

# Connecticut Muse

A Celebration of Contemporary Connecticut Authors

Summer 2005

Dear Connecticut Book Lovers,

Welcome to the summer edition of Connecticut Muse – the **Mystery Issue**. The summer is an excellent time to kick back and read one of the many terrific mysteries written by Connecticut authors. In fact, the mystery genre (also known as “suspense” and sometimes “thriller”) is probably one of the most popular fiction categories, and there are plenty to choose from. In addition to the authors featured in this newsletter, here are some other great Connecticut mystery novels to check out:

Mary Ann Tirone-Smith’s *Poppy Rice Mystery Series*

Ed McBain’s *87<sup>th</sup> Precinct Series*

Jane Haddam’s *Gregor Demarkian Mystery Series (The Headmaster’s Wife 2005)*

Howard Roughan’s *The Promise of a Lie* or *Honeymoon* (with James Patterson)

Jerry Labriola’s *Murders at Brent Institute (The Maltese Murders October 2005)*

Fans of true crime will enjoy the intriguing story of real life serial killer Gary Evans, chronicled by investigative journalist M. William Phelps in his recently released *Every Move You Make*.

And when summer is at last on its way out, during the weekend of September 16 through 18, you can meet some of your favorite Connecticut authors at Boats, Books & Brushes on the New London waterfront. In the meantime, happy reading!

*Patricia F. D’Ascoli*

---

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### Connecticut Mystery Series Writers

Jessica Speart – Rachel Porter Mystery Series - *Blue Twilight*.....2

Roberta Isleib – Cassie Burdette Golf Mystery Series - *Fairway to Heaven*.....2

M.J. Rose’s *The Halo Effect* becomes a book club favorite.....3

Pam Lewis has written a gripping first novel, *Speak Softly, She Can Hear*.....3

Author Appearances & Book Signings.....5

New Releases.....6

FRIENDS of New Milford Library.....7

Interview with Jim and Nikoo McGoldrick.....7

## MYSTERY SERIES AUTHORS

Roberta Isleib and Jessica Speart

Roberta Isleib has recently published the fourth of a five part golf mystery series entitled *Fairway to Heaven* (Berkley). With a mixture of murder, kidnapping, dark family secrets, and a good game of golf for added interest, this novel makes an enjoyable and entertaining read.



Cassie Burdette, a likeable and down-to-earth heroine, again finds herself playing the part of amateur sleuth during one splendid autumn weekend in Pinehurst, North Carolina. On this ill-fated weekend, Cassie has agreed (against her better judgment)

to be maid of honor in a friend's wedding that happens to coincide with the tournament in which Cassie is competing at the legendary Pinehurst golf course.

While juggling the roles of bridesmaid and golfer, she not only manages to solve the mystery of who kidnapped the bride's father, but even narrowly escapes death herself. To top it all off, she plays a pretty decent game of golf and discovers some important things about herself and even learns a few valuable life lessons along the way.

Cassie Burdette's self-discovery (partially through the help of her therapist) may be related to the fact that before she started writing the Cassie Burdette series, Roberta Isleib was a practicing clinical psychologist. To imbue Cassie with "issues," such as a tendency to occasionally drink too much or to have problems with male relationships, makes it easy to identify with her character. It also helps that she's got a great sense of humor!

Readers will look forward to Cassie's last round of golf (and perhaps more self-analysis) in *Final Fore* next year.

Jessica Speart's Rachel Porter is a no nonsense kind of gal who won't take No for an answer. That is why her employer, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, keeps moving her around to various locations, hoping to keep her from getting in over her head. It doesn't work.



In *Blue Twilight* (Avon), eighth in the Rachel Porter wildlife mystery series, Rachel finds herself in beautiful San Francisco and the northern California wilderness, hot on the trail of the endangered Lotis Blue butterfly. A biologist who was studying the rare

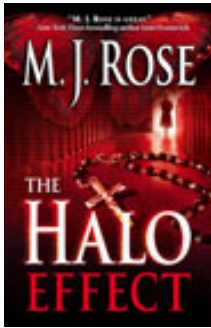
butterfly in that locale is missing, and so is a troubled young teenage girl last seen in the area. Could this be a coincidence? Rachel doesn't think so.

In an effort to locate the biologist and the missing girl, Rachel stumbles upon some very bizarre individuals, including a creep who raises butterflies in his bedroom, a tattoo artist who has been known to house young runaways and a fanatical butterfly collector who just happens to sketch pictures of young girls.

The other cast of characters in Rachel's life are her significant other – the sexy but troubled Santou who looks like he has become addicted to pain killers and her best friend, Terry a transvestite with a wardrobe to die for. Her landlord is a wacky Chinese lady who keeps trying to get Rachel to learn how to cook. It's useless. Rachel is too busy solving mysteries.

Speart gives readers a weird and chilling twist at the end, when Rachel finally tracks down the killer – even she isn't prepared for the grim discovery she makes in his home!

Speart's ninth wildlife mystery will be out next month. Look for Rachel Porter again in *Restless Waters* this August.



*The Halo Effect*  
M.J. Rose  
MIRA

Dr. Morgan Snow, sex therapist at the Butterfield Institute, provides counseling to a high priced prostitute Cleo Thane, who is trying to give up her call girl life style in favor of marriage to a man who loves her despite her chosen profession. Cleo has written a tell-all book about her well-known clients, but has poorly disguised the characters in her book, making them easily recognizable.

Meanwhile, a series of prostitutes are being murdered by a killer whose signature has bizarre and disturbing religious overtones. When Cleo disappears, Morgan Snow looks to her book to discover who the killer is, but gets more than she bargains for when she takes on her own personal investigation. Suddenly Dr. Snow finds herself in dark and potentially dangerous territory...

The “Overtones,” a New Milford based book club comprised of a few interesting women who love to read and discuss good books, recently had the pleasure of reading *The Halo Effect*. This is the first book in the Butterfield Institute Series written by Greenwich author, M.J. Rose. Here’s what they had to say:

*I enjoyed the book – there is more going on beneath the surface than I initially thought would be in a mystery/suspense novel.*

*The story had a slow start and the details in the story were very dark. However, the writing was very good and the story kept my interest.*

*I liked the themes that ran through the novel (butterfly-transformation, rebirth, etc.) There were parallel undercurrents running through the entirety of the text as well (i.e. the actress).*

*Great character development and a quick plot – the best book club read of the year!*

*I found The Halo Effect enjoyable enough, although I felt it was a tad predictable. A nice quick summer read.*

*Well-written, good pace and enough set up to pull a reader through this novel and onto the next.*

*A provocative, sexy story that keeps the reader interested and guessing throughout. Intriguing and thoroughly satisfying.*

Six out of the seven women say they would be interested in reading the next Butterfield Institute novel – *The Delilah Complex* due out in January 2006.



*Speak Softly,  
She Can Hear*  
Pam Lewis  
Simon & Schuster

Pam Lewis of Storrs has recently published a powerful first novel, *Speak Softly, She Can Hear* – a book that bestselling author Wally Lamb calls a “sexy and suspenseful psychological thriller.” A suitable description, indeed.

*Speak Softly, She Can Hear* tells the dark and troubling story of a young woman whose life is forever changed by the events of

one horrible winter night. Forced to keep the horror and shame of those events secret, she discovers that the very nature of her future existence will ultimately be defined by that secret. And it is a terrible price to pay.

The novel begins on a cold March night in 1965 when 16 year old Carole Mason and best friend Naomi embark on what Carole believes to be an exciting adventure. Carole is shy, slightly overweight and studious – the “new girl” at Spence, a posh girls school in Manhattan. Ostracized by most of the other girls, she has been befriended by the strange and deeply troubled Naomi.

Carole and Naomi have resolved to lose their virginity before graduating from high school, and this is the designated evening. They have traveled from New York to Stowe, Vermont to meet up with Eddie, a mysterious 26 year old whom Naomi has recruited to do the honors. But Eddie has much more planned for the night than Carole could have ever imagined.

Suddenly, an experience meant to symbolize Carole’s coming of age, turns into a nightmare with devastating and far reaching consequences. The innocent life Carole once led vanishes completely, to be replaced by a terrified, guilt ridden existence. It is in the grip of this paralyzing state that Carole spends the next decade of her life, trying unsuccessfully to escape the reality of that ill-fated night.

In the days and weeks following the horrific incident, Carole realizes that her friend Naomi may not have been honest about her relationship with the dangerously cruel Eddie. Hoping for an ally in her only friend, Carole discovers instead that she has been betrayed by Naomi; she must keep the secret and suffer in silence alone.

And the secret destroys everything in Carole’s life. It destroys her relationship with her parents. Carole’s promising future and academic life at Vassar are ruined because of

the secret. Her very identity is completely overwhelmed by the secret. No matter how she tries to hide from it, the secret rears its ugly head – assuring her that she can never escape from her past.

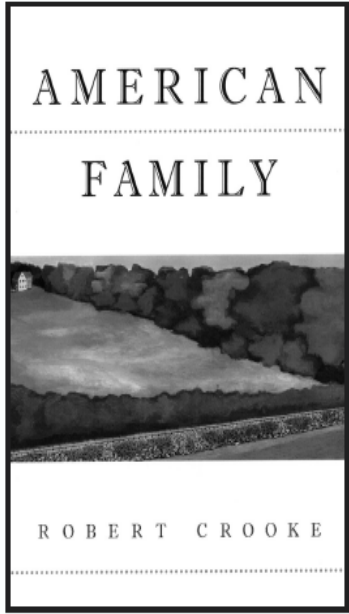
Eddie, a truly despicable character, keeps tabs on Carole’s whereabouts; serving as a cruel reminder to her that the secret will always dominate her life. Although she has managed to keep her whereabouts hidden successfully for a number of years, Eddie turns up again when she least expects it, threatening to expose her if she won’t give him the money he demands.

Many years later, when Carole has finally established a semblance of normalcy in her life, Naomi and Eddie both reappear, and she comes perilously close to losing everything she has worked so hard for. With sickening certainty, Carole understands that she has never really been free. Her life has been built on a series of lies, and like a shaky house of cards, it will soon collapse...

*Speak Softly, She Can Hear* is at once compelling and disturbing in its intensity. We are immediately hooked into this story from the start; carried along irresistibly until the very last word. It is a haunting account of deception and betrayal as well as a tragic tale of heartache and loss.

Lewis has an uncanny ability to depict the ongoing drama of a young psyche scarred by unimaginable trauma. She exposes the undeniable anguish of bearing a burden so profound as to alter one’s destiny. Her novel presents a moral dilemma with no easy answers and no obvious solutions.

Loaded with gripping suspense throughout, *Speak Softly, She Can Hear* is indeed a “page-turner.” It is an unsettling story that stays with us long after we have finished the last page and closed the book. And isn’t that the mark of truly good fiction?



**AMERICAN  
FAMILY**


ROBERT CROOKE

“A stunning debut novel.”  
- *Artis Magazine*

“Faithful to the complex politics of the 1950’s; an apt comparison of the Red Scare and post-9/11 eras.”  
- *Kirkus Reviews*

“Explores how African-American civil rights became one more social casualty of McCarthyism.”  
- *The Litchfield County Times*

Available at local independent booksellers, including Baileywick Books (New Milford), Hickory Stick Bookshop (Washington Depot), House of Books (Kent), More Good Books (Woodbury), Oblong Books & Music (Millerton, NY), and The Bookloft (Great Barrington, MA).



## Connecticut Author Book Signings and Discussions

**July 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. ROBERTA ISLEIB,**  
Author of *Fairway to Heaven* – Book signing at Notre Dame Golf Open, Race Brook Country Club, Orange, CT

**July 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. LAUREN BARATZ-LOGSTED,** Author of *A Little Change of Face* at Bethel Public Library, Bethel, CT

**July 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. LAUREN BARATZ-LOGSTED** at Linda’s Storytime, Monroe, CT

**August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 p.m. JIM LOMUSCIO,**  
Author of *Village of the Dammed: The Fight for Open Space and the Flooding of a Connecticut Town* – Westport Library, Westport, CT

**August 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. MARIA SASSI**  
An award winning poet and playwright, will read and discuss her most recent collection of poems, *Rooted in Stars* at Oliver Wolcott Library, Litchfield, CT

**August 22<sup>nd</sup> CATHERINE CLINTON,**  
Author of *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom* - Lecture & Signing, Women of Achievement Series at The Mount Edith Wharton Home, Lenox, MA

**September 10<sup>th</sup>  
LAUREN BARATZ-LOGSTED**  
**12:15** CTRWA workshop Southbury Library  
**3:30** Signing at Waldenbooks in Southbury

**September 16, 17 and 18 BOATS, BOOKS & BRUSHES ARTS FESTIVAL** at New London Waterfront - Various Connecticut Authors

**September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. ROBERT CROOKE,** Author of *American Family*, Book Discussion at Burnham Library, Bridgewater, CT

## ARMSTRONG CHAMBER CONCERTS

**July 28, 2005 - 8 pm**  
Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts  
Westport, CT  
Come picnic and hear great music  
Free - open to the public  
In case of rain, concert will be held at the Saugatuck Middle School



**September 11, 2005 – 4 pm**  
“Discovering Musical Gems”  
Gala Benefit in Greenwich  
Cocktails and Performance by Student Musicians  
Silent & Live Auctions  
Dinner  
Proceeds go to support Students’ Music Enrichment Program

**To purchase tickets call 860-868-0522  
Or email [accnct@aol.com](mailto:accnct@aol.com)  
[www.accnct.org](http://www.accnct.org)**



The WestConn MFA in  
Professional Writing presents  
***The First Annual WestConn  
Summer Literary Festival***

Featuring readings, book-signings, discussions, and receptions with nationally known authors, poets, and film-makers. All events are free and open to the public. (203) 837-8878

**August 1, 7:30 PM Mimi Kelly**

Writer and director of *Why Johnny Don't Know*, an Emmy-award winning documentary. A screening and discussion of her film work Reception to follow, Location TBD

**August 2, 7:30 PM Don J. Snyder**

Author of *Night Crossing*, *Fallen Angel*, and *Of Time and Memory* – Reading and book signing, Reception to follow at Tarrywile Mansion, 70 Southern Blvd, Danbury, CT 203-744-3130

**August 3, 7:30 PM Shouhua Qi**

Reading from *When the Purple Mountain Burns: A Novel on the WWII Japanese attack on Nanking*. Book signing and reception to follow - President's Reception Room (Westside 218) on WestConn's Westside Campus, Danbury, CT

**August 4, 7:30 PM Cecilia Woloch**

Author of *Late*, *Sacrifice*, and *Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem* - A reading of her poems and book signing, Reception to follow at Newtown Meeting House, 31 Main St., Newtown, CT 203-270-8293

**August 5, 7:30 PM Daniel Asa Rose**

Author of *Hiding Places* and *Flipping for It*  
A reading and book signing, Location TBD

NEW RELEASES:

***Summer of Roses***, by Luanne Rice (Old Lyme), Romance: Revisits the characters introduced in bestselling *Summer's Child*.

***A Little Change of Face***, by Lauren-Baratz Logsted, (Danbury) – Chick Lit: A 39 year old attractive female decides to sabotage her looks to see if someone can love her for who she “really” is.

***Five in a Row***, by Jan Coffey (Watertown) – Mystery: A techno-thriller that considers the troubling idea that someone can take control of a car by accessing the engine's computer.

***Tranquil Power: The Art & Life of Perle Fine***, by Kathleen Housley (Glastonbury) – Biography: The life of an American abstract expressionist who lived from 1905 to 1988.

***Dogs of Truth***, by Kit Reed (Middletown) - Short Stories: A collection of 17 uncollected stories.

***On A Wing and A Prayer***, by Katherine Valentine, (Litchfield) – Inspirational: Book four in the Dorsetville series.

---

A Look at FRIENDS of  
New Milford Library

Each year in early July, the non-profit FRIENDS group holds its annual fundraiser, in an effort to raise money to support many of the programs and services offered by the Town's public library. Thousands of books will be offered for sale during the July event. All of the books are in excellent condition and most books are under five dollars.

The FRIENDS annual book sale is the culmination of a year long effort to sort, categorize, price and transport all of the many books donated throughout the year to the library. Almost every day books are dropped off at the library's front desk. Some of the books are given away and others are placed on

the \$2.00 book cart in the library. The rest of the books, both hard cover and paperback, are brought down to the library basement, where they are held in storage for the book sale.

The FRIENDS of New Milford Public Library is comprised of seven members who work hard throughout the year to make sure that the annual book sale will be as successful as possible. In addition to providing the library with funds to purchase books and other materials and equipment, the group has enabled the library to provide technical and reference assistance through online resources.

The FRIENDS group is also responsible for the “Books for Babies” program, which provides a packet of books and other items to every child born at New Milford Hospital. Each year they give out approximately five hundred packets to new mothers.

The FRIENDS of New Milford Library group is always in need of volunteers. In addition to financial contributions, anyone interested in supporting the program can offer time and talent by working on the Group’s newsletter, making phone calls and sending out letters to past volunteers, updating the bulletin board in the Library and helping to sort and categorize the many donated books.

Like many library FRIENDS groups, the organization also provides financial support to the library for special events throughout the year, which often include Connecticut author visits as well as book discussions. These types of presentations at the local library are a great way to meet a Connecticut author, hear about his or her works and maybe even get a signed copy of the writer’s latest release.

Stay tuned to Connecticut Muse’s author appearance column to find out where Connecticut authors will be appearing at libraries throughout the State!



Meet Jim & Nikoo McGoldrick

When it comes to identity, Jim and Nikoo McGoldrick seem to know exactly who they are – both individually and as a couple. During a recent interview in the cheerful kitchen of their comfortable Watertown home, the vibrant dynamics and playful banter of this husband and wife writing team were immediately obvious. It’s no wonder that their romance novels enjoy such tremendous success.

Jim and Nikoo McGoldrick write historical romance and contemporary romantic suspense novels under the pseudonyms of May McGoldrick and Jan Coffey, respectively. They have enjoyed writing as a team since 1994, when they sold their first book, *The Thistle and the Rose*, which ultimately received both the Florida RWA Laurel Wreath and the New Jersey RWA Golden Leaf Awards as Winner for Best Historical Novel. And yet, one is tempted to ask whether two people really can write with one voice.

In answer to that inquiry, the McGoldricks remarked that over the years, many people have been interested in knowing exactly how they go about writing novels together. And their response was to publish a book about collaborative writing, appropriately entitled *Marriage of Minds: Collaborative Fiction Writing*. Jim summed up the process: “It’s constant revision to where the voice becomes one.”

According to the McGoldricks, how Jim and Nikoo become one voice as May McGoldrick or Jan Coffey has been an evolving process.

Jim noted that when they first started writing together, they only had one computer, so one of them would talk while the other typed. After the first book, they decided to take turns doing scenes, but said that this was difficult, because the different scenes wouldn't always go together. Through this they discovered their strengths and weaknesses, and when they wrote *Marriage of Minds*, they realized exactly what it was that worked for them.

Jim said that the analogy they like to use is this: "Nikoo is the rough carpenter and Jim is the finish carpenter." Nikoo commented, "He also loves to do research. If I'm on a roll, I don't stop, and I leave brackets for Jim to fill in." Jim noted further, "Nikoo is really into characters – she is the screenplay writer. She loves dialogue." He stated, "She says that I am more the poet because I am into the prose, and I think that is true."

Their formula is obviously a successful one. At this juncture of their writing career, during the day Nikoo is home writing full time, while Jim works as an English teacher at Litchfield High School. And in true collaborative fashion, they described their creative process in the following manner.

Jim: "We talk through stories as much as we can and then we talk through scenes. Nikoo writes the first draft of 90% of the book, and I follow behind revising."

Nikoo: "Half the book is gone by the time he's done."

Jim: "And then Nikoo goes back and fixes it the way she likes it."

Thus a May McGoldrick or a Jan Coffey novel is born.

The McGoldricks are set to launch three books in the next year. This past May, their second young adult book was published. Written under the pen name Jan Coffey, Jim describes *Tropical Kiss* as a spy thriller for young adults set in Aruba. "It's a real beach read," said Jim, adding, "It's a really fun book."

*Five in a Row*, also by Jan Coffey, is due to be released on July 10. The novel takes place in Litchfield County with the first scene opening at Litchfield High School. Jim notes that ironically the book was written before he got a job teaching at that school.

Nikoo explained, "The premise for this book is how a virus can hitch a ride in your car. Although we wrote this book a year ago, last month there was a big article in the New York Times on this topic." Jim replied, "In theory, this could really happen – the problem is delivering the virus to the computer in the car. But we came up with the answer in our book."

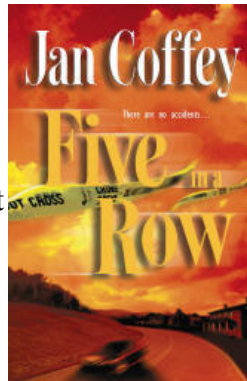
They noted that when they first thought of the idea for the book, they ran it by some of their computer/engineer acquaintances who assured them that the book's very frightening premise is indeed possible. "These books have the potential to be big," Jim said excitedly, adding further, "The villain in *Five in a Row* really reaches the international terrorist level before he gets his comeuppance."

In April 2006, *Arsenic and Old Armor* (May McGoldrick) will be published. This book is something a little bit different for them, as they indicated that it is not "truly historical." They are currently finishing *Silent Waters* (Jan Coffey) which will also be out in April 2006. It is a new techno thriller about a nuclear submarine high jacking.

Now that they have ventured into the technological realm for story lines, the plot possibilities are potentially endless. According to Nikoo, "Now the sky's the limit. There are so many things to write about." It also helps

that Nikoo apparently never has trouble coming up with new ideas. “Nikoo has an incredible imagination,” Jim remarked proudly. And Nikoo takes her writing to heart too, often crying and laughing out loud while at work on her computer. Jim said that she reminds him of Diane Keaton’s character in the movie “As Good As It Gets.”

The McGoldricks, who have been married for twenty-five years, were not writers by trade when they embarked upon their collaborative writing career. Nikoo actually worked as a mechanical engineer while Jim was employed as an English professor. Jim mentioned that he once dabbled with a screenplay that got some “nibbles” and wrote some short stories with characters that Nikoo didn’t really like. “I have always been Jim’s biggest critic,” said Nikoo. “That’s right, absolutely,” he agreed amiably.



While living in Pennsylvania where Jim taught college and Nikoo worked as an engineering manager, after their younger son was born, they decided to make a lifestyle change. “For us, writing just happened,” said Nikoo. “It was just meant to be.”

Jim recalled, “We always did things together. We made a conscious choice when we got married that we were always going to do things together.” And Nikoo said about Jim appreciatively, “He’s such a good guy.”

The McGoldricks moved from Pennsylvania to Watertown three years ago so that their oldest son could attend The Taft School. They have two teenaged sons who, according to Nikoo, “make fun of us because when we are talking to them, we are unconsciously repeating each other.” She laughed, noting that the kids beg them to stop. “We don’t recognize it,” Nikoo said while Jim

added, “Sometimes they just say, ‘aren’t they cute?’”

Their rapport with one another is actually quite a bit more than cute, however. Jim and Nikoo recently weathered a personal storm together after Nikoo was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago. Fortunately, it was caught in the early stages and Nikoo’s prognosis is excellent. When asked how Nikoo’s cancer changed their lives, Jim remarked, “We have always tried to enjoy everyday and each other, because our feeling was that life tends to pull you apart. But when Nikoo was diagnosed with breast cancer, we suddenly realized the fragility of life, and the fact that life is so short,” Jim observed reflectively. But they both laughed when Jim noted that they are “a living cliché.”

Perhaps it is their own closeness that enables the McGoldricks to write romance that is so well received by the critics. After all, both their historical romance novels, as well as their romantic suspense novels, have garnered numerous awards over the years, with *Borrowed Dreams* receiving the 2004 Virginia RWA Holt Medallion Winner for Best Long Historical. As a testament to the skill with which they write in this genre, Jim related, “We have friends who have told us that we saved their marriage.”

How are May McGoldrick or Jan Coffey novels different from others in the same genre? Jim replied, “I think what distinguishes us is that we really focus on the characters. We try to create characters that are real and do things that are believable and consistent.” Looking at Nikoo for confirmation he inquired, “Wouldn’t you say that sweetie?”

Nikoo agreed. “The feedback we get from a lot of people has to do with the relationships in our books. Our readers tell us that we never have a couple break-up over something stupid. We don’t create artificial conflicts.”

Their novels are not without important issues, however. For example, Jim noted that in *Borrowed Dreams* there were some very serious situations going on in the book. “You have a guy who is seriously injured with physical and psychological issues and a woman who was abused,” adding further, “but we want to create a satisfactory ending based on things the characters do that are intelligent and real.”



Although they love writing their suspense line, they commented that romance books in general sell a lot more copies. But their suspense novels also have a romantic element, as well. In both genres, the McGoldricks have a growing fan base, receiving

thousands of emails every year on their May McGoldrick and Jan Coffey websites. “The reward we get from our writing is when we get email from fans about how much they enjoy reading our books.”

Jim related the heartwarming story of one woman who wrote to them stating that she had cancer for years, and although she had always loved to read, she no longer had the will to read anymore. The woman told them that when she got one of their books to read, all of the sudden it was fun to read again.

The McGoldricks have fans from all over the world. “We got an e-mail from a fan in Italy as well as one in Scotland. Nikoo has had an ongoing correspondence with a woman in Australia for the last four years,” Jim noted. “We started a correspondence with a woman in New Jersey who had never written to an author before, and we got to be such good friends with her, that she went to Scotland with us,” he related.

In June, Jim and Nikoo were at the South Windsor Library Murder & Mayhem Mystery Group to discuss one of their favorite topics - how they work together. They recently

gave a talk to the students at Litchfield High School. They also speak to writers’ groups throughout the state and have done numerous workshops at national conferences for writers.

For more information about Jim and Nikoo McGoldrick and their works, as well as upcoming book signings and discussions, readers can go to either [www.jancoffey.com](http://www.jancoffey.com) or [www.maymcgoldrick.com](http://www.maymcgoldrick.com).

And if you drop them a note, they will answer it, because they respond to every email they receive.

---

## ADVERTISE IN CONNECTICUT MUSE

### Full Page Ad

1 X = \$350  
2 X = \$300 X 2 = \$600  
4 X = \$250 X 4 = \$1000

### Half Page Ad

1 X = \$200  
2 X = \$150 X 2 = \$300  
4 X = \$100 X 4 = \$400

### Quarter Page Ad

1 X = \$100  
2 X = \$75 X 2 = \$150  
4 X = \$50 X 4 = \$200

### Business Card

1 X = \$75  
2 X = \$60 X 2 = \$120  
4 X = \$40 X 4 = \$160

---

Stay informed about the latest Connecticut literary info by subscribing to Connecticut Muse. An annual subscription is \$20

## What's News?

**Prill Boyle**, Westport resident and author of *Defying Gravity*, appeared as the keynote speaker at the United Nations on June 9, 2005 at The National Council of Women – USA. Boyle's first book, *Defying Gravity*, recounts the stories of 12 "ordinary" women who have done extraordinary things later in life.

**Jessica Speart**, Easton resident and author of *Restless Waters*, will be appearing as the keynote speaker at the Nature in Legend Story Society in August where she will discuss a genre she created – the wildlife mystery.

### Writer's Workshops with Tom Hazuka

July 13th - Point of View

July 20th - Flash Fiction

10:30 to 12:00 p.m.

Oliver Wolcott Library, Litchfield, CT

Hazuka is a Professor of English at Central Connecticut State University and the author of *The Road to the Island* and *In the City of the Disappeared*

Class size is limited.

Registration is required 860-567-8030

### FYI – Some CT Author Websites

[www.jancoffey.com](http://www.jancoffey.com)

[www.mjrose.com](http://www.mjrose.com)


[www.jessicaspeart.com](http://www.jessicaspeart.com)

[www.robertaisleib.com](http://www.robertaisleib.com)

[www.katharineweber.com](http://www.katharineweber.com)

[www.laurenbaratzlogsted.com](http://www.laurenbaratzlogsted.com)

[www.mwilliamphelps.com](http://www.mwilliamphelps.com)



BOOKS • GIFTS  
STATIONERY • TOYS

Free Gift Wrapping  
Personal Shopper  
Special Order Items

BOOK SIGNINGS

BOOK CALL 1-800-255-2665

Monday - Saturday 9 to 6 and Sunday 11 to 5  
860-868-0525 Tel 860-868-1356 Fax  
www.hickorystickbookshop.com  
2 Green Hill Road • Washington Depot, CT

## THOMASTON OPERA HOUSE



### OKLAHOMA!

Music by Richard Rodgers  
• Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II  
Based on the play "Green Grow the Lilacs" by Lynn Riggs

July 16, 22, 23, 29 & 30, 2005 at 8:00pm

July 17, 24 & 31, 2005 at 2:00pm



### GREASE

Music, Lyrics & Book: Jim Jacobs & Warren Casey

August 26, 27, September 2, 3, 9 & 10, 2005 at 8:00pm

August 28 & September 4, 2005 at 2:00pm



### CHESS

Book by Richard Nelson •  
Lyrics by Tim Rice  
Music by Björn Ulvaeus &  
Benny Anderson

September 24, 30 & October 1, 2005 at 8:00pm

September 25 & October 2, 2005 at 2:00pm

A Special Collaboration with Torrington Civic Theatre!

“Chance, Lyric, & the Creative Process”  
Thursday, August 2nd 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Oliver Wolcott Library, Litchfield, CT

Ravi Shankar will conduct a poetry writing workshop that will inspire poetry that is both original and unexpected, as well as deeply personal and resonant. Ravi is poet-in-residence at Central Connecticut State University, author of *Instrumentality* and founding editor of the online journal of the arts, Drunken Boat ([www.drunkenboat.com](http://www.drunkenboat.com)). He reviews poetry for the *Contemporary Poetry Review* and is editing an anthology of South Asian, East Asian and Middle Eastern poetry.

The Litchfield County Writer’s Project  
“Writers of Litchfield County and Films Made  
From Their Work” - A Discussion Series

August 31 through Dec. 7, 2005  
Wednesday evenings, 6:30-9 p.m.

The general public is welcome to attend free of charge. This course can be taken for credit in English. It will be open to both majors and non-majors and may also be audited for noncredit. Co-taught by John Long, Professor of Drama and Film and Davyne Verstandig, Professor of English, the course will showcase the novels, films and guest speakers listed below. Litchfield County writers have their say on issues: prejudice, racism, faith and family.

***Focus*** (novel)

Arthur Miller

***Angela's Ashes*** (memoir)

Frank McCourt

***The Human Stain*** (novel)

Philip Roth

***Love Letters*** (play)

A. R. Gurney

***Personal Velocity*** (short stories)

Rebecca Miller

***Mass Appeal*** (play)

Bill C. Davis

Guest speakers: Bill C. Davis, A. R. Gurney, Frank McCourt. Others to be announced. For more information contact [lcwp@uconn.edu](mailto:lcwp@uconn.edu) or [davyne.verstandig@uconn.edu](mailto:davyne.verstandig@uconn.edu).

---

In the next issue of Connecticut Muse

Connecticut Humor and Feel Good Books:

*Babes In Boyland: A Personal History Of Co-education In The Ivy League*

by Regina Barreca

*A Little Change of Face*

by Lauren Baratz-Logsted

*The Complete Neurotic* 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Ed.  
by Charles Monagan

*On a Wing and a Prayer*

by Katherine Valentine

*Summer of Roses*

by Luanne Rice

Book Signings and Discussions in Connecticut

New Connecticut Author Releases

An Interview with Jessica Speart

---

Connecticut Muse is written and published by

Patricia F. D’Ascoli

Freelance Writer and Book Reviewer

4 Autumn Lane

New Milford, CT 06776

860-354-6488 Phone

860-355-7361 Fax

[pfdasc@connecticutmuse.com](mailto:pfdasc@connecticutmuse.com)

[www.connecticutmuse.com](http://www.connecticutmuse.com)