

# CAPITOL CRIMES

*Sharing the thrill of mystery.*

APRIL 2021

## From the President

April showers wash everything and make it all new. Speaking of new growth, lots of things are budding at Capitol Crimes.

I recently heard the Pandemic referred to as the Great Pause. The world is turning a corner into a new normal. What are you doing now that you couldn't do when a schedule dictated your life? Are you now more a human being than a human doing? The hamster wheel is speeding up and we are slowly being pulled back on board. I think it is so important to make a conscious decision about what we want to bring into our lives going forward. A few lessons learned from the Pandemic:



- Health is so important. If you don't take care of your body, where are you going to live?
- Your family (blood or chosen) are the people who walk in when the world walks out.
- Your friends know who you truly are and remind you when you forget.
- We are all creative beings. Use your talent and share it with the world. That is your legacy, every bit as much as a child.
- Do it because tomorrow is not promised to anyone.
- Be here now and don't take a second for granted.
- Life, and your arms, are too short to carry grudges.
- Fill your life (and arms) with the good things, the blessings in your life.

Find good friends, good books, good food (well, maybe a little less food), to feed your mind, your body, and spirit so that your well overflows and nurtures the world. These times demand nothing

*continued on next page*

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*From the President continued*

less. Please let me know how Capitol Crimes can be a part of your journey.

In April, submissions for the 2021 Anthology open. The theme, a mystery which includes a Northern California cemetery, real or imagined, should be rich dark soil for the fertile minds of our members. I can't wait to see what wicked thoughts crawl forth.

The brand spanking new Capitol Crimes Mystery Book Club also debuts this month. I invite you to come sit in even if you haven't read the book. I have always thought the best Book Clubs are about so much more than just the book. Our guest author Pat Canterbury will talk about being an African-American woman breaking into mystery fiction back when the majority of mystery authors were neither female nor people of color. It's Black History, Woman's History, and Literary History all rolled into one. Come check it out because we may have a few surprises and prizes for the debut.

The amazing Tori Eldridge will be joining us on April 17th to share screenwriting tips for outlining complex plots, driving the pace, and balancing relationships, culture, and hard-driving action. This will be a fascinating presentation for the writer who wants to learn more and the reader who wants insight into how writers do what they do.

The Members Marketplace will occur in May, so you'll want to check out our website if you want to attend this exciting event.

My reminder to all this Spring – bloom where you are planted.

—Penny Manson, President



### NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST – WIN A PRIZE!

We want to hear from you! Send your idea to [CapitolCrimes@gmail.com](mailto:CapitolCrimes@gmail.com) and the winning name will be announced in the May newsletter.

## Upcoming Events



### Tori Eldridge on Four Act Structure for Action and Thrills

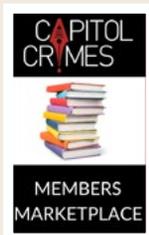
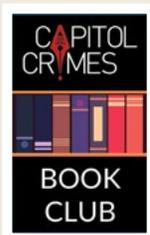
Saturday, April 17, 2021

1:00 pm • Zoom

### Book Club

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

7:00 pm • Zoom



### Members Marketplace

Saturday, May 15, 2021

1:00 pm • Zoom

Visit [www.CapitolCrimes.org](http://www.CapitolCrimes.org) for details and to register.

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# Member News

## AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

From Member Kris Calvin -



### INTRODUCING EMMA LAWSON, AN UNLIKELY HERO WORTH CHEERING FOR

A thrilling new series from KRIS CALVIN...  
In ALL THAT FALL, Emma Lawson, the youngest investigator in California's capital, has just 48 hours to find a missing child and stop a killer.



"A maze of rich suspense, *All That Fall* by Kris Calvin is fascinating, intense, and utterly gripping. The pages seem to turn themselves." - Gayle Lynds, NYT best-selling author of *The Assassins*

"A white-knuckled, character-driven thriller, at once twisty and full of heart." - Chris Holm, Anthony Award-winning author of *The Killing Kind*



AVAILABLE IN HARDCOVER,  
EBOOK & AUDIOBOOK

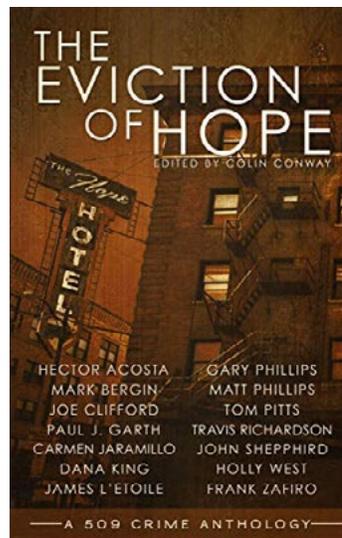


VISIT KRIS AT  
[www.kriscalvin.com](http://www.kriscalvin.com)

### From members James L'Etoile and Holly West -

Look forward to the *Eviction of Hope* anthology coming your way in May. [Preorders are available now over at the Big A.](#) But look at this list of authors!

*The Eviction of Hope* with blistering stories from Hector Acosta, Mark Bergin, Joe Clifford, Paul J. Garth, Carmen Jaramillo, Dana King, James L'Etoile, Gary Phillips, Matt Phillips, Tom Pitts, Travis Richardson, John Shepphird, Holly West and Frank Zafiro.



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## Member News

From member R. (Rae) Franklin James –

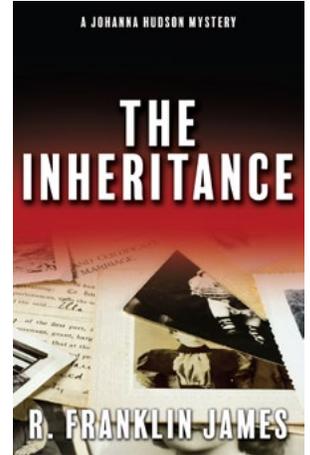
The first book in the Johanna Hudson Mysteries, *The Inheritance*, will be released on April 14th, 2021.

Johanna is a 30-year old genealogist with a painful past. She uses her research talents to build family trees for her clients. However, she takes on a customer who is murdered before the ink is dry on the contract.

At stake is a family battle over millions, if the paternity of the true heir can be found and proved — that, and if Johanna isn't killed first. She searches the trail of a broken family tree to find the true heir to a fortune, while outrunning family greed and murder.

You can find *The Inheritance* on [pre-order now at Amazon](#).

I hope you enjoy *The Inheritance*!



Also from member R. (Rae) Franklin James –

Coming Soon .....

I had the great pleasure contributing to the Mystery Writers of America latest publication (April 27, 2021 release date): *How to Write a Mystery* edited by Lee Child and Laurie King.

Seventy of the most successful mystery writers in the business answering the question: What writing advice do you wish you'd had at the beginning of your career?

How to Write a Mystery continues the Mystery Writers of America tradition of helping authors tell—and sell!—their stories, from the rank beginner to the established bestseller. This all-new MWA handbook helps writers not only create timeless and compelling stories, but also navigate an ever-shifting publishing landscape. From pacing and dialogue to creating diverse characters and building reader outreach, How to Write a Mystery

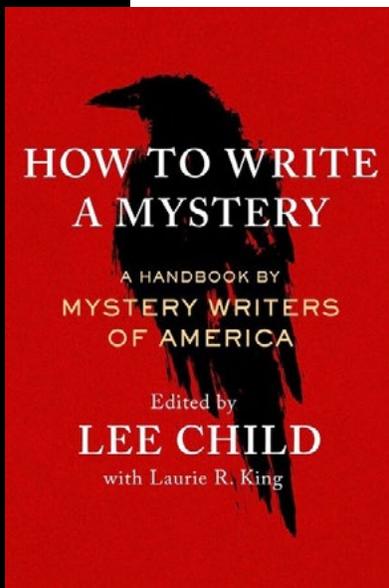
is a complete guide for a new generation of mystery writers

Sold at Amazon, Barnes and Noble and Independent Book Sellers.

[Visit MWA's page for more info and to pre-order.](#)

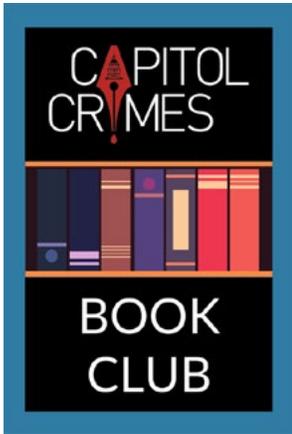
From member Mysti Berry –

Mysti Berry has an amuse-bouche (one page entry) in *How to Write a Mystery*, edited by Lee Child, launching in April 2021. The handbook is a collection of essays on different aspects of craft, with small nuggets of advice like mine presented between each article.



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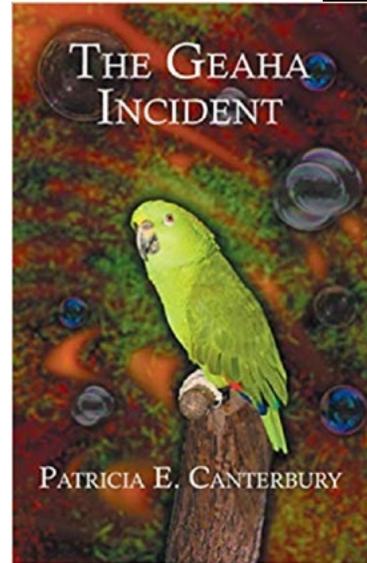
# Chapter News



## BOOK CLUB

Join us for our Capitol Crimes Book Club's kickoff meeting at **7pm PT on April 13, 2021**, when our featured author will be Capitol Crimes founding member, and award-winner, Patricia E. Canterbury! We will be discussing Pat's fantastic book, *The Geaha Incident*. This invitation is open to all members and their friends.

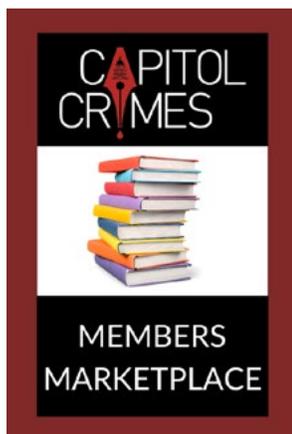
(Even if you don't have a chance to read the book in advance, you are welcome to join the discussion and find out what we're all about.)



### MORE ON THE BOOK CLUB:

Our fun and friendly community of mystery readers will enjoy the unique advantage of having the subject author at each meeting, bringing a whole new dimension to the experience of each book. Get answers to burning questions such as why this story, why this time, where did that germ of an idea come from? Come to the Book Club and find out.

Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of every month. Additional details, (including registration and links to purchase the books we will be reading) are available on the [Book Club page of our website](#). Authors interested in having the Book Club read one of their works may submit online. Hope to see you all in April!



## MEMBERS MARKETPLACE

[Sign Up Now!](#)

**Coming Up Next Month - Murder Most Foul !!**

Our first Members Marketplace event.

At our May meeting, authors: Elaine Faber, Cindy Sample, Rae James and Richard Schneider will talk about their latest books and attendees will be able to purchase through links on our Capitol Crimes website.



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## Chapter News

### THE WAIT IS OVER – IT'S ANTHOLOGY TIME

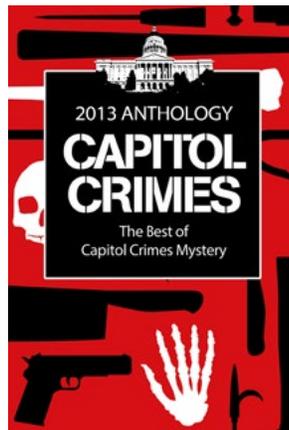
The fourth Capitol Crimes short story anthology is officially underway. The anthology committee is co-chaired by local board member-at-large, Rita Rippetoe and by author Terry Shepherd, who joins us from Florida. The committee has begun the process of recruiting judges, selecting a cover artist and selecting a publisher. Plan ahead for holiday shopping, our projected release date is Thanksgiving.

**Submissions will be accepted starting April 2, 2021 and will close May 15th.**

To submit a story you must be a member of both Sisters in Crime, National and of Capitol Crimes. Stories must be original, no longer than 5000 words. The story must include a Northern California cemetery: an existing cemetery new or historic, or a product of the author's imagination. [Complete instructions for submissions are on the website.](#)

The purpose of the anthology is twofold. We give our members an opportunity to be published and to participate in the marketing of the final product, and we give the public a chance to sample the work of local authors. Everyone involved has opportunities to learn more about writing, marketing and sales.

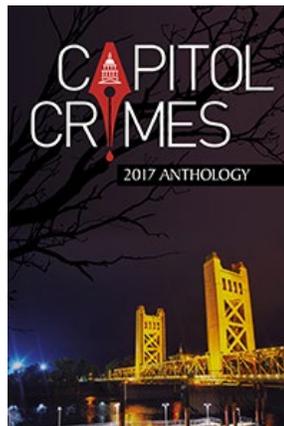
—Rita Rippetoe, Anthology Committee Co-Chair



#### The Best of Capitol Crimes Mystery (2013)

A fabulous collection of stories by our talented authors. Some names will be recognizable in the Sacramento area, but for others, this is their first publishing credit. Every story has a local setting, including local sights and businesses.

[Buy it through Amazon now!](#)



#### Capitol Crimes: 2017 Anthology

Tales of scheming and intrigue in the corridors of power have laughs, tears, and twists. Fifteen stories from members of the Capitol Crimes chapter of Sisters in Crime have mischief, mayhem and murder set in California's capital city.

[Buy it through Amazon now!](#)

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Just a couple of quick reminders this month:

—The new directories are now live. All you need to do is sign in, click on your name to view your profile, and then on the Edit button to update your information. Then don't forget the second part: click on the Privacy tab to set which items should be visible to members only and which items you want public. Your profile defaults to Private, so if you skip this step, none of your info will appear in either the public Chapter Directory under the About Us tab or the Members Only Directory under the Members tab.

—Don't forget that Capitol Crimes chapter membership requires that you also be a current member of the national Sisters in Crime organization. If you are one of our few members who've neglected this or let your national membership lapse, we will be contacting you soon to remind you.

—*Mary Griffith, Vice President of Membership*



**What a great meeting!** Our guest speaker for the March 20 Chapter meeting was Rachel Howzell Hall interviewed by member Rae James. Rachel's latest book *And Now She's Gone*, explores the nature of secrets — and how violence and fear can lead you to abandon everything in order to survive. You can visit Rachel on her website: [www.rachelhowzell.com](http://www.rachelhowzell.com).

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*I just attended my first Capitol Crimes meeting virtually and wanted to say how much I enjoyed both the discussion with Rachel Howzell Hall and the breakout room conversation afterwards. Thank you for putting on such a great program.*

— member Jennifer Morita

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## In Other News:

The biennial **California Crime Writers Conference**, co-sponsored by SinC Los Angeles and MWA SoCal, is back with a twist: virtual and free. If you register at: <https://ccwconference.org> you'll be eligible for a weekly random drawing for an author's book.

**Malice Domestic:** MORE THAN MALICE (July 14 - 17, 2021), is a festival-style crime convention specially designed to fill the void left when the 2021 live Malice Domestic had to be cancelled. It is important to remember that MORE THAN MALICE is not intended to be a recreation of the standard Malice Domestic in virtual format; rather it is a new entity designed to entertain a large audience by bringing together a unique collection of authors exploring every avenue on the crime fiction map. Invited authors include: Hank Phillippi Ryan, Rhys Bowen, C.J. Box, Ann Cleese, Rachel Howzell-Hall, Martin Edwards, S.A. Cosby, and David Baldacci. More info to follow at: <https://www.malicedomestic.org/>

**The Editors of the Strand are accepting unsolicited submissions** for a limited time period and would love to hear from SinC members. At the moment, their payment rate for stories is \$100-150. Here's the link for guidelines: <https://strandmag.com/guidelines/>

**The Elk Grove Writers Guild still plans its Writers Conference in October 2021.** Please let us know if you're interested or have questions, by sending an email to: [elkgrove.writersguild@aol.com](mailto:elkgrove.writersguild@aol.com). Someone will get back to you ASAP. We are excited about this event and look forward to hearing from you soon. <https://egweg.org/news/>

**An exciting opportunity from International Thriller Writers: Virtual ThrillerFest 2021!** June 28 - July 20. Take advantage of this opportunity to participate in Master Class, PitchFest, ConsultFest, and the brand new X-Treme CraftFest! [Click here to learn more.](#)

**Bouchercon 2021** - New Orleans, Louisiana. August 25, through 29. Registration is now live! Hotel Registration is up too! The annual crime fiction event draws a diverse selection of international authors, publishers, book reviewers, and editors. Sisters-in-Crime traditionally has a significant presence at Bouchercon. You could run elbows with Lee Child over cocktails, or listen in on five days of panels. Pace yourself. Go to: <https://www.bouchercon2021.com>



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Visit [www.CapitolCrimes.org](http://www.CapitolCrimes.org) for details.

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### GOT CONTENT?

Send your press-ready article to: [CapitolCrimes@gmail.com](mailto:CapitolCrimes@gmail.com)  
Put "Newsletter" in the subject line. Due by the third week of the month.  
We will publish the first Monday of the following month.

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