

# CAPITOL CRIMES

*Sharing the thrill of mystery.*

AUGUST 2022

## From the President

### Coming Together Again

I know that the new year starts in January, but even though I've been out of school for a long time now, the back-to-school sales always feel like the true start of a new year for me. Unsharpened pencils, fresh new notebooks? On sale? How can I resist? And yes, most of my writing is done on a computer, but a crisp blank page of paper still gives me hope.

And back-to-school also means coming back together with friends who have gone off on their own paths for the summer. It's not so different with our writing community. So many of our gatherings seem to happen in the fall, maybe because we are all still students at heart. I'm excited to be going to the **Willamette Writer's Conference** in Portland very soon, something new for me. Many of our members will be attending and presenting at **Killer Nashville** and **Bouchercon** very soon. Closer to home, Capitol Crimes will have a table and a panel at the **Great Valley Bookfest** in Manteca in October (see page 8). Attending any of these events is a great way to find inspiration and find your people.

Here at Capitol Crimes, we are always looking for new ways to educate, inspire, and bring together our members. I think I say it every month in this space, but our community is bursting with talent and generosity. The workshops, anthologies, and presentations. The book clubs, the coffee hours, the newsletter, the social media supporting and connecting our members, all happen because of the amazing people who step up to create this space for their fellow crime writers. And, like anything else, the more you give, truly the more you get. The connections, support, and friendship are the reasons we keep coming back.

*continued on next page*



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*From the President continued*

With this in mind, **I hope that you will attend our next members meeting on August 13th on Zoom.** We won't have a guest speaker, instead we want to spend some time getting to know each other. You'll get to learn what it's like to serve on the board, why we do what we do, and the plans that we have for the upcoming year. We also want to hear from you. What do you love about being a Capitol Crimes member? What would you like to see us do in the future? What skills and talents would you like to share with us? And what were the best things that you did this summer? Any cooling cocktail or mocktail recipes you'd like to share? We want to hear from you!

Ok, I'm off to stock up on notebooks that I absolutely don't need, but simply must have! Looking forward to seeing you all soon, learning from you, being inspired by you, and building this Capitol Crimes community with you.

—Sarah Bresniker, President



Are you interested in serving on the Capitol Crimes board?

Elections for our 2023 board are coming up soon. We are especially looking for a Vice President, Secretary, and Website Manager. If you are the least bit curious, please email us at [CapitolCrimes@gmail.com](mailto:CapitolCrimes@gmail.com).

This is an opportunity you won't want to miss!

## Upcoming Events

### **CAPITOL CRIMES HEAT OF THE SUMMER MEET & GREET**

Saturday, August 13, 2022 1:00 PM (PT) • on Zoom



### **BOOK CLUB**

**(THE CROW'S NEST by RICHARD MEREDITH)**

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

7:00 PM (PT) • Zoom

### **Capitol Crimes COFFEE HOUR**

Sunday, August 21, 2022 @ 2:00 PM (PT)

A Seat at the Table

9257 Laguna Springs, Suite 130, Elk Grove, California

### **MEMBERS MARKETPLACE 2022**

Saturday, September 17, 2022 1:00 PM (PT) • on Zoom

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

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# Chapter News



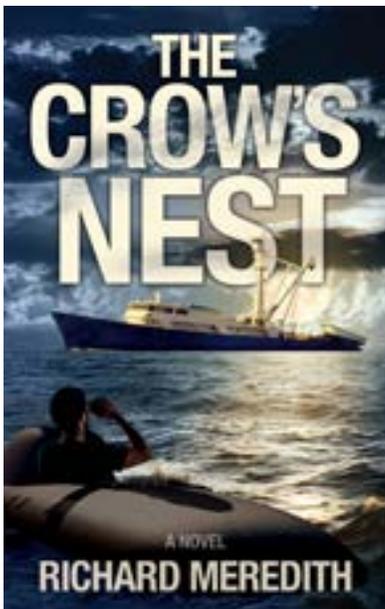
## HEAT OF THE SUMMER MEET & GREET

It's the heat of the summer, and we just want to grab a cool drink and hang out with friends, new and old! But we also have amazing things in store for the rest of the year, and we need you to help keep this chapter amazing!

Join us for a casual, fun meeting where you'll learn some behind-the-scenes secrets about the people who keep this chapter moving forward and also have time to get to know your fellow Capitol Crimes members and friends in small, friendly chat groups.

Come prepared to let us know what you've been working on, what you've been reading, and what you're looking forward to for the rest of the year!

[Register here for the August 13th meeting!](#)



## BOOK CLUB

Don't miss our next Book Club meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 7:00- 8:30 PM (PT), Zoom when we discuss Richard Meredith's action-adventure thriller, *The Crow's Nest*. [Register here.](#)

*The Crow's Nest*, won the Silver Falchion Award for the best action-adventure novel at the 2021 Killer Nashville Mystery and Thriller Writers Conference. It draws heavily on his work aboard commercial tuna seiners and marine research vessels in the Pacific Ocean.

A native of Flint, Michigan, Richard Meredith moved to California while serving in the US Navy. After obtaining undergraduate and graduate degrees in Biology, he worked as a marine scientist and wildlife biologist for the federal government and the private sector. His first novel, *Sky Dance*, was based on his environmental work in the oil fields of Ecuador.



## STAY TUNED

Coming in October a Paranormal Panel, and in November, a field trip. More details to come.

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## Chapter News

We want to spread the word about our fabulous Capitol Crimes members. We've started a new, streamlined system to make it easier for members and our volunteers to create announcements that we will publish in the newsletter as well as post on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram as time and space allow.

If you're a current Capitol Crimes member, hit us with your good news about:

- \* Book release date and/or book launch event
- \* Author events
- \* Writing Award
- \* Publication in a magazine or anthology

Just go to our new [Members News Submissions page here](#), fill out the form. Note: You must be logged in as a member to access the page.



On Sunday, August 21, 2022 @ 2:00 PM (PT) join hosts Sarah Bresniker and Jennifer Morita at our fourth coffee hour.

Whether you're a seasoned pro or struggling through your first draft, it's a great chance to network with your tribe and maybe get a few questions answered. The event will be held in the bookstore's cafe, so you'll be able to get whatever drinks or snacks you want right at the table! Come enjoy the company of others who can't resist the lure of (fictional) crime!

A Seat at the Table, located at 9257 Laguna Springs, Suite 130, Elk Grove, California, has graciously offered to host our meeting, and we're sure you'll enjoy browsing their shelves, finding a book (or two or three) that need to come home with you!

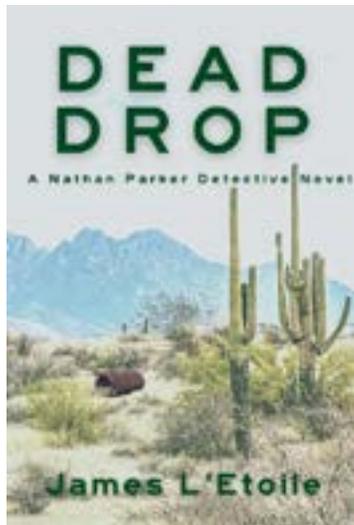
[Space is limited so please register if you plan on attending.](#)

**Did you know we have a Chapter group in SinC Community?** Log in to Sisters in Crime National and click on the CONNECT tab, then choose SINC ONLINE COMMUNITY: <https://www.sistersincrime.org/page/SinCTradingCommunity>



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## Member News



**James L'Etoile** celebrates the release of his newest book, *Dead Drop*. *DEAD DROP* released in July 2022 from Level Best Books. It's the first book in a new series set in the desert southwest featuring Maricopa County Detective Nathan Parker.

James L'Etoile is thrilled to be returning as a faculty member at the Book Passage Mystery Writers Conference in Corte Madera. The craft-focused conference will be held at the Book Passage store August 5 - 7, 2022. The conference covers everything mystery writers need, from developing ideas and writing skills to finding an agent and publisher. For more information visit: <https://www.bookpassage.com/mystery>

On August 8th, at 7:30 EST, James L'Etoile will meet virtually with the South East Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America to discuss how to bring real life experiences into your fiction work. Zoom link on the SEMWA home page: <https://semwa.com/events/> (Note: at time of publication the web page had not been updated)

Killer Nashville kicks off on August 18 - 21, 2022 and James L'Etoile is pleased to part of the conference faculty this year. He's teaching two sessions for attendees, "What Really Happens Inside Prison," and "The Serial Killer Next Door." L'Etoile's 2021 book, *Black Label* is nominated for the Silver Falchion Award for Best Thriller by an Attending Author. Visit [jamesletoile.com](http://jamesletoile.com) for more information.

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***Mrs. Odboddy's Desperate Doings*** takes place in Northern California during WWII as Agnes Odboddy faces rationing, fear of enemy invasion, and food shortages.

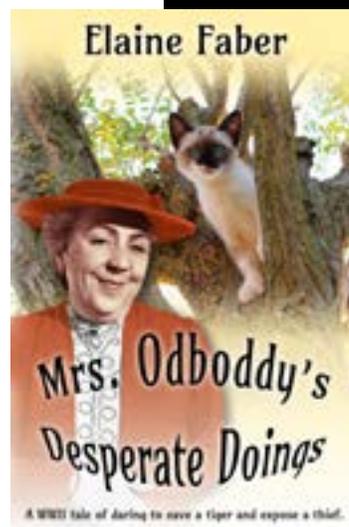
When Agnes Odboddy falls from a tree and suffers a head injury, her usual eccentric notions increase. But when she adamantly accuses the local doctor of stealing a well-known War Artist's painting, and The Lord's Shepherd lithograph from the church, folks wonder if her head injury is responsible for increasingly irrational behavior, or is it dementia?

Several situations in ***Mrs. Odboddy's Desperate Doings*** are based on true events and circumstances, though somewhat altered regarding date and specific locations. The characters, Bernard Plockhorst, painter, and Edward Reep, journalist were real.

For a raucous WWII adventure with an absurdly funny elderly sleuth, you can't miss with ***Mrs. Odboddy's Desperate Doings***.

Available at Amazon: E-book. ***Mrs. Odboddy's Desperate Doings*** is just \$3.99. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/5xah4cnt>

For an autographed and discounted paperback, contact Elaine directly at: [Elaine.Faber@mindcandymysteries.com](mailto:Elaine.Faber@mindcandymysteries.com)



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## Member News

**Richard Schneider** is pleased to announce the publication of his fourth book, a suspense novel entitled *Slingshot*.

### Where can you turn when you face impossible odds?

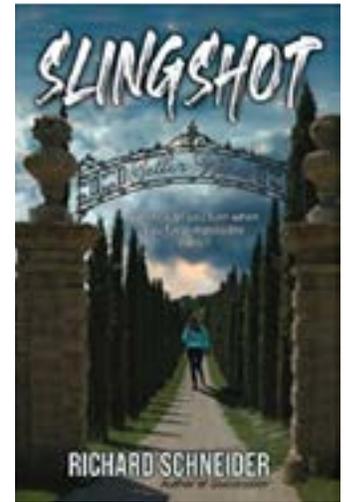
Teller Vineyards, an Oregon family winery run by the founder's daughter, must fend off a hostile—and unethical—takeover attempt by a large wine conglomerate run by the amoral Sammy Winks. Winks wants Teller's award-winning wines in his portfolio and will stop at nothing to get them.

Unable to marshal sufficient resources for the fight, Christina Teller enlists the help of Slingshot, Inc., a non-profit firm dedicated to helping small businesses compete with corporate behemoths. Slingshot's Timothy Dough joins forces with Christina Teller to battle the giant.

Together they must navigate the troubled waters of environmental sabotage, financial and legal pressure, and betrayal from within. Tim Dough must find a way to put away the demons of his past or he will fail Christina.

Can they save Teller, or will it be swallowed up by Sammy Winks?

[Available on Amazon.](#)

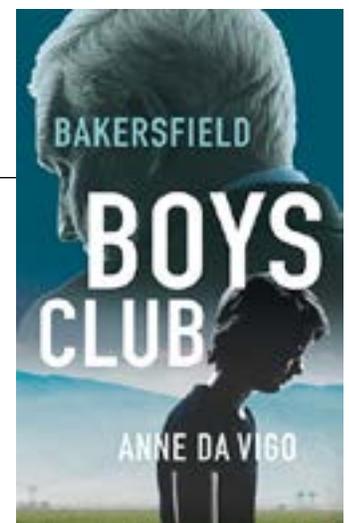


**Sharon St. George** is happy to announce the June 12 release of *Renewal*, book six in the Aimee Machado Mystery series, published by Camel Press, an imprint of Epicenter Press. When a glamorous local celebrity mounts an underhanded campaign for mayor of the Northern California town of Timbergate, she dies of suspicious circumstances just days before the election. Her death affects the lives of those close to hospital librarian Aimee Machado, who uses her forensic research skills to search for a killer. What she finds is a tangled web of deception and a heartbreaking secret that puts her own life at risk.

Writing the Aimee Machado Mysteries as Sharon St. George (Camel Press and Harlequin Worldwide Mysteries)

[www.sharonstgeorge.com](http://www.sharonstgeorge.com)

**Anne Da Vigo** is looking forward to a busy September. She'll be a member of a panel, "Researching Historical Mysteries" September 9th at Bouchercon 2022 in Minneapolis. Then September 13th she'll be the featured author kicking off the 2022-23 season of the *Turlock Tuesday Reading Club* with a discussion of her novel, *Bakersfield Boys Club*. For more information visit Anne's website: [annedavigoauthor.com](http://annedavigoauthor.com)



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## Member News



**Catriona McPherson**, former national Sisters in Crime president, will be a featured author August 26, 2022 at 7 p.m. at **Stories on Stage Sacramento** with a reading from her book *Scot Mist*, a laugh-out-loud mystery brimming with her quirky humor. Sharing the agenda will be a reading from Sacramento author Shelly Blanton-Stroud's new novel, *Tom Boy*, second in her Jane Benjamin series.

There will be raffles, author Q and A, book sales, free cookies, and beer and wine for purchase.

**Stories on Stage Sacramento** is in its 12th year of showcasing accomplished authors in readings by local professional actors. The event will be held at the Auditorium at Clara, 1425 24th St., Sacramento. Tickets may be purchased at the door or online. [Click here for more info](#). Attendees will be checked for masks and proof of COVID vaccination.

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Two new **Mysteryrat's Maze Podcast** episodes went up this month. One features an excerpt from *The Witch's Child* by Susan Van Kirk <https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/e/the-witch-s-child-by-susan-van-kirk/>

And the other one features the mystery short story *Nobody Home* written by Joseph S. Walker <https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/e/nobody-home-by-joseph-s-walker/>

They can also be found in all the usual podcast places! — **Lorie Lewis Ham**



**Terry Shepherd** will serve on the Killer Nashville Faculty this year and is hosting a dinner for Capitol Crimes attendees at the event on August 19, 2022. Write to him via [Terry@TerryShepherd.com](mailto:Terry@TerryShepherd.com) if you are heading that way.

The stunning new Bouchercon Anthony Award design video, which premiered in July, 2022, is a collaboration between Terry and executive producer, Marie Sutro. Our own Rae James was the on-camera talent. Check it out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ieMkHvfqysg>

Terry was also recently selected to take over narration of Pamela Fagan-Hutchins' best-selling Patrick Flint series. Look for his reading of *Sitting Duck*, due out soon. You can hear his voice on our beloved Donna Benedict's magnum opus, *Queen of Charades*, and Dänna Wilberg's popular *Borrowed Time - Book One: Broken Promises*. Dänna and Terry's audiobook collaboration was recently featured at the on-line "Summertime Blues" festival. Book Two in Dänna's latest series, *Missing* is available now in digi, hardcover and paperback at Amazon. [Click here to purchase](#).

Terry's upcoming **Authors on the Air** guest list includes Capitol Crimes favorite Marshall Karp, agent / author Paula Munier and California author Avanti Centrae. Terry celebrated his 60th AOTA episode in July. Give listen here: [https://soundcloud.com/authorsontheair/sets/terry\\_shepherd](https://soundcloud.com/authorsontheair/sets/terry_shepherd)

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## Member News



### Great Valley Book Fest

October 8, 2022, Manteca, California

Come visit Capitol Crimes at the Great Valley Bookfest! We will have a table and a panel presented by authors **Claire Booth, James L'Etoile, Richard Meredith, and Jessica Cline**. If you're interested, you can even get your own author's table.

We'd love to see you there!

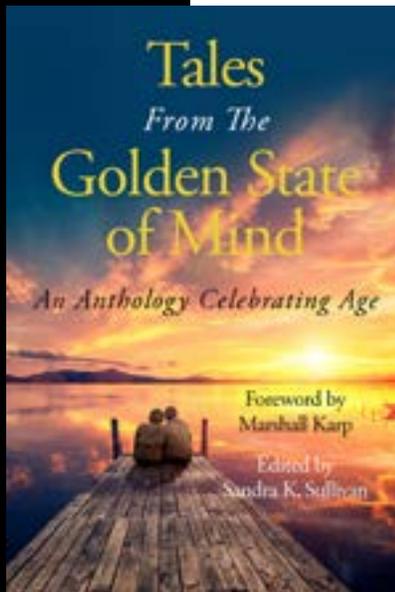
Visit [gvbookfest.org](http://gvbookfest.org) for more information.

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### *Tales from the Golden State of Mind*

An Anthology celebrating age and aging.

### **An Invitation to Authors and Poets**



A very new kind of anthology is being put together to celebrate age and life in the golden years. This is an invitation to authors and poets to submit a short story, fiction or non-fiction, and poetry to be a part of this groundbreaking book. The focus of this collection is on the positive aspects of age and aging. Submissions can be humorous, adventurous, romantic, and even thrillers as long as the theme and ending be heartwarming and inspiring. I am looking for plots that focus on being old or older. POV can be young or aged as long as the central characters/heroes be in their golden years.

Short stories can be up to 5,000 words. Minor profanity is acceptable, but please no F-bombs.

Author Marshall Karp has offered to do the foreword for this book and Capitol Crimes own Karen Phillips has created a beautiful cover. Printing will be done through Terry Shepherd's Ramirez and Clark Printing.

This is not a contest, there is no submission fee. Any author or writer is welcome to join this project. So far we have a Viet Nam veteran, a retired FBI agent, and a cowboy past his prime but still in the saddle.

Submission can be sent to **Sandra Sullivan** at [keudreamsong@gmail.com](mailto:keudreamsong@gmail.com)

At present the deadline is the end of the year.

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Thank you **Tori Eldridge** and **Terry Shepherd** for two fun and educational events on Friday, June 17 at Face in A Book, El Dorado Hills, California and on June 18, at the Maidu Library, Roseville, California.

For the third year, **Mystery in the Midlands**, a summer writing conference jointly sponsored by the Palmetto Chapter of Sisters in Crime and the South East Chapter of Mystery Writers of America, has gone virtual with great success. This year, on Saturday, July 16, 2022, we welcomed about 140 attendees to hear from 10 excellent authors, moderated and facilitated on Crowdcast with expertise by Dana Kaye. We are excited that people are still registering to hear the recordings!

We are so appreciative to the panelists and attendees who allow us to continue this tradition. We hope to see you next year! — **Paula Gail Benson**



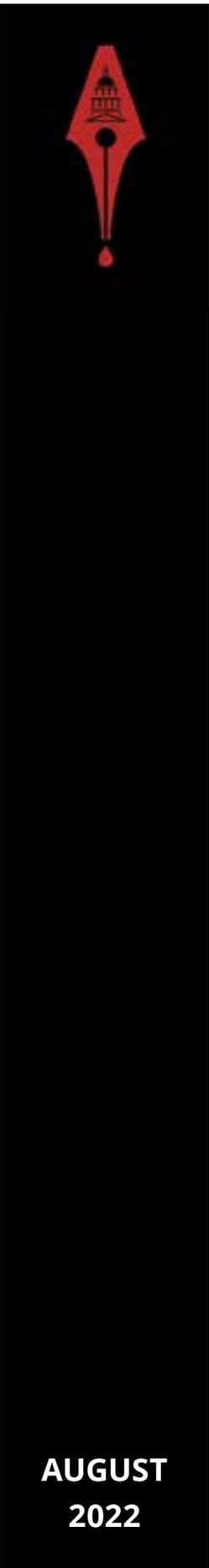
Served Piping Hot: Cozies with Recipes with Raquel V. Reyes, Daryl Wood Gerber, and Abby L. Vandiver.

Sizzling Keynote: David Heska Wanbli Weiden interviewed by Hank Phillippi Ryan (Dana Kaye on the left).



Shorts that Pack Heat: Shawn Reilly Simmons, Alan Orloff, and Joseph S. Walker.

Sweltering Settings and Suspense: Hallie Ephron, Hank Phillippi Ryan, and John Hart.





## In Other News:

**Book Passage Mystery Writers Conference**, August 5-7, 2022, Corte Madera, California (Marin County). The Conference covers everything mystery writers need, from developing ideas and writing skills to finding an agent and publisher. [Click here for more information.](#)

**Killer Nashville**, August 18-21, 2022, Franklin Tennessee. [Click here for details.](#)

**Elk Grove Writers Guild Summer Academy** - "Book Release Strategies and Facebook Ads " with Terry Wells-Brown on August 27, 2022. Cost \$40.00. Register at: <https://egweg.org/sa> If you have any questions, email Loy Holder at: [egwg2020@egweg.org](mailto:egwg2020@egweg.org)

**The Masters Review Short Story Contest ends August 28, 2022.** The Masters Review's Short Story Award for New Writers is a bi-annual contest that recognizes the best fiction from today's emerging writers. [Click here for more information.](#)

**Bouchercon 2022**, September 8-11, 2022. Hilton 1001 Marquette Ave S, Minneapolis. [Click here for more information.](#)

**The Author's Guild - WIT: Words, Ideas, and Thinkers Festival**, September 22-25, 2022, Lenox, MA. WIT means to expand our understanding of critical issues, celebrate America's literary culture, and amplify new voices and perspectives. It is free and open to the public so everyone can participate in the dialogue without barriers. [Find out more here.](#)

**The 2022 Kauai Writers Conference**, November 11-13, 2022. Master classes Nov 7-10. For attendees registering at the same time for the conference plus one or more master classes, a combination discount will apply. [Click here for more info.](#)

**Left Coast Crime 2023: "Trouble in Tucson"** - Tucson, Arizona. March 16-19, 2023. [Click here for more details.](#)

**Bouchercon 2023: "Murder at the Marina"** August 30 to September 3, 2023 at the Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina, California. [For details click here.](#) Submit your short story to the Anthology - working title: "Peril Under the Palms" with Holly West as editor. The deadline for submission is October 15, 2022. [Click here for more information about the anthology.](#)

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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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