

CAPITOL CRIMES

THE RAP SHEET | 2024

Sharing the thrill of mystery.

DECEMBER 2024

From the President

Hello and Happy New Year!

My name is Claire Booth, and I'll be your president for the coming year. I've lived in the Sacramento area for nineteen years and been a writer for a decade longer than that. I started as a newspaper reporter, covering crime and the criminal court system. I then wrote a true crime book about a case I'd originally covered as a journalist. After that, I decided to switch to fiction. I now write the Sheriff Hank Worth mystery series. And I wouldn't have gotten to this point without the Capitol Crimes writing community I'm so lucky to belong to.

Our plan for this year is to keep bringing you more great programming and to continue to support you through all the different stages of your writing journey.

We're most excited about our new Capitol Crimes anthology, which will be published this fall and is being spearheaded by our own President Emeritus Jennifer Morita. To kick it all off, join us this Saturday, Jan. 20, at 1 p.m. Pacific Time for a panel discussion on "The Long & Short of Short Stories." Short story experts will give tips on what makes a winning submission, and you'll hear more details on how to submit your entry. [You can register for the Zoom here.](#)

In February, we'll have a great presentation on working with themes in your writing. Cap Crimes member and former college professor DJ Adamson will talk on Zoom about how strong, interlinking themes can create a more memorable story.

In March, Capitol Crimes member (are you noticing a *theme* here?) Jessica Arden Cline will bring her popular Tarot for Fiction Writers



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Workshop online. She did an in-person event last year, and we heard from numerous people outside the Sacramento area who were disappointed to not be able to attend. So now she'll be Zooming for us!

And in April our monthly Zoom meeting topic is something we're pretty excited about—a presentation on firearms. An Army officer will go over everything a writer needs to know about guns—from their history and development, to the differences between the many kinds, and what they can say about your characters.

This is only a slice of what Capitol Crimes will be doing in 2024. We also will continue our popular in-person Crime Time meetups at local bookstores. If you live in the Central Valley, please consider joining us.

But whether you live near or far, and whether you're an official chapter member or you just stop by occasionally for an event, we look forward to spending time with you. If you have suggestions or questions, please feel free to email capitolcrimes@gmail.com.

And here's to a coming year of good friends, good reading, and good writing!

—*Claire Booth, President*



Upcoming Events

MEMBERS MEETING –

THE LONG & SHORT OF SHORT STORIES

Saturday, January 20, 2024 • 1:00 PM (PT) • Zoom



MEET THE AUTHOR with **BARON BIRTCHER**

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 • 7:00 PM (PT) • Zoom

MEMBERS MEETING –

DEVELOPING THEMES THROUGH CHARACTER AND PLOT

Tuesday, February 17, 2024 • 1:00 PM (PT) • Zoom

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Visit www.CapitolCrimes.org for details and to register.

Chapter News

MONTHLY MEETING: THE LONG & SHORT OF SHORT STORIES

Saturday, January 20, 2024 @ 1 p.m. (PT) • Zoom

Capitol Crimes is cooking up a new short story anthology for 2024!

We want members to have plenty of time to let those ideas simmer, so we're kicking January off with a panel of award-winning short story authors, editors and judges to help plant some seeds and cultivate winning submissions by spring.

Please join [Ashley-Ruth M. Bernier](#), [Joseph Walker](#), [Holly West](#), and [Simon Wood](#) in conversation with Jennifer Morita at 1 p.m. January 20th on Zoom as we chat about what anthology editors and judges look for and helpful tips to getting your short story published.

At the end of our meeting, we'll announce the 2024 Capitol Crimes Anthology theme. (Psst..... we may have sprinkled in a few clues.) Click here for more information on our panelists.

[Register here.](#)

MEET THE AUTHOR WITH BARON BIRTCHER

When: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 @ 7 p.m. (PT) • Zoom

Please join us as Penny Manson interviews Capitol Crimes member Baron Birtcher about his latest novel, **RECKONING**. The story follows Ty Dawson, a small-town sheriff with big-city problems, as he struggles to keep modernity at bay in rural Meriwether County. But a standoff between the federal government and cattlemen, a murdered Portland detective, and a swamp of corruption isn't making his life any easier

Baron is the winner of the Silver Falchion Award (*Hard Latitudes*); Winner of Killer Nashville Readers Choice Award (*South California Purples*); and Best Book of the Year Award for *Fistful Of Rain*.

He has also been nominated for the Nero Award, the Lefty, the Foreword Indie, the Claymore, and the Pacific Northwest's Spotted Owl Awards.

Baron's writing has been hailed as "The real deal" by Publishers Weekly; "Fast Paced and Engaging" by Booklist; and "Solid, Fluent and Thrilling" by Kirkus.

Bestselling author, Don Winslow, has said, "You want to read Baron's books, then you want to live in them."

[Register here.](#)



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Member News

From member Anna J. Stewart –

Book Release

Anna J. Stewart is celebrating the release of the final book in her Honor Bound romantic suspense series. *A DETECTIVE'S DEADLY SECRETS* features FBI Special Agent Eamon Quinn as he reunites with the woman who got away: his former partner desperate to solve the mystery of her late husband's death.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/AuthorAnnaJStewart>

Instagram: AnnaJStewart • X: AJStewartWriter



From member Elaine Faber –

SPIRIT WOMAN LEGENDS AND LIES is now available at Amazon in paperback and e-book.

When the winner of a contested lottery ticket is found desecrated by wild animals, and stolen drugs found in his house, the suspicion of murder falls on his brother. Lou Shoemaker, owner of the Pooper Scooper sewer truck, helps Rosita, a homeless woman with two kids find employment in town, but she is soon the victim of gossip about her and the local pastor. While searching for the killer, Sheriff Peabody and Deputy Nate must expose the lies or the pastor will be forced to leave the church. Can the Native American Spirit Woman and her mountain lion companion influence events to aid the troubled town?

Contact Elaine.Faber@mindcandymysteries.com for signed copies. \$15.00 and free shipping



From Member Donna Del Oro –

Book Announcement

UNDERCOVER IN SILICON VALLEY, the sequel to *Undercover Lies*, by award-winning author Donna Del Oro has been contracted to ExtasyBooks.com, a midsize Canadian publisher. The sequel follows the exploits of FBI Special Agent Jake Bernstein who, because he's fluent in Hebrew and Arabic, undertakes a dangerous assignment to investigate a possible Islamic terrorist cell in Silicon Valley.

Release: TBD in 2024

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Member News

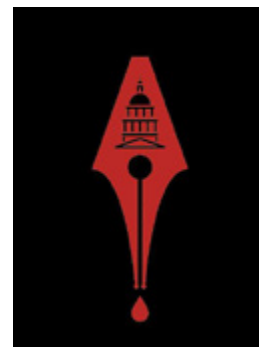
From member Judith Starkston –

Author Event: In-person

Mark your calendars for: “Writing Workshop on Point of View” at the Avid Reader Bookstore in Davis (617 2nd Street) on Wednesday, February 28, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Capitol Crimes member Judith Starkston and Tim Schooley will share their tactics for bringing readers deeply into the POV of their characters, an essential skill for increasing your readers’ emotional response to your words by feeling what your characters feel. We will also cover choosing from a variety of POVs, head-hopping, and exercises to stretch your wings. Avid Reader Bookstore asks attendees buy one of either author’s books from the store that evening.

Location: Avid Reader Bookstore, 617 2nd Street, Davis, CA 94616

Date: Wednesday, February 28, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.



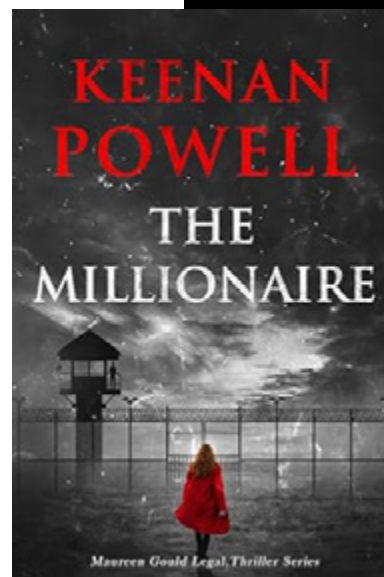
From member Keenan Powell –

Book Release

In THE MILLIONAIRE, the second Maureen Gould Legal Thriller, Maureen is tasked with defending a former client accused of murdering his abuser.

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

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/keenan.powell/>



INTERESTED IN SELLING BOOKS AT THE STATE FAIR?

Per Michelle Hamilton getting an individual author table would cost \$4K-\$5K or higher. Michelle manages the California Authors Booth, which showcases a revolving roster of authors throughout the Fair’s run. To inquire about applying for a spot, please contact Michelle at authormlhamilton@gmail.com. You will need to also send her a copy of your book(s). The sooner you apply with her the better. She tries to have writers vetted by late February. Once spots are taken, she has to start turning people away, so apply soon.

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Member News

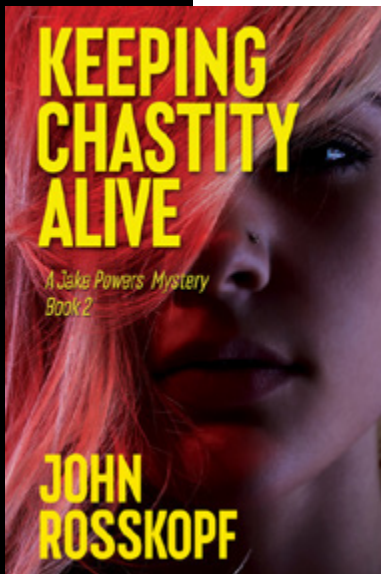
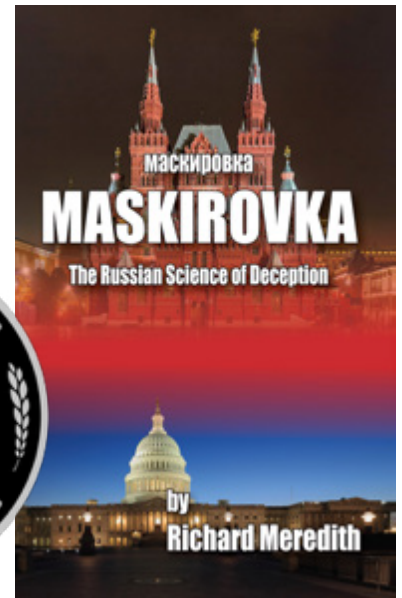
From member Richard Meredith –

Award

Rick is pleased to announce that his latest novel, MASKIROVKA—THE RUSSIAN SCIENCE OF DECEPTION, is a BestThrillers Book Awards finalist for 2023!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/richard.meredith.967>

Instagram: Sacto_WriterRick



From member John W. Roskopf –

Book Release

In December, John published Book 2 of his Jake Powers Mystery Series. In KEEPING CHASTITY ALIVE, Jake is met one morning by a young working woman, Chastity Blaise, who hires him to find a fellow working lady who has gone missing. When the missing woman turns up dead, the nature of Jake's employment changes. The location of the story is the Sacramento area. John plans on making this a five book series and is busy working on Book 3, REQUIEM FOR TUESDAY.

From member June Gillam –

Audiobook Release

June Gillam's NEST OF WHITE CROWS, Hillary Broome Crime Novel Book 5, was just released as an audiobook. Free with Audible trial subscription.

<https://rb.gy/1nvkxg>



From member Ana Manwaring –

Award

Ana Manwaring's latest release BACKLASH (11/15/23), was awarded a Literary Titan Gold Book Award and short-listed for the Chanticleer Clue Award for suspense/thrillers.

Facebook: @anamanwaring • Instagram: @anamanwaring • X: @anamanwaring

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Member News

From member Anne Da Vigo –

Publication

Killer Nashville Magazine’s November issue included my article, “Fact to Fiction: Turning Real Crime into Story.” Here’s the link: <https://www.killernashville.com/articles/fact-to-fiction-turning-real-crime-into-story-by-anne-da-vigo>



From Member Terry Shepherd –

Terry Shepherd’s “In Conversation” Interviews this month include our own **Richard Meredith**. The visit goes beyond promotion of Rick’s latest hit, MASKIROVKA—THE RUSSIAN SCIENCE OF DECEPTION, with a philosophical exchange about why we write. His entire library of conversations can be found at TerryShepherdInConversation.com. Segments from Terry’s



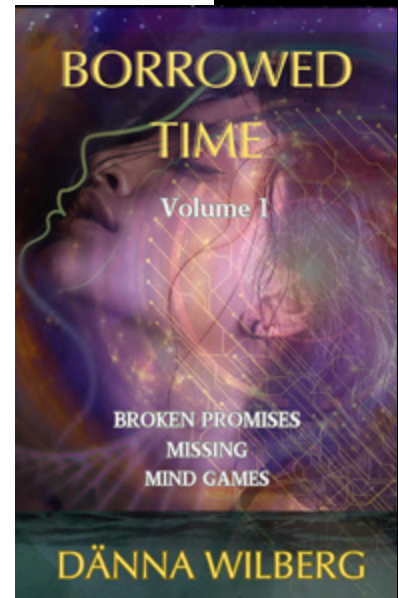
interviews can also be heard during the morning show on Detroit radio station Keener13.com.



Terry’s also announced the next entry in his Jessica Ramirez series. THE INNOCENT is due for release this summer and introduces his PI Chase Murray. Jess plays a supporting role in this thriller about a young nurse who goes missing as the gang members who killed her brothers start dying.

Terry and **Dänna Wilberg** have short stories that will appear in the 2024 MALICE IN DALLAS ANTHOLOGY. It will be Dänna’s third appearance and Terry’s second in a row.

Dänna has released a limited edition hardcover encompassing the first three novels in her BORROWED TIME series: BROKEN PROMISES, MISSING and MIND GAMES. The exclusive printing includes a new introduction by her protagonist, Suzanne Cash and a teaser chapter from Book Four - GOLDEN STATE. Dänna’s celebrated short film SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE HEADLESS BISHOP has now topped 15 film festival award nominations worldwide.



In other Capitol Crimes Podcasting news: Craig and **Penny Manson**’s thirteen Bouchercon 2023 Author Interviews are starting to pop up on SoundCloud and Spotify. They include several Capitol Crimes members and are widely promoted on the Authors on the Air Global Radio Network. Member **Marie Sutro** is hosting the fascinating TWISTED PAGES podcast on the network, too.

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In Other News

Mavens of Mayhem Upper Hudson Hudson Chapter: Long Story Short – Efficiency, Economy, Focus with Art Taylor – January 20 @ 11:15am (Eastern). To register visit: <https://upperhudsonsinc.com/event/short-story-workshop-with-art-taylor/>

RWA Indie Author Weekend – January 20 & 21, 2024 – a two-day virtual self-publishing conference that will unleash your indie author potential. For authors of all genres. [Click here for more information.](#)

Guppy Anthology call for submissions – *Gone Fishin': Crime Takes a Holiday*, the Eighth Guppy Anthology will be released by February 10, 2025. The deadline for submissions will be 11:59 p.m. EST on March 10, 2024. See the January issue of the FIRST DRAFT newsletter for more info. Log in at <https://sincguppies.wildapricot.org/>

Chanticleer's 12 Social Media Tips! – Check out Chanticleer's top tips for growing your audience and maintaining your community. [Click here for the article.](#)

SinC National - Write Ins! – Thanks to a group of intrepid volunteers, SinC will be offering write-ins on Tuesdays, Fridays and two Saturdays. [Click here for schedule.](#)

30th Annual Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA) Book Awards Competition. ENTRY DEADLINE: February 15, 2024. You do not have to be a member to enter. Registration information at <https://www.norcalpa.org/book-awards> or contact Vice President and Book Awards Chair Sharon Darrow at: sharon@sharonsdarrow.com 916-803-1665.

Left Coast Crime 2024 • “The Seattle Shakedown” • Bellevue, Washington – April 11-14, 2024. For more info go to: <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
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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