not in the publishing business. Thank them for their input, then talk with the people who know what it takes to make your work shine.

Happy writing  
Barbara Christopher

Minutes for May 14, 2016

The Meeting was called to order at 10:28a by Kristi

In attendance:

Kristi, Alyssa, Juanita, Carolyn, Jim, Elaine, Lynn, Susan, with three returning guests Dutch Warren, Tangey Skinner and Kimberly Fisher

Motion made by Carolyn to skipped the reading of the minutes and seconded by Jim. Minutes are posted in the newsletter.

Scheduled program for June will be by Elaine on pacing. Elaine also informed us that June 18 will be the Rivercity Romance Writers group and the program will be on Serial Killers.

This meeting was a Round Table discussion about upcoming events such as the retreat, October 28-30 at St. Columba. It was decided that we should invite Deb Dixon to join us and give her program on Goal, Motivation and Conflict. So far the suggestions for possible programs at the retreat are:

Goal, Motivation and Conflict

Self Publishing

Great First Lines

Character Development

Critique Groups (first 5 pages only)

Hero or Heroine's Journey

Brainstorming

Permissions and copyrights

Write a scene that is not necessarily continuous, could be climatic or a chase scene.

The address for those that have not been to our retreats in the past is:

St. Columba Episcopal Center

4595 Billy Maher Rd

Bartlett, TN 38135

The next Anthology topic was discussed: Memphis in May, any event that surrounds the month long celebration including, Music fest, BBQ fest, or symphony. It can be a mystery or a ghost story. VERY IMPORTANT: Do

not use any crime that would attract the attention of Homeland Security. (i.e. killing off the current country's ambassador). You can use past host countries as well. As long as it is tied to the Memphis in May events. We are looking to have a stricter deadline for this anthology so that it can be hopefully ready for release by Memphis in May 2017. Please be thinking about your story and get it written. You will be turning it in to Susan who will be helping Carolyn with the anthology.

Lynn Maples will be working to build a website for Malice and will need several volunteers to learn and assist. We are also looking at possible Blog content. Self promotion members would pay per year for an author page to help promote your work.

Meeting was called at 12:00p by Kristi and Lunch at Brad's BBQ.

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Please go LIKE and SHARE my FACEBOOK Page, Kristi Bradley, Author, to stay informed about my upcoming release *Mysta*.

The powers of Mist, Valkyrie warrior goddess, emerge after an attack by stalker that nearly kills Mysta. While recuperating, she is reunited with high school friend, Kieran, who encourages more memories, assuring her he was her prior love. She longs for the passion they share—that is, until his Navy SEAL brother Garik arrives, plunging her into a bizarre sibling rivalry as they begin a deadly competition to win her.

Unbeknownst to Mysta, the demi-god Ormer seeks revenge for her previous role in its condemnation to the Underworld, and is using one of the brothers to accomplish this objective. It plans to bind her, use her powers to escape its prison and take over the world.

Stalker hot on her heels, she must evade his attacks while examining the mysterious intentions of each brother. She must discover who her prior love was, correct past mistakes in order to defeat Ormer before it achieves its goals and ravages the world.

**Kristi Bradley**

# # # # #

Our VP was published in the Southern Writer magazine and below is her article in case you haven't had a chance to read it. Great job Kristi. If you have an article that you would like to see in the newsletter, please let me

know and I will put it in the newsletter. Angelyn's blog posts will return next month.

Monday, May 30, 2016

## Surviving the Day Job while Writing and Promoting

By Kristi Bradley

It's not easy being a writer. It takes the three Ds...dedication, discipline and determination.

It's also not easy transitioning a short story into a full-length length novel. If you're like me and work a full-time job, it cuts into your writing time, so you've got to MAKE time. I may wake at four a.m., write until time to get ready for work, give up the lunch hour, work late into the night, and suffer chronic back ache from lugging my laptop everywhere in case I find time to write.

FREE time is now WRITING time.

Sleep? Phffft. Who needs sleep?

My first novel, *Mysta*, a paranormal romantic suspense, is due for release soon from Dark Oak Press. It started as, *Mist*, a short but tragic love story set in Celtic times. It haunted me constantly. "This isn't finished," my dead characters insisted. So I sat down at the keyboard, and low and behold, it wasn't finished. My 5,000 word short slowly turned into a 90,000 word novel. *Mist* and her lover were reincarnated into modern times. *Mysta* must battle the demi-god seeking revenge for her role in its condemnation to the Underworld centuries prior. Finally I typed the words, The End...for now anyway.

But the game has changed now that I'm so close to publication.

It's time to promote.

An introvert's worst nightmare.

How the heck am I supposed to promote when all my extra time is spent writing?

I won't sugar coat it. It's not easy. You have to put yourself "Out There." Bottom line, it comes down to organization and planning. Utilize whatever resources you can. Talk to people. Offer yourself as sacrificial book club speaker...whatever it takes. Get your name, or brand, "Out There." Social media is at our fingertips. There is no excuse. Choose one, choose them all, but make an appearance and keep in contact. Don't overdo the promotion either and make people sick of you. That defeats the purpose. I'm currently only using Facebook, but hope to expand soon. Whether traditionally or self-published, all authors must promote themselves. Get past the

freak-out and become the organizational mutant you might normally make fun of. Put a plan in motion and stick with it.

And keep writing.

What?

I have to promote the first book while I write the next?

Yep. Reorganize your schedule. Then rearrange again. And again if necessary. If you plan posts far enough ahead, it won't take long to plug in a post, or ten, in minutes. Again, plan ahead. Cut and paste, baby. Set aside an allotted amount of time for promo work daily or weekly and then get back to writing.

If you really want to get your work "Out There," you'll figure out a way. With the three Ds, you can balance the day job, the writing and the promotion. It won't be easy, but so worth the sacrifice.

Good luck!



Kristi Bradley was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee, she disappeared into parts unknown after a brief marriage to a wanna-be-crime lord, lived under an alias while gaining self-defense and weapons training, only to re-emerge as a seemingly normal wife, mother of three, step-mother of one, grandmother of three, owned by three dogs and three cats, lots of threes to thwart questions about her suspicious past. She performs the duties of Vice President for Malice in Memphis Mystery/Suspense Writers Group and writes and paints her own versions of reality. You can find her short stories *Murder in Midtown* and *Voodoo Village* in the anthology *Bluff City Mysteries* published by Dark Oak Press. Another Bluff City anthology is in the works in which her ghost stories *Rainbow Lake* and *A Haunting in Midtown* will appear. Her short story *Un-a-Were* has been accepted for publication in the *Carpe Noctem: Truly, Madly, Deeply* anthology to be released in 2016 by Charon Coin Press, and her first full-length novel, the paranormal romantic suspense *Mysta* is soon to be released by Dark Oak Press. She'd appreciate it if you would give her author page a LIKE on Facebook. She'd hate to have to hunt you down...