A short three months from now, Malice Domestic 29 will be a part of Malice history and we’ll all know who took home the coveted Agatha teapots. As usual, the focus in this issue of The Usual Suspects is the Agatha nominations. You’ll find the official announcement listing nominees in all categories later in this issue.

My duties are to give you some very important information and to make a very special announcement.

MALICE ANGELS

A few years ago, several members of the Malice community created a fund to be used to assist long-time Malice attendees who are financially unable to continue to attend the convention. The fund and final selection is administered by the Malice Domestic Board. If you are, or know someone who is, financially unable to attend Malice Domestic 29, please send an email to MaliceAngels@comcast.net. We are able to fund two individuals each year. Individuals selected to receive assistance will be given a full comprehensive registration to the convention. A comprehensive registration includes all events at the convention including the banquet on Saturday evening. The individual will still need to provide their own transportation to and from the convention as well as food and lodging for the weekend.

MALICE ANTHOLOGY

The second in the new Malice anthology series, Malice Domestic 12: Mystery Most Historical will be released in time for Malice Domestic 29. The anthology is being presented by Charlaine Harris, this year’s Lifetime Achievement Honoree, and published by Wildside Press. It gives me great pleasure in acknowledging the selection committee. They are Martin Edwards, Malice 29 Poirot Honoree; Kathy Lynn Emerson, and Art Taylor. The anthology includes invited stories by our Toastmaster, Marcia Talley; Guest of Honor, Elaine Viets; Martin Edwards, Poirot Honoree; and selection committee member, Kathy Lynn Emerson. In addition to these invitees, the anthology contains stories by: John Betancourt, Susanna Calkins, Carla Coupe, Susan Daly, P.A. DeVoe, Michael Dell, Carole Nelson Douglas, Peter Hayes, Nancy Herriman, K.B. Inglee, Su Kopil, Vivian Lawry, Edith Maxwell, Catriona McPherson, Kathryn O’Sullivan, K.B. Owen, Valerie Patterson, Keenan Powell, Mindy Quigley, Verena Rose, Shawn Reilly Simmons, Liz Milliron, Mark Thielman, Victoria Thompson, Charles Todd, and Georgia Wilson. As the editors, Shawn Reilly Simmons, Rita Owen, and I are very excited about this newest edition to the Malice Domestic anthology library. Don’t forget to pick up your copy in the Dealers’ Room in time for the group signing on Friday evening after the Charity Auction.

GENERAL INFORMATION

It never hurts to repeat important, helpful information that should make your convention experience as enjoyable as possible. The following is a reprint of information from a past newsletter. Since every year there are many first-time attendees it makes sense to repeat this information. While many of you are return attendees, there will
also be many first timers. To make life easier for all of you, I am including below a short list of things that will make your attendance at Malice enjoyable. Here are a few things to expect at Malice Domestic 29:

- No easels with signs will be used for general breakout sessions.
- For breakout rooms, easels with special posters will be on display outside the rooms for honoree interview sessions.
- A schedule will be posted each day of the convention showing all events for that day and the applicable locations. These schedules will be displayed on easels located at: REGISTRATION AREA; HOSPITALITY LOUNGE; AND LOWER LOBBY (BANQUET ROOM LOBBY).
- Electronic boards located to the side of each meeting room will indicate which panel will be held in that room. These boards will be updated as each cycle of panels change.
- Large electronic boards used to post the daily schedules are located in the main lobby of the hotel (near check-in), at the base of the escalators on the first meeting room level, and on the lower lobby level on the wall next to the elevators.
- The daily schedule will be displayed on the hotel channel on the TV in your room.
- We would also like to encourage you to keep your At-A-Glance handy to help guide you through your day.
- Those of you with smart phones may want to download the Program Schedule once it is posted online.

It always gives me great pleasure to make the honoree announcements. So, again, the honorees for Malice Domestic 29 are:

- Toastmaster—Marcia Talley
- Guest of Honor—Elaine Viets
- Lifetime Achievement Honoree—Charlaine Harris
- Poirot Award—Martin Edwards
- Fan Guest of Honor—Luci Zahray
- Malice Remembers—Bill Deeck

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

Malice will be moving in 2018! Yes, you read correctly. Malice Domestic will be moving to a new facility for its 30th anniversary. There have been, and continue to be, many changes at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda. In an effort to improve the convention experience for our attendees, the Board of Directors decided to move Malice Domestic to the **Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center**. The facility is about 3 miles north of the Hyatt and is conveniently located close to the Metro line. There is a new center across the street called Pike & Rose which boasts an iPic theatre, numerous restaurants, and shops.

For those of you who attended Malice when we were at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, this facility will look very familiar. As in Crystal City, there are many places for a conference attendee to sit and read or relax and visit with friends. There is also a spacious restaurant as well as a large enclosed bar with an outdoor patio fully equipped with comfortable seating and heating elements for nippy evenings.

The Board and I are very excited about the new venue and we’ll have more detailed information to report in the upcoming months. In addition to the new site, we’ve got a spectacular lineup of honorees. So mark your calendars now for Malice Domestic 30 – April 27 to April 29, 2018.

And now I’ll take my leave with a final reminder – Each year Malice Domestic is one of the best mystery conventions in the world and Malice Domestic 29 will prove no different. So, fair warning, if you haven’t already done so, I strongly urge you to register as soon as possible. Seats for the banquet are limited and they are close to selling out. There are also a limited number of basic registrations, as well.

Until I see you this April, I remain,

Most maliciously yours,
Verena Rose, Chair
*****ATTENTION*****

MALICE ANGELS

Are you or someone you know in need of assistance to attend Malice Domestic?

If so, a group of anonymous individuals have put together a fund to assist up to two individuals each year by providing funding to cover a comprehensive registration. This registration type includes all events at the convention including the banquet on Saturday evening. You will still need to provide your own transportation to and from the convention as well as food and lodging for the weekend.

Please contact us at MaliceAngels@comcast.net. We would like to make the notification(s) for Malice Domestic 29 (April 28-April 30, 2017) prior to the December 31, 2016 deadline so that recipient(s) will be able to receive a nomination ballot.

Would you like to be a part of the Malice Angels sponsorships?

We would welcome additional funds from the Malice community to ensure that this program is able to continue for many years to come. Unfortunately, this cannot be considered a charitable contribution, however, it is still a very worthy cause. Please contact us at MaliceAngels@comcast.net if you would like to contribute to the sponsorship fund.

The Malice Angels is an anonymous program organized to enable those in the Malice community who are in need of financial assistance to continue attending the convention.
Many hands make light work and Malice Domestic 29 can only succeed with the addition of some more willing hands. From set-up in the Hospitality Lounge and Rita's office on Thursday morning (around 10:00 a.m.) until tear-down on Sunday afternoon, your willingness to help is immeasurable! If you know where you would like to assist us, please let me know, by email at volunteers.murphy@gmail.com or by mail, addressed to the Malice Post Office Box.

The envelope must be addressed as follows:

Malice Domestic
P.O. Box 8007
Gaithersburg, MD 20898-8007
Attn: Volunteers or Anne Murphy (in lower left-hand corner of envelope)

If you're not sure where you'd like to assist us, please plan to attend Malice 101 and/or Volunteers 101 on Friday morning to hear what is needed and when. Some places most in need of coverage are the panels. Two monitors (not moderators) are assigned to each room to put out panelists' name tags, check for fresh water, count the house, and give the moderators a "heads up" when there are 10 and 5 minutes left on the schedule. We'll pair up new workers with some of our more experienced ones, so no one is left floundering.

As soon as our marvelous program chair, Janet Powell, posts the schedule online, PLEASE let me know where you'd like to volunteer. PRETTY PLEASE, don't say "I'll decide when I get there." In the past that has led to frantic scrambles to make sure all panels were covered. Making your mind up ahead of time will help you get to the sessions you particularly want to see.

Many thanks to all who have helped in the past and an early Thank You to those who will be helping this year, especially those tried and true who have already been in contact!

As usual, those who work 4 hours or more will receive our special Malice Domestic gift.

Anne R. Murphy
Coordinator of Volunteers
IMPORTANT—REGISTERED AUTHORS

If you are a registered author and have not submitted your 75-word bio and photo for the Program Book or need to update a submitted bio, please send as soon as possible. **The deadline of March 1, 2017 is final.** If your bio and photo are not received by March 1, they will not be included in the Program Book.

Send to: malicepublications@verizon.net

Maximum word count for your bio: **75 words**, plus a website address and/or blog address.

We can use your existing photo on file if you do not have a new photo this year. For first-time attendee authors, please send a file at least 100KB in size. Larger is better—jpg or tif format preferred.

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BE AN OFFICIAL MALICE 29 PHOTOGRAPHER

We need photographs of each panel at Malice. The main events—honoree interviews and panels, opening ceremonies, banquet, Tea—will be covered by our official photographers.

We need volunteers to photograph panels. Can you commit to photographing one or more panels? Many of you have digital photo capabilities with your cellphones or bring a digital camera to Malice. If you help us out, we can ensure that every panel is covered this year.

What we would like is a general panel shot (middle distance, showing all panelists with their name tents), plus one “class photo” of the panelists. General convention shots are also needed: people congregating, Hospitality Lounge, banquet tables, etc.

Photographers who sign up will be asked which panels they would like to cover after the conference schedule is posted online and in the April TUS.

If you are willing to help out, please contact Rita Owen at malicepublications@verizon.net.
Happy February! We’re doing well with folks booking their rooms and, aside from needing to change a few check-in/check-out dates, I haven’t heard of many problems, which is great! I did hear from someone inquiring about roommates so I suggested they put an ad in the TUS. You may want to check and see if someone is looking to share a room.

Hopefully everyone has checked out the website and found where to book your hotel room online at the Malice rate. To make reservations, you can go to our link on the web page or you can call the hotel at 1-888-421-1442. (If you call that number, you will be directed to corporate reservations and they may not be familiar with our event.) Let them know you are with Malice Domestic and use the code MAL5. If you are informed that rooms are sold out, you may want to call the Bethesda Hyatt directly at 301-657-1234.

The rates are: Single or Double: $195 per night; Triple: $220 per night; and Quadruple: $245 per night. The Malice rates are guaranteed until 25 March 2017, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. You can book early and not have your card charged anything if you cancel at least 48 hours before you are scheduled to arrive. If you DO have any problems booking for the so-called “shoulder nights” (Tues/Weds/Thurs or Sunday), let me know as soon as possible. I will do what I can to make certain you get the nights you need. In the meantime, if you plan to arrive early, you can check to see if the Hyatt has rooms available (at non-Malice rates) or check with one of these other nearby accommodations: Residence Inn, 800-331-3131; Hilton Garden Inn, 301-654-8111; or Bethesda Court Hotel, 301-656-2100.

All the Hyatt rooms have been renovated to include a safe and a refrigerator so that will no longer need to be a special request. Check-in time is 4:00 pm and checkout time is noon. If you arrive early, the concierge desk will be happy to store your luggage in a room behind the desk until your room is ready for check-in.

There is also some hotel information at the Bethesda Hyatt web site, including hotel amenities, map and directions, parking and a fact sheet. For the full story on the hotel, you can visit their basic webpage at: http://bethesda.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html

Because of renovations to the hotel, they are no longer pet friendly although if you have a service animal and can provide documentation, they will be accommodated.

FOR PEOPLE WISHING TO MAIL THINGS TO THE HOTEL:

In an effort to improve the system and avoid any issues we may have had in the past, we are asking folks to COLOR-CODE their labels, depending on who is sending what. No, you don’t have to have a colored label, just find a highlighter and mark up the address with that specified color! Thanks!

If you are shipping books for the registration bags, please highlight address with yellow and use: Hyatt Regency Bethesda, ATTN: Joni Langevoort – Bag Stuffing Room, One Bethesda Metro Center, Bethesda MD 20814

If you are shipping books for the dealers room, please highlight address with green and use: Hyatt Regency Bethesda, ATTN: Marian Lesko/Dealer’s Name – Dealers Room, One Bethesda Metro Center, Bethesda MD 20814

If you are shipping books or other materials to yourself and have a reservation at the hotel in your name, please highlight address with pink and use: Hyatt Regency Bethesda, ATTN: [Your Name]/Date of Arrival/Malice Domestic, One Bethesda Metro Center, Bethesda MD 20814

If you have any trouble, please E-mail me at MaliceHotel@aol.com. I will try my best to help everyone find accommodations.

I am really looking forward to seeing my longtime friends again and meeting new ones at Malice Domestic 29! If we haven’t met, I’ll be the one running around with a walkie-talkie in hand. Please stop me and introduce yourself so I can say hello! Hope to see you there.

Caroline Craig, Hotel Liaison
Publishers and Authors — Have you ever wondered how you can increase your visibility at Malice Domestic? There are so many opportunities for panels and signings, such as the Mystery Scene New Authors Breakfast and the fun Malice-Go-Round, but there are other opportunities as well. I have some suggestions!

Did you know you can reserve an ad in the Program Book? Information on advertising specifications, deadlines, and rates can be found in this issue of TUS.

The first and easiest way to participate at Malice is to send books for the attendees’ tote bags. There is no cost to you to do this aside from shipping, and the only restriction on titles is that we cannot accept those that are currently nominated for an Agatha Award; past Agatha-winning titles are fine, as are other titles by current Agatha nominees. We welcome any number of titles; we expect attendance to be between 500 and 600, and while it’s truly lovely to receive a book (or two!) for each bag from a sponsor, we graciously and thankfully accept a box or two or ten to be distributed among bags on bag stuffing day. Magazines and cards for downloadable books are also accepted.

Another great way to increase your reach at Malice is to sponsor a morning’s or afternoon’s coffee and beverage service. The cost to you is $1,200, which gives you access to a portion of the hospitality lounge to set up a display, hold a book signing, visit with fans, hold a raffle, give away goodies, and promote your books in other creative ways. Everyone at Malice stops by the hospitality lounge and the beverage sponsorship gives you time and space to chat with readers (and potential readers). For an additional cost, snacks can be served with the beverages; this raises the price by varied amounts, but plan on at least $1,000. The hotel does a lovely job with this!

An even more exciting—but more expensive—option is to sponsor the desserts at our charity auction on Friday evening. The hotel provides a yummy array of chocolate and non-chocolate desserts to nosh on while we bid on fabulous items to benefit KEEN (www.keengreaterdc.org).

The Agatha Tea on Sunday afternoon provides an elegant setting for teas, scones, those cute little sandwiches we all love, and more of the hotel chef’s yummy desserts, and being a sponsor of the tea is another possibility.

Let me know if you’d like to talk about these sponsorships, and we’ll see how we could maximize the exposure for your generosity. Contact Joni Langevoort at maliceads@gmail.com.

As always, Malice is extremely grateful to all of its sponsors. Whether you send a box of books for the bags or host a round of beverage service, you will be thanked publicly and profusely in personal remarks from the Chair, in signage at the convention, in the program materials, and on the website. Sponsors for beverages are also thanked with additional signage and are given one free complimentary full page ad in the program book, a perk valued at $325.

Joni Langevoort, Publisher Liaison and Advertising Director
2016 Agatha Award Nominations

Best Contemporary Novel

Body on the Bayou by Ellen Byron
Quiet Neighbors by Catriona McPherson
A Great Reckoning by Louise Penny
Fogged Inn by Barbara Ross
Say No More by Hank Phillippi Ryan

Best Historical Novel

Whispers Beyond the Veil by Jessica Estevao
Get Me to the Grave on Time by D.E. Ireland
Delivering the Truth by Edith Maxwell
The Reek of Red Herrings by Catriona McPherson
Murder in Morningside Heights by Victoria Thompson
**Best First Novel**

Terror in Taffeta by Marla Cooper  
Murder in G Major by Alexia Gordon  
The Semester of Our Discontent by Cynthia Kuhn  
Decanting a Murder by Nadine Nettmann  
Design for Dying by Renee Patrick

**Best Nonfiction**

Mastering Suspense, Structure, and Plot: How to Write Gripping Stories That Keep Readers on the Edge of Their Seats by Jane K. Cleland  
A Good Man with a Dog: A Game Warden’s 25 Years in the Maine Woods by Roger Guay with Kate Clark Flora  
Sara Paretsky: A Companion to the Mystery Fiction by Margaret Kinsman
**Best Short Story**

"Double Jinx: A Bellissimo Casino Crime Caper Short Story" by Gretchen Archer
"The Best-Laid Plans" by Barb Goffman in *Malice Domestic 11: Murder Most Conventional*
"The Mayor and the Midwife" by Edith Maxwell in *Blood on the Bayou: Bouchercon Anthology 2016*
"The Last Blue Glass" by B.K. Stevens in *Alfred Hitchcock’s Mystery Magazine*
"Parallel Play" by Art Taylor in *Chesapeake Crimes: Storm Warning*

Links to read the nominated stories are available at [http://www.malicedomestic.org/agathaawards.html](http://www.malicedomestic.org/agathaawards.html)

**Best Children's/Young Adult Novel**

Trapped: A Mei-hua Adventure by P.A. DeVoe
Spy Ski School by Stuart Gibbs
Tag, You’re Dead by J C Lane
The Mystery of Hollow Places by Rebecca Podos
The Secret of the Puzzle Box: The Code Busters Club by Penny Warner

*The Usual Suspects* is published by Malice Domestic Ltd.
It is with the deepest sadness that the Malice board shares with the Malice community the news that our own beloved Ruth Sickafus, former board member and Malice 24 Fan Guest of Honor, passed away suddenly on January 2, 2017.

Ruth was a model of grace, service, elegance, warmth, intelligence, and passion. Her passion for the arts led her to positions as varied as Executive Director of the People to People Music Committee; chair of the Washington International Competition for young performance artists; administrator of the National Opera Institute; and staff member of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, at the time of its opening in 1971.

Her passion for travel led her on journeys to more than 50 countries on six continents, lacking only Antarctica to complete the set! She was usually accompanied by her beloved husband Chuck, whom Ruth called her “bonny travel companion”, and who preceded her in death in 2010.

But it was her passion for books that led most of us to know Ruth. She had loved books in general and mysteries in particular since her Nancy Drew days, and so ably and graciously served the Malice board as secretary, treasurer, and archivist. Some of you may remember her lovely speech accepting the Fan Guest of Honor award at Malice 24, where she spoke about the power of books to transform lives. I had the privilege of being asked to write her tribute article for the Malice 24 program book, and I began with the comment that the words “elegance”, “style”, and “grace” were epitomized by my friend Ruth Sickafus. This will always be true, and Ruth will always be sorely missed.

– Joni Langevoort
Meg Chittenden, a popular and prolific novelist, passed away on Dec. 29, 2016 at age 83 from health complications. The author, who lived most of her life in Lakewood, Washington, penned 33 novels and more than 100 short stories. Meg wrote traditional mysteries, suspense, mainstream fiction, romance, and children’s fiction. She was also an energetic wife, mother to two and grandmother of five.

Although Meg’s health led her to stop attending Malice a few years ago, I still see her in my mind: a slender lady of indeterminate age turned out in a stylish tailored pantsuit and silk blouse. Her soft white hair was styled in a classic pageboy, her blue eyes sparkled, and she had a genuine smile that never stopped. I think Meg smiled as much as she did because she was content with the life she’d created for herself: an adventure nobody would have predicted.

Margaret Rosalind Barrass was born in a coal-mining community in Northern England in 1933. As a child, she lived in a gloomy world of air raids, rationing, and few expectations for women. Meg’s fortunes were different because she was the only student at her primary school who passed the examinations allowing her to enroll in an academically-focused grammar school. After finishing her studies, she went to London and worked as an assistant in the British Civil Service, and later at a film studio.

At nineteen, she met Jim Chittenden, a handsome American Airman at a dance at an NCO Club during a chilly July. Noticing she had a tan, he sought her out and asked her where she’d found the sun. They danced, and their whirlwind romance turned to a marriage lasting 63 years. The couple had two children and five grandchildren.

Meg toured the US and Japan during Jim’s tours with the air force. After their children, Steve and Sharon, reached their teens, Meg began focused on getting published. Around 1970 she began writing articles and short stories, first for local newspapers, and then in national publications like Good Housekeeping and Ladies Home Journal. By the mid-seventies Meg was busily writing children’s novels, suspense and romance, often using the name Rosamond Carson, a combination of her and Jim’s middle names. After Jim retired, the two settled in the Ocean Shores area of Washington State, and he became his wife’s chauffeur and navigator as she went about doing research. Several of her books hit the bestseller lists at Waldenbooks, B. Dalton, and USA Today.

In 1979, a senior editor at Harlequin invited Meg to lunch and asked if she’d write books for the publisher’s new venture: the “Superromance.” These novels would be much longer hotter than the sweet romances of the era. Meg told a reporter for The Internet Writing Journal, “He dangled print runs in huge numbers in front of my dazzled eyes, and I agreed immediately.” During this era, Sharon recalls Steve, who was then in college, reading one of Meg’s romance novels. Shocked, he asked his mother how she’d learned what she wrote about. Smoothly, she told him she had a terrific imagination.

Meg’s true interest, however, was never in the explicit or gritty. According to Sharon, she was determined to write mysteries with realistic characters and situations. Sharon recalls telling Meg about events in her life only to have her mother say, “Wait while I get a pen!”

When Sharon was living in San Francisco and was caught up in the 1989 earthquake, her pet rabbit was lost amid falling furniture in the apartment. That scene of a young woman desperately looking for her beloved rabbit who twitches back to life became the opener of the Charlie Plato series.

“When Sharon told me the stories, I immediately knew that was how my series was going to start,” Meg told the Internet Writing Journal. “The plot developed from there. I should perhaps mention that I have no imagination—I write from life. My life, your life, my kids’ lives, anything I hear about or experience.”

With Charlie Plato, Meg’s mystery career reached its highest point in the 1990s. Meg loved the series she was writing for Kensington. She was a thorough researcher, learning to handle firearms, line-dance, and interviewing police.

At conventions, Meg made many dear friends. She and Rhys Bowen were nicknamed the English Roses because of their origins and similar look. They occasionally dressed identically at conventions to confuse fans even further.

Elaine Viets remembers meeting Meg on a panel about detectives with pets. “She was so funny and charming. The packed audience hung onto every word and I thought, “Some day I’d like to be as popular as Meg.” Meg’s kindness and charm endeared her to many, including fans and writers who were new to Malice. She was also, according to Elaine, “a man magnet.”

Thriller writers Lee Child and Barry Eisler were among Meg’s favorite male writer friends.

When she wasn’t working on her own writing or teaching others, Meg sang soprano with a chorus, hiked the rain forest and beach, and danced to the Rolling Stones and Creedence Clearwater Revival. She was a vital force in the mystery community and will be talked about this year, and in years to come.

— Sujata Massey
WORKSHOP


ONLINE

Let your character have their “day in the life” at dru’s book musings. Go to http://drusbookmusing.com for more information and if you’re interested, please contact Dru Ann at drusbookmusing@gmail.com

AUTHOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Agatha nominee Victoria Thompson hopes you didn’t miss her latest Gaslight Mystery, Murder in Morningside Heights. Frank Malloy and his new bride, Sarah Brandt, adjust to life in New York high society as they investigate a death in the field of higher learning. www.victoriathompson.com
Lea Wait is excited to announce the fall 2016 publication of her Shadows on a Morning in Maine: An Antique Print Mystery and Dangling By a Thread: A Mainely Needlepoint Mystery. (Mainely Needlepoint is a USA Today best-selling series!) Plus - pre-order Tightening the Threads, due out in March!

Duffy Brown has signed a two-book deal with Crooked Lane Books continuing her Consignment Shop series set in Savannah and the Cycle Path series set on Mackinac Island.


Deaths In Hollywood 1942, by Gay Toltl Kinman. Featuring LAPD Officer Agnes Graham and Hollywood P.I. Marlowe in two short stories—“Neither Tarnished Nor Afraid” and “Mean Streets” — and novella, Man of Honor, set in July, August, and September of 1942

Gay Toltl Kinman’s The Play’s the Thing is a collection of 20 plays from Ten-Minute to Three-Act, encompassing humor, biography—and, of course, mystery. Most of the plays have been produced. See Baskets to Jade at https://vimeo.com/channels/cadt

Coming March 21, Single Malt Murder by Melinda Mullet. The first novel in the Whisky Business Mystery Series blending fine spirits with chilling mystery. There are secrets lurking in the misty glens that some will go to any lengths to protect . . . even murder. Alibi - Penguin/Random House.


Fifteen years before Violet Harper becomes a well-known undertaker-sleuth, a nurse named Florence Nightingale is also following a difficult road to respect in a profession viewed with suspicion. Nightingale will soon find herself torn between saving her patients...and her reputation. Coming in spring 2018 from Christine Trent and Crooked Lane Books:


Body on the Bayou, the second in Ellen Byron’s Cajun Country Mystery series, has been nominated for an Agatha Award in the Category of Best Contemporary Novel, as well as a Lefty Award in the category of Best Humorous Mystery.

Potter Shandra Higheagle’s Nez Perce grandmother visits her dreams, revealing clues that help Shandra discover murderers. These books by Paty Jager – filled with mystery, romance, small town, and Native American heritage – are now available in ebook boxsets. http://www.patyjager.net/mystery.html

Nancy G. West’s *River City Dead, Aggie Mundeen Mystery #4*, released from Henery Press. Aggie and Detective Sam plan their first rendezvous at a San Antonio River Walk hotel during Fiesta Week. Even in River City, murder complicates a relationship. [http://tinyurl.com/RiverCityDead](http://tinyurl.com/RiverCityDead) [www.nancygwest.com](http://www.nancygwest.com)

Ken Sligo was just back from WWII and now a Private Investigator. Instinct told him not to meet with a stranger at Baltimore's Penn Station, but he needed all the money he could get—just not the heartache that followed. *The Killers Are Coming* by Jack Bludis is set in 1946, Baltimore.

*Murder, Curlers, and Cream*, by Arlene McFarlane. Valentine Beaumont has a wacky staff, a dying business, and a dead client who was strangled while awaiting her facial. She’ll do anything to untangle the crime. That’s if she can keep her tools-of-the-trade in her bag, stay alive, and avoid falling for tough Detective Romero. How hard can that be?

Edith Maxwell is delighted and honored to join her fellow nominees in both the Best Historical Mystery category and the Best Short Story category. The second *Quaker Midwife Mystery, Called to Justice*, releases April 8. Maxwell’s third *Country Store Mystery, When the Grits Hit the Fan* (written as Maddie Day), releases March 28.

Ilene Schneider announces the publication by Aakenbaaken and Kent of the third book in the award-winning *Rabbi Aviva Cohen Mystery Series, Yom Killer*. Her books can be purchased as trade paperbacks and ebooks online at Amazon and Barnes and Noble, and is distributed to bookstores and libraries through Ingram.

When state archaeologists open a suspicious trunk buried in *Nantucket’s landfill*, the contents reactivate intense interest in the Baby Alice Spenser kidnapping of 1921. Family scandals from the gilded past are revealed. *No Rest for the Wicked*, Book 3 in Martha Reed’s award-winning *Nantucket Mystery Series*. Visit [www.reedmenow.com](http://www.reedmenow.com) for details.

Agatha Nominee! In “The Last Blue Glass” by B.K. Stevens, a young widow thinks back on her marriage as she prepares dinner for four friends and family members. She holds one of them responsible for her husband’s death, and she wants justice. Which guest has she targeted, and what is she planning to do? This Agatha nominee for Best Short Story was first published in Alfred Hitchcock’s Mystery Magazine. You can read it at [http://www.bkstevensmysteries.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/LastBlueGlass.pdf](http://www.bkstevensmysteries.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/LastBlueGlass.pdf)

**Short Story Collection: Her Infinite Variety: Tales of Women and Crime** (B.K. Stevens, Wildside Press) includes eleven stories of various lengths, types, and tones, from humorous novella-length whodunits to a dark flash fiction suspense story. Most were first published in Alfred Hitchcock’s Mystery Magazine. Stories include Agatha, Macavity, and Derringer finalists, along with the winner of a contest judged by Mary Higgins Clark. In every story, women take center stage—as detectives, victims, criminals, or some combination. Available at Amazon. “Stevens' irresistible sparkling wit and style start on the first page and never let up!”—Kaye George, national bestselling author


The discovery of a rare, valuable magazine in the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop takes the highly perceptive Gemma Doyle and her ever-confused friend Jayne Wilson deep into the world of Sherlockiana. Fans of Sherlock will delight in the sleuthing duo of Gemma and Jayne in *Elementary, She Read* by Vicki Delany.
First Ladies Mystery series by Barbara Schlichting. Historical characters make Modern history. Welcome to the White House Dollhouse shop. Liv must pursue the killer and locate our national treasure, the Star Spangled Banner manuscript. Will Liv unearth Mr. Lincoln's Lost Speech in time? The Blood Spangled Banner. If Words Could Kill.

Set in 1584 England, Kathy Lynn Emerson’s Murder in a Cornish Alehouse, 3rd Mistress Jaffrey Mystery, will be out just in time for Malice. This series is a spinoff from the Face Down Series and features Rosamond, illegitimate daughter of Lady Appleton’s late unlamented husband, as the amateur sleuth.


The End Is Here! 28 books long, 25 years in the making, Midnight Louie, feline PI, and his pro-am human detectives, Temple Barr, Lt. Carmen Molina, Matt Devine and Max Kinsella conquer all current and unsolved crimes in Cat in an Alphabet Endgame. Hardcover, trade paperback, ebook and audiobook. www.carolenelsondouglas.com

Connie di Marco’s All Signs Point to Murder (Book 2 in the Zodiac Mysteries, August 2017) is available for pre-order now. San Francisco astrologer Julia Bonatti never thought murder would be part of her practice. Untangling the clues to reveal a murderer, she’ll find her answers in the stars. Learn more at www.ConniediMarco.com.

Kate Flora’s Agatha-nominated memoir A Good Man with a Dog explores an unusual corner of the public safety world—that of a game warden. Roger Guay and his canines protect fish and game and search for the lost and the dead, until post-Katrina New Orleans causes PTSD that threatens his ability to do the job he loves.


SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Submissions open now for two crime anthologies: Noir at the Salad Bar, Culinary Tales with a Bite; and Snowbound: The Best New England Crime Stories 2017. Visit LevelBestBooks.com for submission requirements.

FROM THE MALICE COMMUNITY—DISCLAIMER

Malice Domestic offers “From the Malice Community” for the convenience of the Malice Domestic participants. However, the Board does not warrant the accuracy of the announcements. Any arrangements made in response to these announcements are the sole responsibility of the participants. The Board is not responsible for the success of such arrangements.
Come join us for Malice 29!

There are many reasons for taking out an ad in the Malice Domestic 29 Program Book:

- Maximize exposure of attending authors
- Remind readers about currently available or upcoming books
- Salute Agatha Awards nominees
- Attract new fans -- and greet faithful ones

Whatever the reason, ads create and foster that intangible bond between author and reader. Malice's advertising rates are a bargain, with no increase in price over last year — and the ads truly are a great investment!

In no other genre do fans feel a closer personal link or develop such partisan support for their favorite authors. An ad in the Malice Domestic 29 Program Book is a great way to begin or encourage readership in a perfectly targeted audience — an audience that will share its opinions with friends and fellow enthusiasts back home as well.

Reserve your space now by completing the form on the attached specifications/rate sheet and returning it with the appropriate payment or invoicing information to me at the advertising address of 9511 Bent Creek Ln., Vienna VA 22182. You don't need to decide on the ad copy immediately; the actual copy can come in later (see form for deadlines).

We hope you will want to be represented in the Malice Domestic 29 Program Book. If you have any questions, please call me at 703-757-7535 or email me at maliceads@gmail.com

Joni Langevoort
Publisher Liaison and Advertising Director
Malice Domestic 29
April 28 – April 30, 2017

PROGRAM BOOK ADVERTISING SPECIFICATIONS & RATES

PROGRAM SPECIFICATIONS:
Trim size: 8.5” x 11”
Live image area: 7.25” x 9.825”
No bleed.
Ink: Black only interior.
(full color – CMYK covers.)

RATES

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<table>
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<tr>
<td>Inside cover (Back, full page only):</td>
<td>$350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside cover (Front, full page only):</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back cover (full page only):</td>
<td>$425</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interior pages:
- Full page: $325
- Half page: $250
- Quarter page: $200

AD FORMAT – high res PDF:
Save ad as GRAYSCALE PDF (CMYK for covers). High resolution / ready for high quality print.
Link all images and embed all fonts. If fonts are not embedded they may not print correctly.

Ad can also be a TIF, at least 300 dpi (dots per inch). Any question about file formats, please email Rita Owen at malicepublications@verizon.net.

(Include a printout of your ad with your order to document correct look.)

SIZES/CONFIGURATIONS

Full Page:
- 7.25” X 9.825”

Half Page:
- 7.25” X 4.75”

Quarter Page:
- 3.5” X 4.75”

DEADLINES ARE FIRM!
RESERVE EARLY: Please facilitate program production by reserving your ad space as early as possible.
Complete the reservation form and send with payment no later than March 1, 2017. Email maliceads@gmail.com

Ad files must be submitted by March 15, 2017
Ads that are not electronic, or camera-ready, can be created for an additional charge: Submit by 2/15/17.
$95 quarter page • $150 half page • $250 full page • For ad creation, email malicepublications@verizon.net
Malice Domestic 29  
April 28 – April 30, 2017  

Program Advertising Reservation/Insertion Form  
(Please use a separate form for each ad requested. Photocopy this form as needed.)

Please reserve advertising space in the Malice Domestic 29 Program Book as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covers: (ads are full color – CMYK)</th>
<th>Inside Back Cover (7.25” x 9.825”)</th>
<th>$350</th>
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<tr>
<td>Inside Front Cover (7.25” x 9.825”)</td>
<td>$350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Back Cover (8” x 10.5”)</td>
<td>$425</td>
<td>SOLD</td>
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<tr>
<th>Interior pages: (ads are grayscale)</th>
<th>Full page:</th>
<th>$325</th>
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<td>Half page vertical:</td>
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<td>Half page horizontal:</td>
<td>$250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quarter page:</td>
<td>$200</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Additional artwork fees to create ads from unformatted material:
- Full page – $250
- Half page – $150
- Quarter Page – $95

Covers are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis using date the space reservation/payment is received. 
In the event of a tie, a random drawing will be made.

Payment Enclosed: $_________
Please Invoice: $_________ Purchase Order #_________
Name______________________________
Company______________________________
Address______________________________
City/State/Zip__________________________
Phone________________ Fax________________
Email______________________________

RESERVATION DEADLINE: March 1, 2017. Please retain a copy of this form for your records. If you are not sending ad file with this form at this time, please make a second copy of the form to accompany ad copy when it is sent. Thank you.
Malice Domestic 29
Hyatt Regency—Bethesda, Maryland USA
April 28 — April 30, 2017

Join our honorees...

Guest of Honor
Elaine Viets

Toastmaster
Marcia Talley

Lifetime Achievement
Charlaine Harris

Fan Guest of Honor
Luci Zahray

Poirot Award
Martin Edwards

Malice Remembers
Bill Deeck

...plus lots of other mystery authors and fans!

We expect more than 190 authors

Visit our informative website for all the latest news:
www.MaliceDomestic.org
or contact MDRegServices@gmail.com
Now taking credit cards for registration.
Celebrate the Classic Mystery!

Malice Domestic is a convention of fans and authors who gather each spring in the Washington, D.C., area to celebrate the traditional mystery—typified by the works of Agatha Christie (no excessive gore, gratuitous violence, or explicit sex, thank you very much).

Come Dressed to Kill!

The highlight of our celebration is the Agatha Awards Banquet where we present the traditional Agatha teapot for the Best Contemporary Novel, Best Historical Novel, Best First Mystery Novel, Best Short Story, Best Nonfiction and Best Children’s/YA Mystery Novel. The Agatha Awards have become an internationally recognized honor, so feel free to put on your best glitz, come dressed as your favorite sleuth, or wear something that harks back to the days of the first Golden Age of mysteries—whatever will contribute to your enjoyment of the proceedings. Agathas are fan-nominated and voted on by all of the registered attendees of the convention.

Have Fun!

Have a rousing good time from Friday’s Welcome Reception, special events, and Charity Auction to Sunday’s Closing Festivities and afternoon tea. Chow down, attend panels, make friends, chat with your favorite authors, get your books signed, and visit the Dealers Room (you’ll be amazed at what’s there).

Join in!

Malice is organized and put on by a group of dedicated volunteers—and you can be one of them. Get involved on-site by monitoring panels or book signings, stuffing registration packets, handing out badges, or staffing the hospitality lounge. Malice Volunteers 101 on Friday will tell you all about it.

We Can’t Wait to See You!

During the 29 years Malice Domestic has honored the traditional mystery, we’ve brought mystery fans from around the world together with some of their favorite authors, introduced a whole host of new writers in the field, and helped foster a lot of friendships. Frankly, it’s those friendships built on shared interests that make Malice special. Although we are much more than “cozies” in terms of mysteries, we think our cozy ambience is what draws people back year after year after year.

If you’ve never been to Malice, make this your year to come. If you haven’t been here in a while, come back and see how much fun you’ve been missing.

What’s In It for You?

- Opportunities to mingle with your favorite authors at our Welcome Reception and Closing Festivities.
- A continental breakfast to meet the new authors.
- Malice’s informative newsletter, The Usual Suspects.
- The right to nominate your favorites for the prestigious Agatha Awards (register by 12/31/16).
- The right to vote for the Agatha Awards.
- Registration packet goodies (free books!).
- A souvenir program book for autographs.
- Three days of non-stop fun!

Are you a writer in waiting?

Malice supports the continued growth of the traditional mystery through its Malice Grants competition, which provides a monetary grant to an aspiring writer. After Malice 29, check our website for information about the 2018 Grant process, or write: Malice Domestic Ltd., P.O. Box 8007, Gaithersburg, MD 20898-8007 or email inquiries to MaliceGrants@comcast.net.

Visit our informative website for all the latest news: www.MaliceDomestic.org or contact: MDRegServices@gmail.com
**Malice Domestic 29**

April 28 – April 30, 2017
Hyatt Regency, Bethesda, Maryland, USA

Please check your registration preference and fill out other appropriate sections. [Please PRINT or type.]

### Comprehensive Registration

Entitles you to:
- Convention activities, including Welcome Reception, New Authors Breakfast, and Closing Festivities
- Voting for the Agatha Awards
- Souvenir Program Book
- Access to The Usual Suspects newsletter online
- Saturday’s Agatha Awards Banquet

$330 (January 1–April 15, 2017 if space is available)

### Banquet Meal Choice:
- Regular
- Vegetarian

### Basic Registration

Entitles you to:
- Everything in the Comprehensive Registration except the Banquet.

$280 (January 1–April 15, 2017 if space is available)

$295 (Onsite, if space is available)

### Agatha Awards Banquet Tickets

To add banquet tickets to your basic registration or obtain banquet only tickets, please contact the registrar by April 15, 2017 at 301-730-1675 or MDRegServices@gmail.com.

### Audio/Photo Release

By completing your registration for Malice Domestic, you agree to be photographed and recorded and grant us permission to use your image or recorded voice in our printed or online materials.

### Can’t Attend? Be a Friend…

Receive the souvenir Program Book of Malice Domestic 29, access to The Usual Suspects newsletter online, and a special Malice memento. To be a Friend, contact the registrar at MDRegServices@gmail.com or 301-730-1675 or visit the website www.MaliceDomestic.org to obtain the Friend’s form. ($50 U.S.)

---

### Payment:

To use your Visa or MasterCard credit card, go to Malice’s website at www.MaliceDomestic.org to register and pay online. To pay by check, please make your check payable to Malice Domestic and send your payment along with this registration form to: Malice Domestic Registration, P.O. Box 8007, Gaithersburg, MD 20898-8007. You should receive a confirmation letter within three weeks.

### Can’t Attend? Be a Friend…

Receive the souvenir Program Book of Malice Domestic 29, access to The Usual Suspects newsletter online, and a special Malice memento. To be a Friend, contact the registrar at MDRegServices@gmail.com or 301-730-1675 or visit the website www.MaliceDomestic.org to obtain the Friend’s form. ($50 U.S.)
Mystery Author Information Section—Malice 29

This information is used for planning the program and panel assignments. To be considered an author at Malice Domestic 29, you must have had at least one mystery novel, one nonfiction mystery or three mystery short stories traditionally published by April 28, 2017. Malice’s definition of traditional publication is available at http://www.malicedomestic.org/conventionprogram.html. Note: If you’ve had only short stories published or haven’t had a new book released in the last few years, you will likely only be offered a spot as a moderator.

Name under which you write ________________________________________________

Any other name under which you write ______________________________________

Phone __________________________ E-mail __________________________

Website address _______________________ Blog address ______________________

★ Will your first mystery be published between Malice Domestic 28 and 29? □ Yes □ No

Do you wish to be on a PANEL? □ Yes □ No  Do you want a SIGNING TIME? □ Yes □ No

What have you published? □ novels □ novels and short stories □ short stories only

□ children’s/young adult mysteries □ nonfiction □ historical mysteries

★ Title, publisher, and date of publication of your last new book (Don’t list books that are reissued; for short stories list anthology/magazine):

____________________________________________________________________

★ Title, publisher, and date of publication of your next two books or stories to be published:

____________________________________________________________________

★ Thumbnail sketch of protagonist(s):

____________________________________________________________________

Elements of mysteries where you feel you have expertise/experiences to share:

□ characters □ dialogue □ plot □ setting □ mood/style □ locked room □ fan input

□ research/accuracy □ children/young adults

Panel suggestions (NOTE: Suggestions for panel topics are welcome, but please remember that Malice is a fan convention. Panels geared toward assisting authors with craft or marketing are inappropriate for Malice. Please indicate if you would be a good fit for any topic you suggest. Unfortunately, due to the logistics of putting on a convention of Malice’s size, we cannot accept suggestions of other authors with whom you would like to serve on a panel.)

____________________________________________________________________

Special Note: Please tell us now if there are times/days you cannot be on a panel and why. Note that if your availability is limited, your chances of getting a panel assignment will be reduced.

____________________________________________________________________
Who's Who at Malice Domestic 29 
April 28—April 30, 2017

Register now to meet...

Guest of Honor: Elaine Viets
Toastmaster: Marcia Talley
Lifetime Achievement Honoree: Charlaine Harris
Fan Guest of Honor: Luci Zahray
Malice Remembers: Bill Deek
Poirot Award: Martin Edwards

For the most current information, check out Malice’s website: http://www.MaliceDomestic.org

Privacy Policy

Malice will never give, sell, rent, or otherwise divulge to anyone else, any of its registration information. Your secrets are safe with Malice!

Access for People with Disabilities

All of our meeting sites are physically accessible. If you need an accessible room, please contact the hotel directly. If you have other access needs, please indicate them on your registration form.

The Usual Suspects

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