



***Tenth Annual Meeting***  
***2001—2011***

**Families & Friends of Cold Case Homicide Victims  
and  
Persons Missing Under Suspicious Circumstances**

***Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Colorado Springs***  
***Saturday, October 8, 2011***

*Hope is important because  
it can make the present moment  
less difficult to bear.*

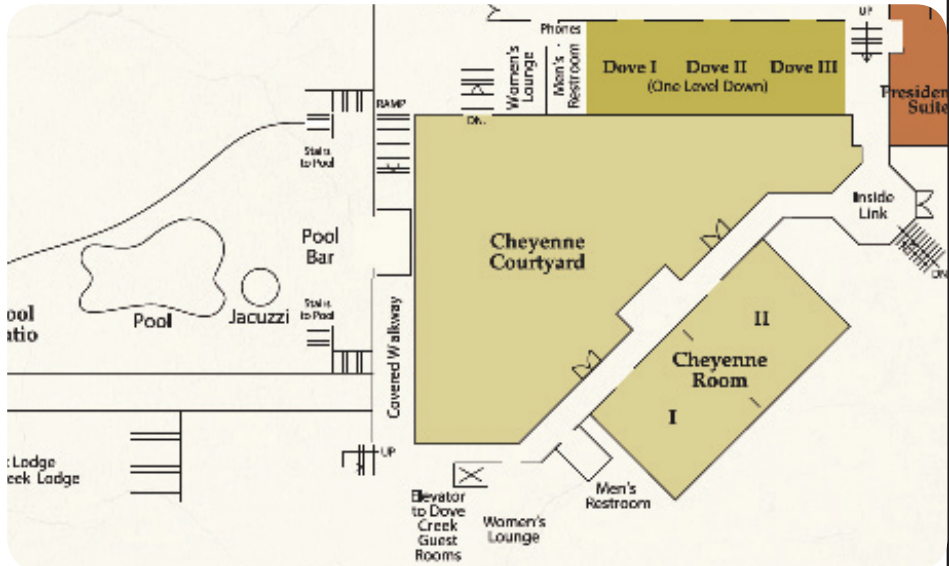
*If we believe that tomorrow  
will be better,  
we can bear a hardship today.*

—Thich Nhat Hanh

**Conference Level**—*This is the floor plan where most of our meetings will take place: Grand Rivers Room, Amphitheater, White River Rooms and Comanche (Respite Room).*



*Below is the **Courtyard Level**, one floor down, where Cheyenne Rooms are located. Use stairs or elevator to reach this level.*



*For those who need a break during the program, there is a Respite Room in Comanche with attendants, coffee and tea for your comfort.*

# Annual Meeting Schedule & Agenda

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7:00AM—Noon Registration downstairs from main lobby

## **Grand Rivers Ballroom**

7:30—9:00AM Continental Breakfast

7:45AM Saturday Bus Arrives

8:00AM Master of Ceremonies Michael Radelet Opens  
Annual Meeting

Welcome—CSPD Police Chief Richard W. Meyers

Greetings—President Sherry Burt

8:15—9:15AM **Keynote Speaker Renny Cushing**



Keynote speaker for this Annual Meeting is Renny Cushing, Executive Director of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights, based in Cambridge, MA. Renny lives in New Hampshire with his wife and three daughters.

Renny's father was murdered in 1988.

As a member of the New Hampshire legislature Renny Cushing sponsored the successful bill that created a state-level, cold case squad and also shepherded a bill through the legislature to make cold case families eligible for victim compensation so long as their case remained unsolved. Both these accomplishments mirror FOHVAMP's current goals in Colorado.

9:30—11:00AM

## **Morning Workshops**

**Southern Colorado Cold Case Investigations.** —*Cheyenne Room*  
Investigators from Colorado Springs Police Department, El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Pueblo Police Department & Pueblo County Sheriff's Office meet co-victims whose loved ones murdered there.

**Denver Cold Case Investigations.** —*White River Rooms*  
Investigators and victim service personnel from Denver PD meet with co-victims whose loved ones were murdered in Denver.

**Other Colorado Cold Case Investigations.** —*Amphitheater*  
Former Larimer County Sheriff & CBI Investigator, Jim Alderden, Investigators from Arapahoe Sheriff's Office, Aurora Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Mesa County Sheriff's Office and other agencies meet with all other co-victims.

11:00—Noon **Free Time**; visit with others, talk to investigators, enjoy this authentic Colorado Experience

### **Grand Rivers Ballroom**

Noon—1:00 PM Luncheon; Slide Show of Victims, Business Meeting  
Elect Directors

1:00—2:00 PM **Featured Speaker Jan Miller**



Our featured speaker for this 2011 Annual Meeting is Jan Miller, San Rafael, CA who co-founded the grass-roots group, Citizens Against Homicide (CAH) in 1994 with the late Jane Alexander.

We used this California group's idea to sponsor reward billboards near the scene of 12 unsolved murders as a model when we formed FOHVAMP. Formerly a bank loan officer, Jan opened her own appraisal firm, Miller & Perotti, in 1992.

Jan lost her daughter, Veronica Perotti, 19, who was murdered June 29, 1984. This crime has never been solved. We welcome Jan and two of CAH's volunteers: Gene & Shellie Cervantes.

2:15—3:15 PM

### **Afternoon Workshops**

Coroner Death Investigations—*White River I* Dr. Leon Kelly, Pathologist in the El Paso County Coroner's Office; Lecturing Professor, C.U., Colorado Springs; Dr. Kelly discusses the Coroner's role in homicide investigations, the family's access to autopsies/coroner's reports and the toxicology lab in the El Paso Coroner's Office. This workshop repeats at 3:30 pm.

Victim Rights & Compensation for Cold Case Co-Victims—*White River II* Dan Griffin, Training Coordinator, Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance. In this workshop, co-victims will learn their rights, the process for enforcing compliance with the Victim Rights Act, as well as find out how to claim Victim Compensation for treatment of depression and other mental health problems arising from the unsolved murder.

Prior to providing training to COVA Members, Dan spent 13 years as a P.O.S.T. certified police officer. During that time, he served as a patrol officer, training coordinator, field training officer, SWAT officer, firearms instructor, driving instructor, public information officer, and patrol supervisor. This workshop repeats at 3:30 pm.

2:15—4:30 Seminar\* **“Successful Communication with Cold Case Families”**

—*Amphitheater* Research suggests that tension between law enforcement and co-victims may develop over time. This tension can be emotionally difficult for both officers and covictims and be counterproductive to the murder investigation. This seminar is designed to provide officers with tools to help them respond to cold case families without compromising case integrity; Dr. Paul Stretesky, School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado, Denver; Dr. Prabha Unnithan, Center for the Study of Crime & Justice, Colorado State University; Sarah Chaikin, Cold Case Program Coordinator, Denver PD; Sgt. Jeff Jensen, Homicide/Assault Unit, Colorado Springs PD; Kelly Grizzell, Customer Service, Mortgage Division, Pulte Homes

*[\*Law Enforcement only]*

2:15—3:15 PM

Murder Victims’ Families for Reconciliation MVFR—*Cheyenne I* Chris Castillo



is National Outreach Coordinator for MVFR. Chris was a reporter for the Beaumont (TX) Enterprise, covering the court beat on November 20, 1991, when he learned his mother, Pilar Castillo a community activist and a nurse, had been murdered in her Houston home. Chris will share the details of this unsolved homicide, discuss the work of MVFR and explain how persons who are interested can become involved.

Founded in 1976, MVFR has 5,000 family members and supporters across the U.S. who oppose the death penalty, among whom are family members of victims of both homicide and executions.

Reconciliation means accepting we can not undo the murder but we can decide how we want to live afterwards.

NamUs: National Missing and Unidentified Persons System—*Cheyenne II*

Law-enforcement and family members will learn how NamUs can help in locating missing persons whose cases may have turned into homicides and how the database aids in identifying human remains. Investigators and co-victims can enter information online to aid in the search.

Matt Lunn is a Medical Investigator with the Arapahoe County Coroner’s Office and a National Advisory Council Member of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. Silvia Pettem is a Boulder-based author whose research led to the identification of a murder victim from 1954. She is a member of the Vidocq Society. Ron Lopez is a Colorado Springs PD detective in the Homicide/Missing Persons Unit. Matt, Silvia & Ron have each recently completed training at the NamUs National Training Academy.

3:30—4:30 PM

## **More Afternoon Workshops**

Coroner Death Investigations—White River I Dr. Leon Kelly, Pathologist in the El Paso County Coroner's Office; Lecturing Professor, C.U., Colorado Springs; Please see page 4 for a description of this workshop.

Victim Rights & Compensation for Cold Case Co-Victims—White River II Dan Griffin, Training Coordinator, Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance. Please see page 4 for a description of this workshop.

Crime Lab & Cold Cases—Cheyenne I Mark Olin, Deputy Director, Denver Police Crime Laboratory Bureau. Attendees will learn some of the scientific tools and techniques available today to law enforcement as they examine crime scenes and evidence.

Mark Olin is the longest serving member of the Crime Lab but he began his career with Denver PD as a patrolman. After completing his Bachelor of Science degree in 1978, Mark spent 7 years as a forensic chemist before promotion to supervisor of the Crime Lab's forensic science section where he developed a task force to respond to clandestine meth lab sites. Twenty-four hours after his retirement in 2008, Mark Olin was hired as Deputy Director of the Denver Police Crime Laboratory Bureau.

NamUs: National Missing and Unidentified Persons System—Cheyenne II Matt Lunn, Medical Investigator with the Arapahoe County Coroner's Office; Silvia Pettem, member of the Vidocq Society, Boulder-based author whose research led to the identification of a murder victim from 1954; Detective Ron Lopez, 30-year veteran, Colorado Springs Police Department. Please see page 5 for a description of this workshop.



## Closing Events & Ceremony

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### ***Grand Rivers Ballroom***

4:45 PM

Cookies, Coffee & Tea

5:00 PM

#### **FOHVAMP Raffle Drawing**

First Prize: **\$1,000**

Second Prize: **One night's lodging  
at Cheyenne Mtn Resort**

Third Prize: **\$100 Visa Gift Card**



5:30 PM

Memorial Balloon Release, Assisted by CSPD  
Cadets—*Driving Range*  
[Shuttle provided]

6:00 PM

Bus departs for Denver

### **Annual Meeting Concludes**

This tenth Annual Meeting has been funded by VALE\* Fund grants from:

1st Judicial District (Jefferson & Gilpin Counties)

2nd Judicial District (Denver)

4th Judicial District (El Paso & Teller Counties)

17th Judicial District (Adams & Broomfield Counties)

18th Judicial District (Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert & Lincoln Counties)

19th Judicial District (Weld County)

[\*VALE = Victim Assistance Law Enforcement]

And a generous corporate gift from UMB Bank (FOHVAMP's Bank)

Also, scholarships from Douglas County Sheriff's Office Asset Forfeiture Fund, Denver Police Foundation, Nathan B. & Florence R. Burt Foundation and The Office for Victims of Crime.

*Points of view expressed in this event are those of the organizers and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies or the U.S. Department of Justice or any other provider of grants, scholarships or sponsorships.*



*If we look deeply into the palms of our hands,  
we see our parents and all generations  
of our ancestors.*

*All of them are alive in this moment.*

*Each is present in our body.*

*We are the continuation  
of each of these people.*

*Yet, each of us is drawn here  
to acknowledge a life interrupted,  
and to seek justice for our murdered loved one.*

*Had that life continued, how different would be our world.*

