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Talk of the Town

Former banker finds success in publishing book series

Wigglesworth trades ledgers for mystery writing

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After 40 years in the banking industry, Kingwood resident Gayle Wigglesworth became determined to turn her mystery book ideas into award-winning masterpieces. In order to achieve true happiness, she decided to dedicate her life to writing and publishing mysteries. Wigglesworth gave up her highly regarded corporate position in banking to follow her dreams.

"As a young woman, I moved to San Francisco. I had a typewriter and was living alone in a big city without a telephone. Although I had an interest in mystery, I found myself scared in my situation, so I put away my ideas due to fear of my surroundings," said Wigglesworth.

She pushed aside her creative thoughts and continued to climb the ladder to success until she became a senior vice president. Nearly 10 years ago she and her husband moved far from family and took a job in Houston. Shortly after their move, Wigglesworth's company was sold to Chase Bank. She found herself looking for a job and trying to visualize the future.

"I had written before, but had never been published. I had determined that it would be too hard to develop my creative ideas to sell, partner with a publisher, and work a demanding corporate position."

Her first few years as a fulltime writer, she supplemented her writing with consultant work in the banking industry. During these years she was able to travel to California and Hawaii. Although she found it tiring to work long days as a contract banking professional, she always found time to write for enjoyment.

She had created a character, Claire Gulliver, travel enthusiast and bookstore owner. Throughout Wigglesworth's books this character experiences many twists and turns in several locations around the world including London, Washington D.C., Italy and Alaska.

The first book of her mystery series entitled, "Tea is for Terror" placed second in Mayhaven Awards for fiction in 2002. This award-winning story combines travel and mystery in one book. Her characters experience a literary adventure through the streets of London and Wales. Readers follow their challenges as they tour the countryside. They find out how the characters deal with challenges and accidents along the way.

"Washington Weirdos" is the sequel to "Tea is for Terror." This book placed third in the Mayhaven Annual Book Awards in 2004. Readers are taken for a wild ride after their travels to Europe and back in the first book

Claire's adventures couldn't simply stop there. So she developed more stories that brought her character to life in more exciting destinations. The third book of the series is set in northern Italy, where Claire attends a cooking school in Tuscany and chases after a long-lost friendship, joined by the company of her mother.

Her fourth book in the series takes reader aboard the Dreamy Seas cruise ship, where once again Claire sets sail looking for love and excitement. Readers jump aboard the Dreamy Seas in "Cruisin' for a Bruisin' and set sail bound for Alaska.

Fans are invited to come to the Shadow Box Gallery and Frame Shop on January 26. Wigglesworth will be present for a tea and book signing. She will be available to discuss her books and talk about her experiences. Her books can be purchased at Barnes & Noble and at the Shadow Box Gallery and Frame Shop. For further details or to read her book reviews, visit www.gaylewigglesworth.com.