

# CAPITOL CRIMES

*Sharing the thrill of mystery.*

JUNE 2021

## From the President

### BEST SUMMER EVER!

I have always loved summer. When I was a child, it meant a big trip, usually on the train, to wherever my uncle serving in the Army was stationed. It meant the family reunion, seeing cousins, taking youth classes at Shaw's Garden (also known as the *Missouri Botanical Garden*), reading until late into the night, and sleeping late the next day. At that time even Saint Louis' humidity didn't bother me and summer was the most wonderful time of year. I have to admit especially in later years when I worked in public school districts and private schools, summertime still held a magical sway over me. Last year a damper clouded all of that with the shutdown, shut-in, shut-off feelings of uncertainty and dread. I am usually the most optimistic of people but even I was no match for the summer of 2020. My "make lemonade out of lemons" mindset was more grapefruit-flavored than the sweet summertime drink I looked forward to all year. BUT now here we are! In recovery and on the road to healing and health. My friend said, "It's like we were all put in jail for a crime we didn't commit, and now that we have been set free, we don't know how to act." Where shall we go? What previously forbidden thing shall we do first? I turn my uncovered face to the sun, close my eyes against the glare and feel the warmth against my cheeks.

I want to thank Capitol Crimes Board Member and Author Extraordinaire R. Franklin James for her work in making our very first Members Marketplace a success. It takes a village to make a successful Chapter and, Rae, I am so glad you are a member of our tribe.

This month the second **Capitol Crimes Book Club** will occur on June 8th from 7-8pm Pacific Time with the multi-award-winning

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*From the President continued*

short filmmaker, writer, producer, and TV host, (and Capitol Crimes Board Member) Dänna Wilberg! Dänna will be speaking about *Book 1* in her *Broken Promises* series, *Borrowed Time* and will share insights into her stories and writing process.

Terry Shepard and Sarah Bresniker have been hard at work co-chairing the Anthology Committee and the submissions are in the hands of the judges. And this just in – the Anthology has a winning title! See page 4.

Our chapter meeting this month features Scot Benton, Retired Funeral Director, who will be interviewed by Dänna Wilberg. Come find out what you've always wanted to know about mortuaries, funerals, autopsies, and more, but were too polite to ask!

Time is a funny thing. I no longer have to hide under my covers with a flashlight to read late into the summer nights and somehow my books are just a little less exciting now that I no longer have to sneak to get just "one more chapter." This summer will be so much sweeter after missing out last year. I hope you get to experience everything that means summer to you this year.

—Penny Manson, President



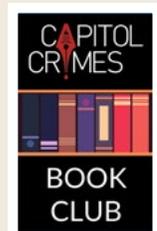
## Upcoming Events

### Book Club

**Author Dänna Wilberg**

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

7:00 pm • Zoom



### Scot Benton

**Retired Funeral Director**

Saturday, June 19, 2021

1:00 pm • Zoom

### Eileen Rendahl

**Beginner's Guide to Scrivener**

Saturday, July 17, 2021

1:00 pm • Zoom



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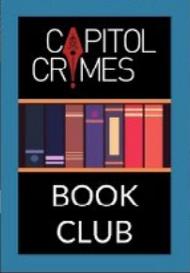
Visit [www.CapitolCrimes.org](http://www.CapitolCrimes.org) for details and to register.

# Chapter News



**BROKEN PROMISES**  
*-Danna Wilberg*

June 8, 2021      7:00 pm (PT)



## BOOK CLUB

Join us **7pm PT on June 8, 2021**, when our featured author will be multi-award-winning short film maker, writer, producer and TV host, Danna Wilberg! We will be discussing Danna's fantastic book, ***Broken Promises (Book 1 in the Borrowed Time series)***. 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. Hope to see you then!)



**"NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST " AND THE WINNER IS . . .**

"The Rap Sheet" – submitted by Eve Elliot.  
She will receive a Starbucks gift card.  
*Thank you to all who participated!*

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## Chapter News



### **The 2021 Capitol Crimes Anthology is on track for publication in October!**

Congratulations to Keith Hively, who gave us “Cemetery Plots - of Northern California” as the anthology’s title. Cover design by our own Karen Phillips is under way and five superlative judges are currently reviewing the entries. The fifteen authors selected for inclusion will be announced in July and preparation of the manuscript will begin.

We’re also working on a book launch party to celebrate! Be sure to keep an eye on our website for updates.

Thanks to everyone who submitted stories and to the Anthology Committee for their work on what will definitely be the most exciting chapter publication to 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

# ZOOM EVENT Laura, Catriona, and possibly Agatha

**June 8 @ 6 pm**

Invitation to Virtual Book Launch of DEADLY DELIGHTS (A Bookish Baker Mystery)

I'm excited to announce that DEADLY DELIGHTS, the sequel to my Agatha-nominated debut cozy, MURDER MOST SWEET, is releasing Tuesday, June 8. I'm doing a virtual book launch 6/8 at 6 p.m. with fellow Agatha nominee and award-winning author Catriona McPherson, Please stop by as we discuss books, baking disasters, and the Agathas. I'll also be doing a giveaway of DEADLY DELIGHTS,

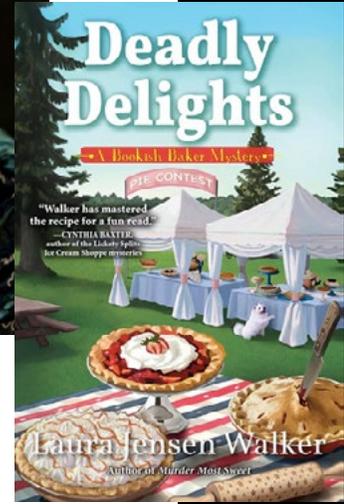
Grateful for these great advance reviews:

"Entertaining...Lively characters complement the twisty plot." — Publishers Weekly

"Deadly Delights moves along at warp speed...[Walker's] writing and story development is top notch." —New York Journal of Books

**[You must pre-register- click here - to attend. Hope to see you there!](#)**

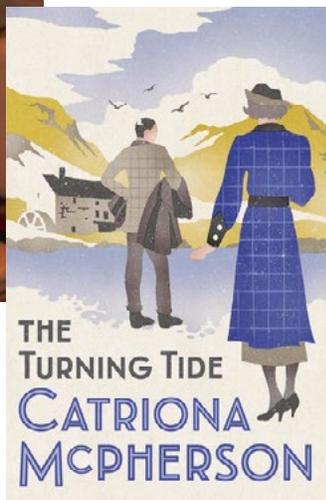
– Laura Jensen Walker / [www.laurajensenwalker.com](http://www.laurajensenwalker.com)



Catriona McPherson's fourteenth Dandy Gilver novel THE TURNING TIDE is nominated for best historical, the DEADLY DELIGHTS launch party has a twist: Laura, Catriona (and possibly Agatha) will be at Capitol Books on K, 6pm on the 8th of June (virtual) is a celebration of books, baking, teapots, and more. Recipes guaranteed.

– Catriona McPherson

Find me on Facebook or Twitter, and at [catrionamcpherson.com](http://catrionamcpherson.com)



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## Member News

from member Eve Elliot -

I usually write romance fiction and have wanted to get into crime writing for a long time. Earlier this year, while needing a break from all the swooning and sighing, I decided to try my hand at an old fashioned radio drama whodunnit. It's called *The Death of Dr. Davidson*, and as an homage to Agatha Christie and Ellery Queen, I unequivocally state that it's fairly derivative - but it was so much fun to write and produce. I recruited fellow voice over artists to play the parts, and I'm just now in the process of releasing the final two episodes, the 'big reveal' scene, à la Hercule Poirot.

Writing a radio drama is an interesting challenge. Everything has to be done with dialogue or small passages of narration, and sound effects. There's no room for exposition, back story or description (unless you can work it in somehow without 'telling not showing' too much.) Your characters have to be truly unique, because with a large cast (there are 12 voices in this production), it would be far too easy for your listener to lose track of who's who. And considering that I was unable to get everyone together in one room, it took a lot of editing to piece everyone's recorded lines together to make it sound like they're all in the same room talking to each other.

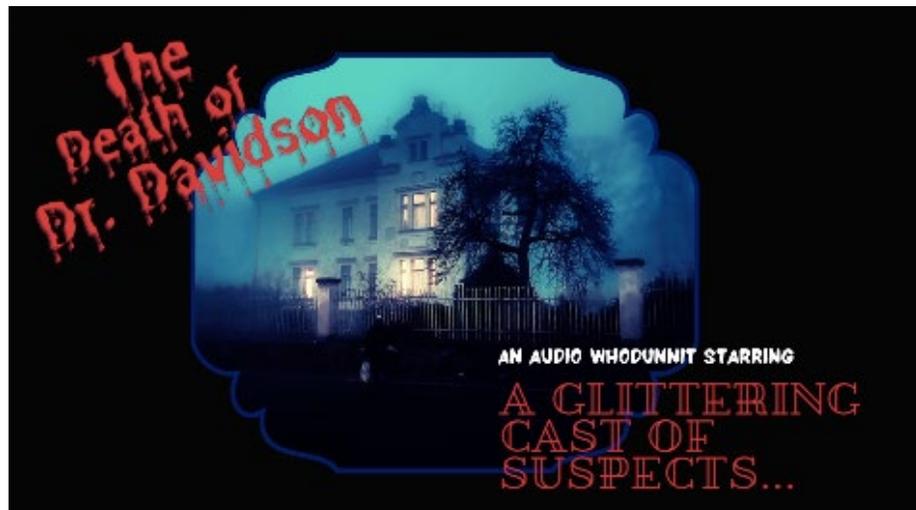
But what a satisfying result when it's done. The production comes alive, and hearing your words acted out is an incredible thrill. I was even able to make my own 'promotional video' out of stock footage and music that helped me narrow down the essentials even more.

As a voice over artist, actress and podcaster, I see every day how much audio is growing as a medium. I never thought of combining audio with creative writing, but it's been such an amazing experience. I know it's helped me grow as a crime writer, too; having to tell the story in such a clear, dialogue-driven way really made me focus on the essence of the story.

You might want to give it a try yourself :)

If you'd like to listen to the series, you'll find all the audios here:

<https://www.eveelliot.com/the-death-of-dr-davidson-audio-dram>



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## Member News

# LOW DOWN DIRTY VOTE

Member **Mysti Berry** is publishing Volume 3 in the LOW DOWN DIRTY VOTE charity anthology series, and there are a few slots left. This year the anthology will raise \$10,000 for Democracy Docket, a group defending voting rights all across the United States. For submission guidelines, see <https://lowdowndirtyvote.com/submission-guidelines.php> Deadline is Halloween, 2021.

## Members Marketplace



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So very grateful to our MEMBERS MARKETPLACE featured authors - **Cindy Sample**, **Richard Schneider**, **R. Franklin James** and **Elaine Faber** - for a fun and fabulous event! Check out their most recent books at [www.capitolcrimes.com](http://www.capitolcrimes.com).  
A great way to fill up your summer reading list!

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## Blast from the Past

Just for fun, photos from the Capitol Crimes archives.

Below are images from the "Mystery, Mayhem & Suspense: Local Authors Share their Secrets" event held Saturday, September 6, 2014 at the El Dorado County Library in Placerville, California. Four Sisters in Crime/Capitol Crimes authors participated; Elaine Faber, Cindy Sample, Sherry Joyce, and Linda Townsdin. Sherry Joyce moderated. It was a standing room only crowd!



Above photo, from left to right: Cindy, Jen (Leader of "Writers Bloc"), Elaine, Sherry, Krystal Owens (EDC Library Manager) and Linda.



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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](http://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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## In Other News:

**Sisters In Crime Webinars:** “Writing Authentic Queer Lives” on June 8 and “Be Your Own Publicist—And Know When to Hire Help” on June 17. [Register here for these FREE events.](#)

**California Crime Writers Conference** (June 12, 2021) co-sponsored by SinC Los Angeles and MWA SoCal, is back with a twist: virtual and free. Register at: <https://ccwconference.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/>

**International Thriller Writers: Virtual ThrillerFest 2021!** June 28 - July 20, 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](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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