

CAPITOL CRIMES

Sharing the thrill of mystery.

JULY 2021

From the President

Happy 4th of July!

I hope there are fireworks or some kind of illumination brightening up your world this month.



Speaking of bright lights, I have always wanted Capitol Crimes to be a star among the Sisters In Crime chapters. Your Board has been hard at work reviewing our current By-Laws to more closely follow National's leadership roles model.

We are officially past the halfway mark of the current Board members' terms. This has been one of the strongest Boards I have had the privilege of working with and what has been accomplished since June of 2020 has been nothing short of amazing. I mean, did you check out our new Anthology Cover? Attend the June 8th Book Club? And people are still talking about our June members' meeting with retired mortician Scot Benton. This is an incredible group, most who will have already served a year and a half by December 2021. There are a few who have served longer but my point is we can't assume everyone will be able to serve another year in chapter leadership. And we shouldn't expect or want them to. I have learned just how talented a group of people are members of this chapter. We recently hit the 100 member mark and I know there are people out there with gifts to share in leadership roles.

This is why we are reworking our current By-Laws. One of the By-Laws changes I strongly support is a firm five-year cap on any leadership position. You may serve in any Board position for no more than a total of five years, then you must then step down from any Board position to allow new chapter members a chance to serve. One of the challenges in the past has been that new Board members start from square one. This creates a situation where people serving on

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From the President continued

the Board continue to do so because they know the job particulars. We want the job experience on the Board to continue while encouraging other chapter members to step up and volunteer for leadership roles.

We had to reinvent the wheel because we didn't have a lot of the information that Sonja knew and we had no way of acquiring it. I never want a board to be in that position again. "How-to" information documents are being created which will live on the shared Capitol Crimes Google drive. No matter what happens to any one of us, there will be information accessible for remaining chapter members.

Our current Board structure means decisions are made, speakers planned, and projects for the future started with no input or buy-in from the Board who has to make those projects a reality. National's leadership role model changes this by building in an automatic overlap in leadership, most importantly in the President and Vice-President positions. For us the biggest change for the upcoming election will be in the position of Vice-President. This person will serve 1 year as Vice-President, step into the role of president for 1 year, and then serve a final year as President Emeritus. Accidentally, this is the system we are currently operating under. I was VP, now I am President, and I will serve as President Emeritus next year.

It might seem I had no choice because of the situation created by Sonja's passing but that's not entirely true. I said yes because I felt an obligation to Sonja to see the Capitol Crimes projects she started to completion. I also said yes because I have gotten so much from this Chapter and felt a need to pay back and pay forward. What I didn't know was how much I would learn from this Board, how much support I would get from all of you, or how many new skills I would get hands-on experience in. Social media, marketing, book launching, creating an Anthology or an author platform, Zoom, and taming the Wild Apricot are skills that would serve any author who hopes not just to survive but thrive in this new world of both traditional and self-publishing. Was it work? I'd be lying if I said no, but it was also fulfilling and fun. Moving in this direction makes a lot of sense for support and continuity of the Chapter. This is also why you should consider volunteering for a leadership position.

More information about the By-Laws changes will be presented to the membership at the July Chapter meeting and in the August newsletter. Membership will have the opportunity to vote on the new By-Laws and all changes will be in place before we start the election process in September.

Last thoughts. This Board is on a roll. There are a lot of wonderful projects going gangbusters. If that momentum is to continue, we need people to step up and volunteer for board positions. If you have ever considered serving, there will never be a better time to throw your hat in the ring. AND Misters, don't be intimidated by the Sisters. We love all our siblings and there is a place for you here on the Board. We're hot and we want to stay that way. Please, think about joining the Capitol Crimes Board.

Have a great month!

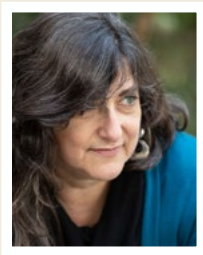
-Penny Manson, President



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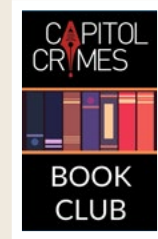
Chapter News

Upcoming Events



Eileen Rendahl
Beginner's Guide to Scrivener
Saturday, July 17, 2021
1:00 pm • Zoom

BOOK CLUB
The Fog Ladies: Family Matters
by Susan McCormick
Tuesday, August 10, 2021
7:00 PM • Zoom



Hallie Ephron
Crafting Suspense: You know it when you feel it, but how do you build it into a scene? Into a novel?
Saturday, August 21, 2021
1:00 PM • Zoom

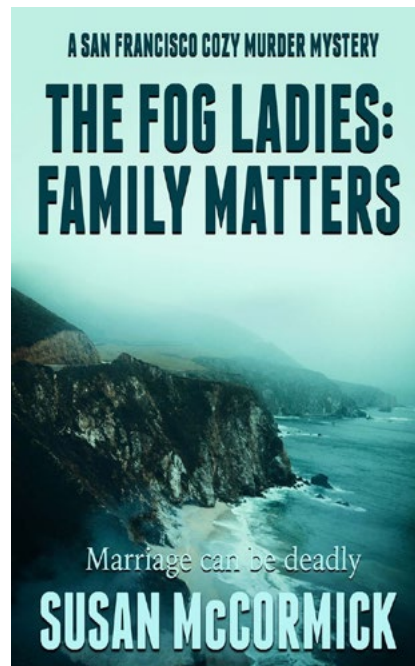


Visit www.CapitolCrimes.org for details and to register.

BOOK CLUB

Join us **7pm PT on August 10, 2021**, when our featured author will be Silver Falchion Award Finalist, Susan McCormick! We will be discussing Susan's fantastic first book in ***The Fog Ladies series, "Family Matters."*** This invitation is open to all members and their friends. [Click here to register.](#)

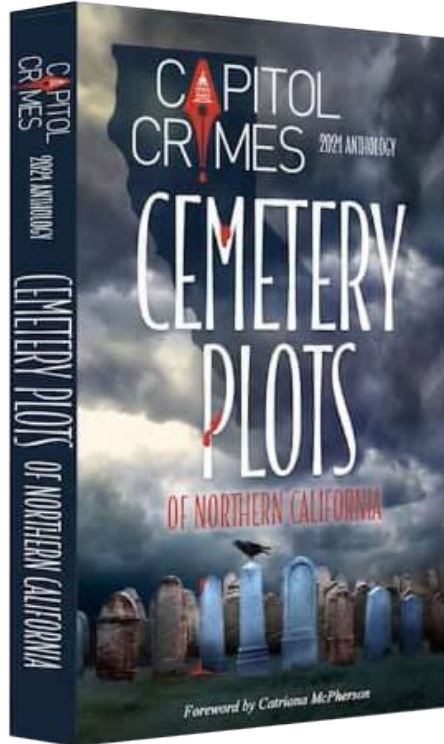
(Even if you don't have a chance to read the book in advance, you are welcome to join the discussion and find out what we're all about. Hope to see you then!)



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Chapter News



This Anthology promises to be our best yet!

Cemetery Plots of Northern California will feature 15 fantastic stories from a variety of exceptional authors. We're doubling our efforts to make sure it offers everything and then some. In addition to submitting for awards, and having brought in a panel of spectacular judges, we are proud to announce award-winning author, **Catriona McPherson**, will be writing the foreword!



Even if you are not a contributing author, you can join the fun by participating in one of the following ways:

- **Advertising** ([Visit our Advertising page to learn more.](#))
- **Join our Anthology Marketing Team** (Have a blast helping to generate social media buzz as we work together to make this our best release ever! Contact us at capitolcrimes@gmail.com for more details.)

Stay tuned for special announcements about the contributing authors and the release date!!



Congratulate your favorite author! Promote your book! Purchase an ad in the 2021 Capitol Crimes Anthology.

Your message will be printed in the back of an exciting collection of tales by a group of talented Capitol Crimes authors.

Purchasing an ad is simple, and multiple size options are available.

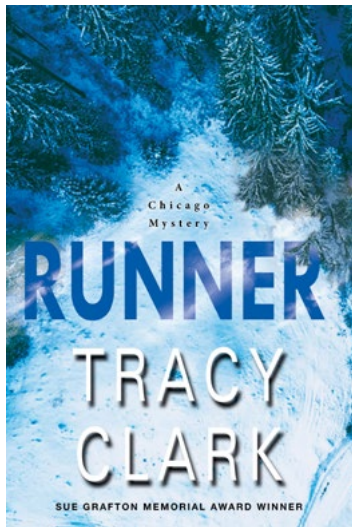
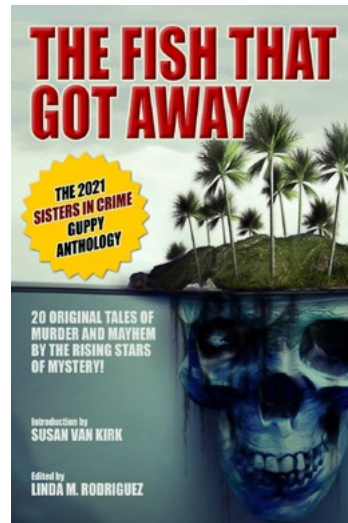
[Check out the details on our website.](#)

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Member News

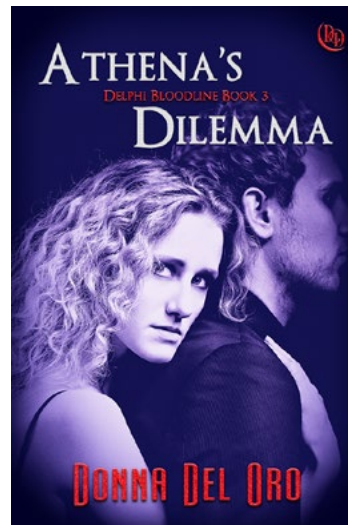
from member Sarah Bresniker –

Member Sarah Bresniker is happy to announce that *The Fish That Got Away*, the 2021 *Sisters in Crime Guppy Anthology* is now available. Check out her short story, “Book Drop” along with 19 other great stories from Guppy authors. The paperback is out on Amazon now and the ebook is coming soon. Sarah will also be discussing her story on Art Taylor’s [“The First Two Pages”](#) blog in July, and a webinar with all of the authors will be coming in August.



from member Tracy Clark –

“*Runner*,” book four in Tracy Clark’s Cass Raines Chicago Mystery series released June 29th. Clark is the winner of the 2020 Sue Grafton Memorial Award, as well as a multi-nominated finalist for the Lefty, Shamus and Anthony Awards.



from member Donna Del Oro –

Athena's Dilemma is the third book in an exciting, romantic suspense series featuring clairvoyant artist Athena Butler. This globe hopping heroine finds herself in San Francisco, managing the art gallery in her boyfriend’s steel-and-glass tower, consulting with a local homicide detective to find the killer of homeless victims, getting involved with foothill county deputies in ferreting out a child abduction ring, and wondering whether she and her lover, Kas Skoros, have a future together.

Members - feature your latest book cover* in the **Book Cover Carousel on the homepage of [CapitolCrimes.org](#)**

Send cover art to CapitolCrimes@gmail.com

**one cover per author*

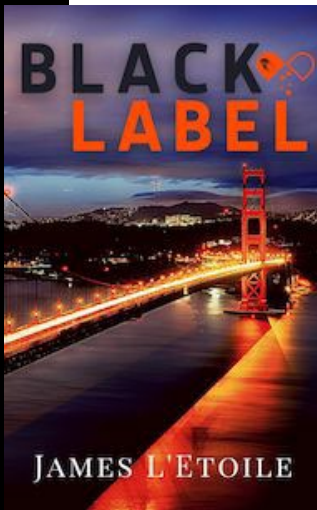
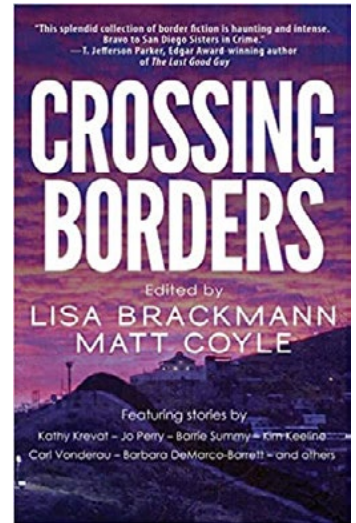
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Member News

from member Kim Keeline -

Kim Keeline is proud to announce that her short story "The Crossing" was a finalist for a Derringer Best Short Story award. It was published in *Crossing Borders, the San Diego Sisters in Crime anthology*, edited by Matt Coyle and Lisa Brackmann. That anthology also just won the Best Anthology category for the San Diego Book Awards.



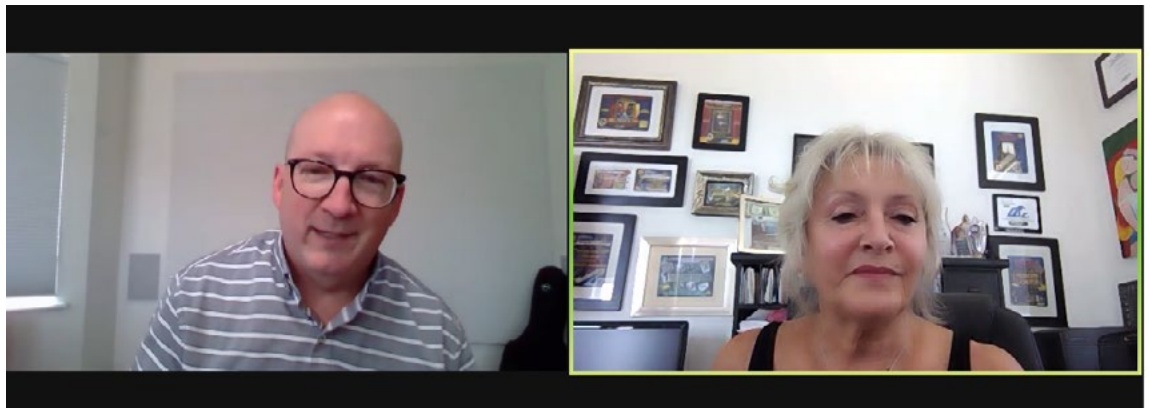
from member James L'Etoile -

Join James L'Etoile's to celebrate the publication of his new novel, *Black Label*, at Face In A Book on Saturday, August 14th, from 4-6 pm.

Face In A Book, 4359 Town Center Blvd #113, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

from member Pat Canterbury -

I am honored to be invited to be a panelist for mystery children's literature for MWA's Norcal chapter on Saturday, July 17, via ZOOM at 1 p.m. I'll be discussing my pre-teen/young adult historical cozy *Poplar Cove series*; which is set in a fictional colored town in Northern California. [Click here for more information.](#)



So very grateful to member Dänna Wilberg for interviewing retired mortician Scot Benton at our June meeting. He was both entertaining and educational.

To see what Scot does now, visit his photography website at:

<http://www.santasenchantedsworkshop.com/>

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Member News

from member Michelle Corbier –

Before I decided to pursue a second career as a professional author, I reflected upon my desire as a young child to become a physician. I had no role models. My exposure to medicine had been limited to vaccinations and obligatory school physicals.

In medical school, I learned the aphorism, 'see one, do one, teach one'. I observed my supervising physicians, duplicated their actions, and subsequently taught other medical professionals the same techniques.

After receiving an invitation from author Kellye Garrett to join [Crime Writers of Color](#), I chose to model her behavior and become an active participant in our writing community. When Sisters in Crime requested volunteers, I joined the Education Committee. Following a tutorial from Lisa Malice and Chris Goff, I hosted my first webinar. It did not go well, but my fellow Sisters in Crime members supported and encouraged me to continue. Through volunteering, I learned about the writing process, met interesting authors and made friends.

Later this year I will circulate my own newsletter. In spring 2022, I will self-publish my first mystery novel. In the not too distant future, I will share my experiences with other aspiring authors.

Only you can define success, but it cannot be obtained in isolation. I encourage you to find your community. By supporting them you benefit. Take advantage of any opportunity you have to volunteer. Through the examples of our predecessors we grow, gain mastery and flourish. On my journey, I utilize the resources of my community to make straight the precarious path I trod.

Capitol Crimes encompasses people from a variety of backgrounds, educational levels and cultures. Reach out to your fellow readers, writers and authors. Move beyond fear and attain your publishing goals.

There are different mediums available from traditional publishing, self-publishing or serial publishing on platforms like Substack and Patreon. No one can write your story. Add your voice to the kaleidoscope of published stories and enjoy the fellowship.

Michelle Corbier, writing also as Michelle Taylor, is the author of the upcoming mystery novel *Murder is Revealing*. Learn more at www.MichelleCorbier.com.

SHORT STORY CONTEST

For your chance to win up to \$200, you tell your story. The Elk Grove Arts Commission invites authors 18 years or older to participate in its short story contest. Fiction or non-fiction stories must be connected to Elk Grove and contain no more than 2,000 words. Deadline to enter is August 1. Winners will be announced Saturday, October 9, during the Great Read Book Faire located at District56. For details, visit elkgrovecity.org/bookfaire.



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define success,
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I encourage
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community.**

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Blast from the Past

The April 18, 2015 Capitol Crimes "Killer Workshop" was a great success on many fronts.

The workshop organizing committee should be congratulated for all their hard work because it paid off. The workshop had over 80 registrations and brought in 30 new members!

The speakers: Nora Profit, Susan Spann, George Fong and keynote speaker James Rollins, had everyone glued to their seats taking copious notes. Special kudos to Robin Burcell who was asked at the very last minute to step in for a sick Chelsea Carter, and still gave an award presentation.

James Rollins



George Fong

Susan Spann



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The City of Elk Grove
Arts Commission Presents

The Great Read Book Fair

Story submissions are due August 1st.

The Book Fair is Oct 9, 2021 at
District 56 8230 Civic Center Drive

A day when imagination soars as authors, readers, and beginning writers come together.



Short Story Contest
Book Fair
Writer's Conference
Children's Hour



Be part of the literary excitement as a participant or a browser. Choose a book to read, sell your novel, enter a short story contest, or learn writing skills.

Short Story Contest

First Place \$200

Second Place \$100

Fiction or non-fiction

2,000 words or less

Story must take place in Elk Grove

Manuscript must be in a PDF format

Writers need a cover page with the title of the story, the author's name, and contact information.

No author's name on story pages, just the title on each page.



Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

Entry Rules

Open to all age 18 and over

\$10 entry fee (to be paid at manuscript submission). Fees must be submitted with applications and paid by credit card only.

Deadline for submissions is **August 1, 2021 at 5:00 PM.**

Entries will only be accepted electronically.

No submissions will be accepted after Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

Winners will be announced on Saturday, October 9, 2021 during the Great Read Book Fair located at District 56 (8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove).

[Information on how to submit are on the website click here for details.](#)

Writer's Conference

All day workshops with successful authors and agents. For information on the conference visit the Elk Grove Writer's Guild website at www.egweg.org

Author and Book Vendor

Vendors must bring their own tables, chairs, canopy (optional)

No access to electricity.

Spaces are assigned by EG Arts Commission.

Outside booth space fee \$25 (8x36, includes table and 2 chairs)

10x10 or limited to 5 inside booth space fee \$50.

[Information on the website click here for details.](#)



**OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS! MALICE DOMESTIC 17:
"MYSTERY MOST TRADITIONAL" Anthology
Deadline to Submit is September 1, 2021**

<https://www.malicedomestic.org/anthologies.html>



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Other News:

Sisters In Crime Webinars: "Crafting Evocative Prose" on July 13 and "Writer's Law School - Protecting Your Artistic Rights" on July 27. [Register here for these FREE events.](#)

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/>

International Thriller Writers: Virtual ThrillerFest 2021! June 28 - July 10, 2021. Take advantage of this opportunity to participate in Master Class, PitchFest, ConsultFest, and the brand new X-Treme CraftFest! [Click here to learn more.](#)

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 at: <https://www.malicedomestic.org/>

Bouchercon 2021: New Orleans, Louisiana. August 25 - 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>

The Great Valley Bookfest: Manteca, California - October 9, 2021
The Great Valley Bookfest will feature numerous authors, arts and crafts, book sales, plus gourmet food and beverage vendors. Vendors will be outdoors so please come prepared for all types of weather. Go to: <https://gvbookfest.org/>



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Visit www.CapitolCrimes.org for details.

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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