



Criminal Tendencies

July 2008Volume 18, Number 1

Now Available: *Chesapeake Crimes 3!*

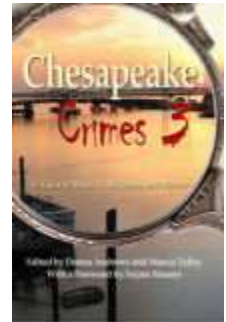
By members of Sisters in Crime and featuring the

Chessie Chapter

Published April 1 by Wildside Press and available from the publisher, as well as from:

- Mystery Loves Company Booksellers, Baltimore and Oxford, MD
- Barnesandnoble.com
- Amazon.com

Previous titles in the series, CHESAPEAKE CRIMES I and CHESAPEAKE CRIMES II, are also available.



Upcoming Meetings

(We usually meet the first Saturday of the month)

- August -- no meeting – FIELD TRIP
- September 6
- October 4
- November 1
- December 6

Field Trip

On **Sunday August 10th**, at **11:00 a.m.**, chapter members will tour the **Fairfax County Police Department Criminal Justice Academy**, at 14601 Lee Road, Chantilly, Virginia.

As it's a weekend there will not be training at the time, but there will be plenty of parking. We will have a chance to tour the facilities and ask questions.

If attending, please email Shelley at justplainegeorge@yahoo.com . Include any questions you have regarding the training or department.

President's Message

I'm thrilled to write this president's message for our restarted chapter newsletter. Finding someone to volunteer her time to organize and edit a chapter newsletter has been a bit of a challenge, so let me offer a big thank you to **Audrey Liebross** for stepping up. As the most recent editor of this newsletter, I know personally what the job entails. Coming up with ideas is stimulating. Doing the writing is fun. Meeting the deadlines ... not so much. But in the end, it's

worth it to be able to share important news and information with chapter members. Audrey has a staff of eight volunteers. Given the writing talent in this chapter, I'm certain the newly invigorated newsletter will more than exceed expectations. Go team!

In other good news, in April, Chesapeake Crimes 3, the third book in the chapter's award-winning mystery short-story series, was published by Wildside Press. For the past several weeks, Chesapeake Crimes 3 has been listed as the number one seller on the Wildside website. The book features 15 short stories, all set in the Chesapeake Bay region, and most by chapter members. On June 6, the chapter celebrated the book at a launch party. More details about the great event can be found in an article by **Becky Hutchison** later in this newsletter.

Short story collections take a lot of time and effort to put together. I'd like to thank everyone who assisted with putting the book and the launch party together, including the authors and editors. I would especially like to thank **Donna Andrews, Marcia Talley, and Bonner Menking** for their behind-the-scenes work in getting the book out, and **Carla Coupe** and **Logan** for their proofreading skills. If you don't have a copy of Chesapeake Crimes 3, you can buy one from Mystery Loves Company or any of the online booksellers. It's a great read.

For those of you who haven't been to a meeting recently, you've missed some good ones. In April nearly 50 people turned out to learn about the FBI's art theft program. And in March, Dan Stashower regaled us with his talk about Edgar Allan Poe. If you've never heard Dan speak, put it on your to-do list. He's a hoot. We're lining up some more fab speakers for the rest of the year. Thanks to Program Chair **Monica Myers** for all her work finding speakers.

I am also pleased to tell you that we have begun, on a trial-basis, a new manuscript critique service. More than 20 chapter members have offered (time-permitting) to review a completed manuscript of other chapter members and offer helpful critique. We have already had our first match! I sent details about this service on the chapter listserv in early June. If you're a chapter member and aren't on the listserv, you should sign up. It's a great way to learn about new initiatives like this, and it's easy to do. Just go to www.chessiechapter.org and click on the subscribe link.

Also worth noting: Chapter Library Liaison **Sandy Parshall** is creating a chapter speakers bureau. Chapter Secretary **Becky Hutchison** is working to set up a PayPal account so you could pay for meetings and chapter renewal electronically. Our two new field trip coordinators, **Heather Sapp** and **Shelley Shearer**, are planning one or two trips for this summer. And we've begun raffling off new books to lucky chapter members who attend the monthly meetings. Thank you **Sandy Parshall** and **Donna Andrews** for your donations.

I can't say enough about the wonderful volunteers this chapter has. If you want to help out, email me. I'm sure we can find something great for you to do.

Hope to see you at our July meeting!

Barb Goffman
President
barbgoffman@yahoo.com

LAUNCH OF CHESAPEAKE CRIMES 3 - by Becky Bartlett Hutchison

An enthusiastic crowd of nine authors and more than forty guests attended the June 6, 2008, launch of Chesapeake Crimes 3 (CC3) at The Writer's Center in Bethesda MD. Attendees munched on delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts prepared by CC3 contributing authors and drinks provided by the Chesapeake Chapter of Sisters in Crime.

After mingling, the group was welcomed by chapter president and CC3 contributing author **Barb Goffman**. She briefly talked about the origin of the anthology series and how each of the series' three books were compiled. She also took that moment to announce that a Chesapeake Crimes 4 will be published by **Wildside Press**, hopefully in 2010. More information about the publication should be available later this year.

Ms. Goffman then quickly discussed her CC3 story and previous writing experiences before introducing her fellow CC3 authors in attendance: **Mary Ann Corrigan, Carla Coupe, Meriah Crawford, Sasscer Hill, Mary Ellen Hughes, Peggy Jaegly, Clyde Linsley, C. Ellett Logan** and **Shelley Shearer**.

All of the authors took about five minutes each to present their CC3 stories, leaving plenty of time at the end for questions and answers. **Mystery Loves Company** brought the CC3 anthology and other books to sell, and the authors made themselves available to sign books.

The other CC3 authors are **K. B. Inglee, G. M. Malliet, Carolyn Mulford, Jayne Ormerod** and **Marcia Talley**.

Chapter News

Donna Andrews will have two books this year in her Meg Langslow series from St. Martins Press. In *Cockatiels at Seven* (July), Meg will be trying to find a missing friend while saddled with the friend's rambunctious two-year-old. And in *Six Geese A-Slaying*, in October, she's in charge of her county's annual Christmas parade. Donna will be signing *Cockatiels at Seven* at the Reston Barnes and Noble at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8th, and at Mystery Loves Company in Oxford, Maryland on Saturday, July 19th. (For those who can't make either signing, Kathy Harig would be happy to reserve a signed copy!)

John Gregory Betancourt's "Horse Pit" is now available in the July/August Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine. "Horse Pit" won the AHMM/Wolfe Pack Black Orchid Novella Award in 2007. The award carried a \$1,000 prize plus publication in Alfred Hitchcock's. It is the fourth story in the series, all of which have appeared in AHMM.

Dorothy Hassan has graduated with an MFA in Creative Writing from Queens University, Charlotte, NC. Dorothy describes her experience in the program as "wonderful but hectic." Her thesis was *The Blitz Business*, a suspense novel set in World War II England; the protagonist is Jamie, a mildly retarded fifteen-year-old boy.

The third book of **Mary Ellen Hughes's** Craft Corner mystery series, *Paper-Thin Alibi*, will be released in July. She'll be doing a signing at the Barnes & Noble in Annapolis on July 24th at 7 p.m.

Sandra Parshall's second novel, *Disturbing the Dead*, was one of three mystery/suspense finalists for the Benjamin Franklin Award. This award is presented by the Independent Book Publishers Association for books published by its members.

Marcia Talley's seventh Hannah Ives mystery, *Dead Man Dancing*, will be published in July. Hannah knows what it means to be a survivor, but will ballroom dancing be the death of her? Marcia also has a short story in Chesapeake Crimes 3, "Two Sisters." For details go to www.marciatalley.com.

Malice Domestic Happenings

Maureen Collins relates this anecdote from the panel she moderated, "The Legacy of Agatha Christie." Author **Denise Swanson's** protagonist in the Scumble River series is a school psychologist in a small midwestern town, just like Denise herself. In the fourth book, her heroine meets a man she cares about. In the fifth book, *Murder of a Barbie and Ken*, they go to bed. Shortly after the publication of the book, Denise received an e-mail addressed to "Spawn of Satan." The sender claimed to have been a fan of her books and had believed that Denise and her heroine shared the same midwestern, small-town values. When she (the sender) encountered the terrible passage about the unwedded sex life of the heroine and her lover, she stopped reading the book and consulted her minister. He advised her not to read any more of such an immoral story and she agreed with his advice. However, she was curious about the ending: would Denise please tell her who committed the murder. Ah, the joys of fan mail!



Maria Lima and Chapter member Carla Coupe share a light moment at Malice Domestic.

USED MYSTERY BOOKS – by Robin Van Mechelen

The D. C. area is full of used book sales. Which ones are the best bets for mystery readers? Consider those listed below, which include many large sales that raise money for charities. Each is rated on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on the following criteria for mysteries only: quantity and quality of books, organization (are books easy to look at or stacked in piles, is the space crowded, are books categorized properly), “driveability” or ease of getting there from a major roadway, and parking. “Books misaligned” means some were facing one way, some the other, so it was hard to read spines. “Irregularly priced” means there wasn’t a pricing pattern I could discern. Because sales rely on donations, quantity and quality can differ from year to year. All of these sales have been annual events, and are listed in the Friday Weekend section of the Washington Post under What’s Doing or advertised in the paper’s Sunday Book section. Dates change, so I’ve listed the month they have been held. Most are multi-day with half-price or bag sales. Check ads/web sites for specifics. Enjoy, and add your favorite sales to the list.

March Am. Assn. University Women, Roscommon Center, Asbury Methodist Village,
409 Russell Ave., Gaithersburg, MD

Quantity 2 Quality 2 Organization 3 Driveability 4 Parking 2

Hardcovers: \$3 Paperbacks: \$2 Books on tape/CD: irregularly priced

Not far off 270. Parking can be limited. Sorters have problems with fiction v. mystery.

March Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (PTA), 4301 East-West Hwy., Bethesda, MD

Quantity 5 Quality 5 Organization 2 Driveability 2 Parking 1

Hardcovers: \$2 Paperbacks: \$1 Books on tape/CD: \$2 per tape/CD

Limited parking. Check map for one-way streets. 3 blocks to Metro. Have had huge selections of like-new books, but many on floor, stacked in boxes.

April Am. Assn. University Women, Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls
Street, Falls Church, VA

Quantity 4 Quality 4 Organization 3 Driveability 2 Parking 1

Hardcovers: \$3 Paperbacks: \$2 Books on tape/CD: irregularly priced

Roads change names in the area, so watch the map. Limited parking. Sorters have problems with fiction v. mystery. Books misaligned.

April and September Friends of Arlington Library, Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy St.,
Arlington, VA www.arlingtonlibraryfriends.org

Quantity 2 Quality 3 Organization 4 Driveability 3 Parking 3

Hardcovers: \$1-5 Paperbacks: 50¢ Books on tape/CD: irregularly priced

Sale in library parking garage – can park there too. 3-4 blocks to Metro.

April Stone Ridge School, 9101 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD www.stoneridge.org

Quantity 5 Quality 5 Organization 5 Driveability 4 Parking 2

Hardcovers overpriced: \$4-6 Paperbacks: \$1 Books on tape/CD: \$4-15

Largest selection I’ve seen in area. May have hilly, long walk from parking. Often more hardcover mysteries than paperbacks. Last day \$10 a shopping bag is a good deal (they provide but can run out). Not far off Beltway.

April and October Friends of George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA

Quantity 4 Quality 5 Organization 5 Driveability 4 Parking 5

Hardcovers: \$3-5 Paperbacks: \$1 Books on tape: 50¢ per tape

Books recent, in great condition, well organized. Mysteries in one place, other books in several locations in library. Straight shot off Beltway. Sufficient parking.

September Am. Assn. of University Women, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean, VA www.mcleanaauw.org

Quantity 5 Quality 4 Organization 2 Driveability 3 Parking 5

Hardcovers: \$2 Paperbacks: \$1 Books on tape/CD: \$5

Room too small for quantity of books. Even on afternoon of second day, paperback mysteries piled 2-3 boxes deep under tables. Sufficient parking.

December River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Rd. (entrance around corner on Whittier Blvd.), Bethesda, MD www.rruuc.org. Click on Bazaar starting in November.

Quantity 3 Quality 5 Organization 5 Driveability 4 Parking 2

Hardcovers: \$2, 5 for \$8 Paperbacks: \$1, 5 for \$4 Books on tape : 50¢ per tape

Books on CD: \$2 per CD Half price at 1pm, \$2 a grocery bag (we provide) around 2pm.

Book sale is part of huge sale that fills every room in the church with donated jewelry, clothing, toys, sporting goods, etc. Lunch/snacks for sale. Not far off Beltway. Parking can be limited. I'm biased because my husband and I have chaired the book sale part for 15 years.

Legal Corner – by Audrey Liebross

This column is designed to introduce legal concepts often found in mysteries. If you are a writer, I hope to keep you from making common mistakes. If you are a fan, I hope to help you understand what you read in your favorite mysteries ... and to judge the accuracy of what you are reading.

Let's start with a concept familiar to all of us who have ever seen an arrest on TV or in the movies: the Miranda warnings. Miranda was a defendant who got a new trial because the police didn't warn him of his right to remain silent and to have a lawyer present when he was questioned. His confession was excluded at the new trial because of the lack of a warning. By the way, he was reconvicted even without the confession coming into evidence.

What's wrong with the following scenario? The police come to Mary's house and ask if she'd answer questions about her next door neighbor's murder. The case hasn't progressed very far and they don't have a suspect in mind. They read Mary her rights.

Did you catch the mistake? Mary is not a suspect, and needn't be warned. In fact, if police read the Miranda warnings to her, she might think she is a suspect and clam up, even if she has useful information that could lead to the perpetrator.

But what about if Mary IS a suspect, and the police don't have enough evidence to arrest her? They come to her door and ask to be invited in to speak to her. Now, they have to read her the warnings,

right? Wrong! Miranda applies only to custodial interrogation, and Mary is not in police custody -- she's sitting in her own living room and free to throw them out.

What about if the police appear at the door with a warrant for Mary's arrest? She is in custody even though she's still at home, and the police may not interrogate her without the Miranda warnings. That doesn't mean they won't try to obtain a confession through subtle techniques. One statement recently got a local police force in trouble: "I have a warrant for your arrest. I suppose you know why." This is the equivalent of interrogation, since the intent is for the suspect to make an incriminating statement: "Because I killed the lady next door." The police have to announce the arrest and give the warnings. THEN, they may say, "I suppose you know why we're taking you in."

How about if the police simply take a suspect in for questioning, but they don't have enough evidence to charge the individual? Do they have to give the warnings? Trick question! The police may not take someone in merely for questioning. They may ask them to come to the station voluntarily, but they can't order the person to comply. Why? Because that would be an arrest. This is a mistake that you'll see over and over in mysteries. The threat of a custodial interrogation moves the story, but it isn't legally accurate.

Finally, here's another trick question: A police officer sees Joe Schmo behaving suspiciously on the street, looking furtively around at a corner known for drug trafficking. If the police stop Joe, do they need to read him the Miranda warning? No. They are allowed to do a so-called "stop and frisk" on reasonable suspicion and if they find anything, they are allowed to arrest Joe. Once he is under arrest, they have to provide the warning.

I hope you find this brief foray into criminal procedure helpful. If you have any legal questions, feel free to email them to me at AHLiebross at Yahoo dot com. I will try to answer them in a future newsletter.

Next Newsletter

Please send your news to Audrey Liebross at chessienews@chessiechapter.org or by snail mail to: 7828 Ashley Glen Road, Annandale, VA 22003.

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