



*Sharing the thrill of mystery.*

DECEMBER 2023

## From the President

### 'Tis the season to be thankful

As 2023 draws to a close I'm incredibly grateful for this past year serving as president of Capitol Crimes.

I was a reluctant recruit, as our past president [Penny Manson](#) knows. But Sisters in Crime and Capitol Crimes helped make me a better writer and gave me a community of other greater writers, so I took it on to pay it forward.

In the end, I got a lot out of it, too.

Being president forced me out of my shell, made me a slightly better public speaker (I hate talking in front of people) and gave me a sense of confidence I didn't know I could ever have.

So thank you to Penny, for dragging me into this journey. Thank you to President Emeritus [Sarah Bresniker](#) for always following up all the details, and incoming President [Claire Booth](#) for stepping in when work, Girl Scouts and deadlines got crazy.

Thank you to the Capitol Crimes Board, [James L'Etoile](#), [Richard Meredith](#), Paula Benson, [Harriet Fox](#) and [Jessica Cline](#), who will continue to serve along with new board members [Myra Jolivet](#) and Chris Dreith.

Thank you [Karen Phillips](#) for your patience with my late newsletter messages and most of all for taking on the vice presidency next year.

And thank you to all the Capitol Crimes members for being such an amazing group of readers and writers! I hope to see everyone on Dec. 16 for our [Holiday Party at the Old Spaghetti Factory!](#)

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Also, be sure to join us for [Meet the Author with THE BITTER PAST author Bruce Borgos](#) on Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. Pacific Time on Zoom.

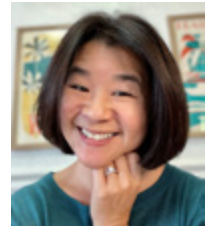
I've come full circle with Capitol Crimes. I started this journey by submitting my very first short story to the 2021 anthology, and next year as president emeritus I will be heading up the 2024 anthology effort.

Stay tuned for information about our upcoming January meeting, which will feature an amazing panel of short story authors, judges and editors. [Ashley-Ruth M. Bernier](#), [Joseph Walker](#), [Holly West](#) and [Simon Wood](#) will be talking short stories and how to get your submissions accepted into anthologies Jan 20 at 1 p.m. Pacific Time on Zoom.

Psst ... I'll also be announcing our 2024 Anthology theme and believe me, you can really sink your teeth into this one!

We won't be opening for submissions until April, with a deadline in May. So you have plenty of time to think about ideas and really polish those 5,000 words.

—Jennifer Morita, President



## Upcoming Events

### MEET THE AUTHOR WITH BRUCE BORGOS

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 • 7:00 PM (PT) • Zoom

[REGISTER NOW!](#)



### FACE-TO-FACE FA LA LA HOLIDAY PARTY 2023

Saturday, December 16, 2023 • 1:00 PM (PT)

Old Spaghetti Factory

12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova, CA 95742

*Registration closes December 9th*

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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

# Chapter News

## MEET THE AUTHOR WITH BRUCE BORGOS

When: Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, 7 p.m. (PT) • Zoom

Please join us as Penny Manson interviews Capitol Crimes member Bruce Borgos about his debut novel, *The Bitter Past*. The story follows Lincoln County, Nevada, Sheriff Porter Beck as he works to solve a gruesome murder that leads him back to the dawn of the atomic age and the hunt for a Soviet spy left behind all those years ago.



[Register now!](#)

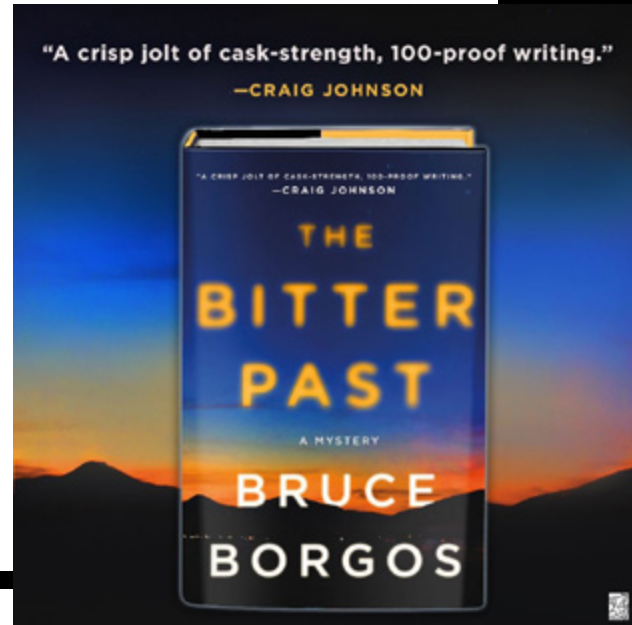
Bruce can be contacted at his website, [Bruceborgos.com](http://Bruceborgos.com), and through his social media links:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bruceborgos/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/bruceborgos/>

Ig: <https://www.instagram.com/authorbruceborgos/>

[Buy \*The Bitter Past\* here.](#)



## FACE-TO-FACE FA LA LA HOLIDAY PARTY

*Lunch, Book Exchange, and Merrymaking!*

1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023

Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova, CA 95742

Show up with your best Festive Apparel: holiday sweater, t-shirt, head adornment or all of the aforementioned, to this in person event.

Book exchange: please bring a new, or gently used, wrapped book for our traditional book exchange.

There are three options for lunch. Cost is \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members. Registration closes December 9th and tickets are non-refundable. When you register, you'll choose from three pasta entree items (Sicilian meatball, mushroom, or chicken masala). The dinner will include a salad (Caesar dressing), spumoni, and choice of soft drink or ice tea.

[Register here.](#)



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## Member News

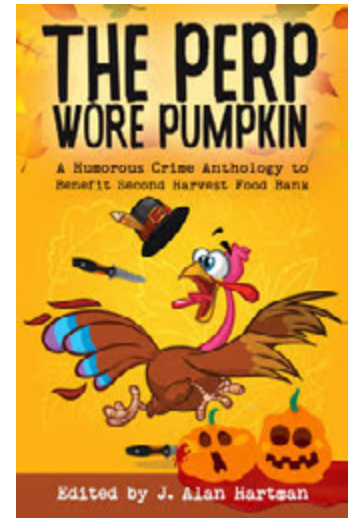
### From member Debra H. Goldstein -

Debra H. Goldstein's story, "A Diverse Thanksgiving," was published by Misti Media in *The Perp Wore Pumpkin*: a Humorous Anthology to Benefit Second Harvest Food Bank. Edited by J. Alan Hartman, the anthology is available in print and e-book from the publisher ([mistimedia.com](http://mistimedia.com)), Amazon, and numerous other vendors.

Facebook: [Debra H. Goldstein on Facebook](#)

Instagram: [debrahgoldstein](#)

X: @DebraHGoldstein



### From member James L'Etoile -

On December 17th, James L'Etoile will join The Back Room with Karen Dionne, Hank Phillip Ryan, Nishita Parker, and Jeffery Deaver at 4:00 (pacific). [Click here to register for the event.](#)



### From member Lorie Lewis-Ham -

A new Mysteryrat's Maze Podcast went up in November, this episode features the prologue and first chapter of *Steadying the Ark* by Rebecca K. Jones. It is read by local actor Shauna Dolin. You can find it here and in all the usual podcast places <https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/e/steadying-the-ark-by-rebecca-k-jones/>



A new Mysteryrat's Maze Podcast is up! This is the first of 3 Christmas episodes we will be posting in the next few weeks and features the mystery short story "Christmas Cookie Caper" written by Margaret S. Hamilton and read by local actor Donna Beavers <https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/e/christmas-cookie-caper-by-margaret-s-hamilton/>

Three Christmas episodes will be going up the end of November and in December. You will be able to find them all on our homepage <https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/> and in all the usual podcast places! For mystery and holiday fun don't miss out!

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## Member News

### From member **Catriona McPherson** –

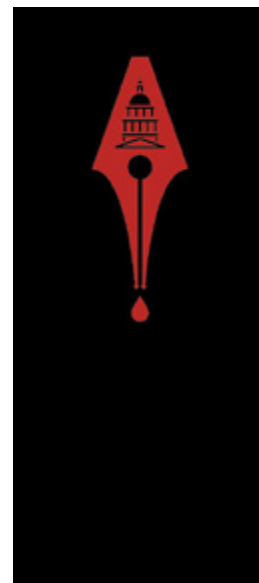
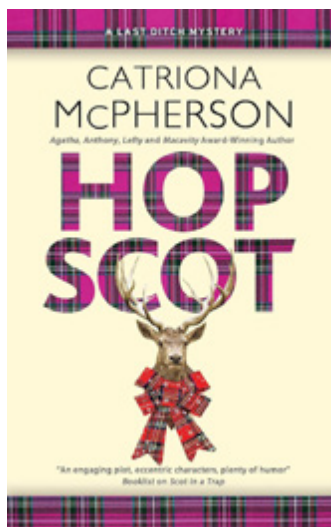
Catriona McPherson is launching HOP SCOT, Book 6 in the Last Ditch Motel series at 6 pm in the [Avid Reader](#) bookstore, in downtown Davis. It's a Christmas mystery, which sees the Ditchers hopping over to Scotland for the holidays. Come and raise a glass!

Event details: Avid Reader, 617 2nd St, Davis

Author website: <http://catrionamcpherson.com/>

Facebook: [catriona mcpherson](#)

Instagram: [catriona mcpherson](#)



### From member **Cindy Sample** –

The launch party for DYING FOR A DECORATION, the 9th book in Cindy Sample's national bestselling Laurel McKay Humorous Mystery series, will be held at Face in a Book in El Dorado Hills on December 9th from 2:00-4:00. Libations, snacks & giveaways. Hope to see you there.

Face in a Book, 4359 Town Center Blvd., El Dorado Hills

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Facebook: [Facebook.com/cindysampleauthor](https://www.facebook.com/cindysampleauthor)

Instagram: [instagram.com/cindysampleauthor](https://www.instagram.com/cindysampleauthor)

X: [twitter.com/cindysample1](https://twitter.com/cindysample1)



### From member **Terry Shepherd** –

Terry Shepherd recently launched [TerryShepherdInConversation.com](https://www.TerryShepherdInConversation.com), a new podcast series about the writing craft, featuring the artists and support systems behind the stories we tell. He's offering priority access to Capitol Crimes members, too. *Susan McCormick* and *Jim L'Etoile* are two of Terry's recent Capitol Crimes guests.

If you have a book launch coming up, or just want to talk about your writing life, email [Terry@TerryShepherd.com](mailto:Terry@TerryShepherd.com) and he'll move you to the front of the guest list.

Terry is also offering a unique publicity tool for your new releases called "Launch Day." It's a brief, three minute conversation where you share the synopsis of your new book and talk about how you'll be promoting it during the forthcoming weeks. The show premieres on your book's launch day across Terry's social platforms and on the air in Detroit, Michigan through his radio station, [Keener13.com](#). There is no charge to Capitol Crimes members for these fascinating and fun promotional opportunities.

Terry's newest book, HOW TO BE A DYNAMIC PODCAST GUEST AND SELL STUFF is set to debut in early 2024.



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## In Other News

**Grand Canyon Writers** – December 9, 2023 – “Writing Psychological Thrillers.” Our speaker, Catriona McPherson, will share critical information about writing psychological thrillers in addition to discussing how she balances key components of each storyline AND how she successfully writes multiple book series that are so diverse. Click here: <https://grandcanyonwriters.com/chapter-meetings-schedule/>

**MWA NorCal** – Ongoing Event: MWA NorCal Saturday Write-In. Every Saturday from 10:45 AM-Noon. Join us on Saturday mornings for 10 minutes of chatty camaraderie followed by some dedicated writing time. Members, email MWANorCalEvents@gmail.com and request the Google Meet link to join.

January 10, 2024, 2pm. “Authors and Taxes.” CPA Maura Matera will be giving a Zoom seminar on tax issues for authors. If you have any specific issues that you want Maura to cover, please let Claire Johnson know (norcalmwa@gmail.com).

For more information click here: <https://mwanorcal.org/events/>

**SinC NorCal** – February 3, 2024, 1-3pm. Join us at the Rockridge Branch Meeting Room for our Annual Meet and Greet. Mingle with members over potluck, then participate in a workshop to learn techniques to engage your audience and maximize sales at your next book reading with Maureen Studer. <https://www.sincnorcal.org/more-meetings/>

**Left Coast Crime 2024 • “The Seattle Shakedown” • Bellevue, Washington** – April 11-14, 2024. The registration price is \$329 through December 31, 2023; \$349 beginning January 1, 2024. <https://leftcoastcrime.org/2024/index.html>

**Killer Nashville 2024** – August 22-25, 2024, Franklin, Tennessee. Killer Nashville is the premier forum for all genres incorporating mystery, thriller, suspense, action, or romance elements; learn, present, meet agents & editors, sign books, mingle with forensic experts, and network. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

**Bouchercon 2024** – August 28 - September 1, 2024, Nashville, Tennessee. “Murder and Mayhem in Music City.” Guests of Honor: Harlan Coben, Heather Graham, Anthony Horowitz, Mick Herron, V. M. Burns, Brad Thor, Kelli Stanley, Rachel Howzell Hall, J. T. Ellison, and Clay Stafford. [Find out more and to register click here.](#)

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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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