

From the President

On Weather and Writing

As I write this, it's rainy and blustery outside. So is it good writing weather? For me, the answer is yes. And no. Yes, because there's no temptation to sneak out and enjoy the sunshine. I can sit at my warm, dry desk and keep banging away at my keyboard. I can achieve my daily word count.



Now for the "no." It's not good writing weather for the same reason that it is. I can't get outside. Going for a walk is one of the main ways I brainstorm. There's something about the physical movement that shakes the writing bits of my brain and knocks those ideas loose. I have workarounds—doing household chores or an exercise video are main ones—that get me moving, but nothing is as good as being out in the fresh air.

What weather is best for your writing? Do you have different weather favorites for different aspects—brainstorming, outlining, editing? How do you make the different seasons work for you? Personally, this rain sends my word count soaring. And my house has never been so clean.

—Claire Booth, President



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2024 Anthology to Showcase Sacramento Agriculture and Restaurants

California is the largest agricultural producer in the nation, and this beautiful, bountiful Sacramento region we call home, lies at the heart of it all. Known as the Farm to Fork Capital of America, even The New York Times recognizes Sacramento as a great restaurant city because of the amazing chefs who use locally-grown, locally-sourced ingredients in their restaurants.

So it seems only fitting that the theme of the 2024 Capitol Crimes Anthology is ***Farm to Foul Play***.

Maybe the gardener selling his bok choy at a farmstand in South Sac decides to off his wife. Or two farmers have a beef over water rights. What if the obnoxious celebrity chef gets tossed off the Tower Bridge right before the gala Farm to Fork Festival dinner? When it comes to murder in Sacramento, the possibilities are endless.

We'll open for submissions in April, and you'll have until the end of May to polish your short story masterpieces. The word count is 1,500-5,000. We'll post more details on our [website](#), so keep checking for updates.

For now, here are some guidelines:

1. You must be a Capitol Crimes member in good standing, which means you're a current member of Sisters in Crime AND Capitol Crimes.
2. Your story must address the ***Farm to Foul Play*** theme.
3. Your story must include a crime.
4. AND it has to be set in the Sacramento region, or if you must stray go no further than NorCal.

We can't wait to read your ***Farm to Foul Play*** short stories!



Upcoming Events

CRIME TIME AT BEERS BOOKS

Sunday, March 10, 2024 • 2:00 PM (PT)
712 R Street, Sacramento CA

TAROT FOR FICTION WRITERS WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 16, 2024 • 1:00 PM (PT) • Zoom

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

Chapter News

CRIME TIME AT BEERS BOOKS IN SACRAMENTO

Join Capitol Crimes for in-person Crime Time at Beers Books!

Established in 1936, Beers Books is a Sacramento institution. Capitol Crimes is excited to host our first Crime Time at Beers on Sunday, March 10 at 2 p.m., 712 R Street in Sacramento.

It's a chance for local crime writers to sit around and chat about writing and publishing.

Whether you're a seasoned pro or struggling through your first draft, it's a great way to network with your tribe and maybe get a few questions answered. Come enjoy the company of others who can't resist the lure of (fictional) crime!

Beers Books 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.

[Register here](#)



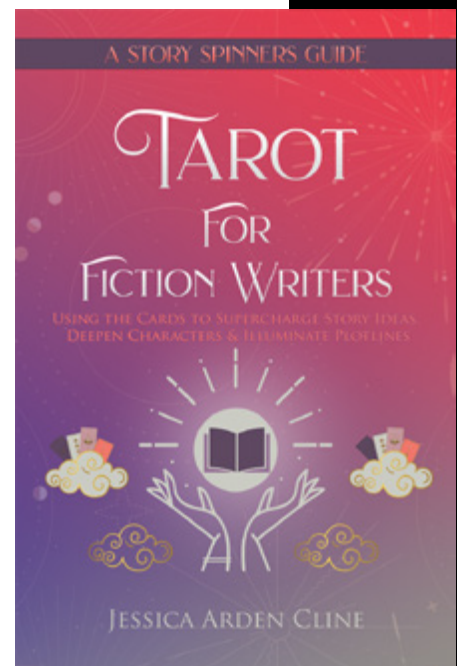
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MARCH MEETING: TAROT FOR FICTION WRITERS WORKSHOP

Looking to add more mystery and intrigue to your stories? Want to tap into your intuition to overcome writer's block? Join Jessica Arden Cline at our Tarot for Writers Zoom workshop on Saturday, March 16th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m and learn how to incorporate tarot cards into your writing process.

Bring your deck for some interactive activities. If you don't have a deck, we'll have an alternative for you.

[Register Now!](#)



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Member News

From member Jessica Arden Cline –

Jessica's new book *TAROT FOR FICTION WRITERS: Using the Cards to Supercharge Story Ideas, Deepen Characters, & Illuminate Plotlines* launches this month on Kickstarter. The campaign will be

live from March 12 - March 28. Besides the chance to get your copy months before it hits retailers, Kickstarter backers will also have the opportunity to add additional rewards such as classes, consultations, and video training sessions.

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1450500989/tarot-for-fiction-writers>



From member Elizabeth Crowens –

First in-person event for *HOUNDS OF THE HOLLYWOOD BASKERVILLES*, a humorous historical mystery from the Golden Age of Hollywood will be at The Mysterious Bookshop in New York on April 4, 2024.

A Sacramento-area event will be on May 7 at 6 pm at Hein & Company, Used and Rare Books at 204 N. Main Street, Jackson, CA 95642. Light refreshments provided. Other book tour dates in process, including the San Francisco area in early May, and Los Angeles in the latter part of May.

Facebook: [Elizabeth Crowens](#)

Instagram: @crowens_author

X: @ECrowens



From member James L'Etoile –

James L'Etoile will attend the Tucson Festival of Books March 9th and 10th on the campus on the University of Arizona in Tucson. You can find him in panel sessions on Saturday, March 9th, at 11:30 AM for "Experience Makes Great Mysteries" with C.J. Box and T. Jefferson Parker, moderated by Shannon Baker. And on Sunday, March 10th, at 1:00 PM for "Dangerous Destinations" with Shannon Baker and Stephen Mack Jones, moderated by Deborah J. Ledford.

Event details: [Tucson Festival of Books, University of Arizona, Tucson](#)

Facebook: @authorjamesLetoile

Instagram: @jamesletoile

X: @authorjamesletoile

Member News

From member Debra H. Goldstein –

Debra H. Goldstein's Super Bowl short story, "Game Day," was published by King's River Life Magazine. [Read here.](#)

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

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/debrahgoldstein>

X: @DebraHGoldstein



From member Lorie Lewis Ham –

A new Mysteryrat's Maze Podcast episode is finally up! This one features the mystery short story "Caught By the Last Star" written by Nikki Knight and read by actor Amelia Ryan. You can find it at this link and in all the usual podcast places!

<https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/e/caught-by-the-last-star-by-nikki-knight/>

From member Karen A. Phillips –

Karen's short story "Found Art" was accepted into the INVASIVE SPECIES anthology published by NorCal chapter, edited by Josh Pacter with intro by Michele Drier, President, NorCal. Other Capitol Crimes members included in the anthology are Susan McCormick, Linda Townsdin, and Dänna Wilberg.



From member Joanna Vander Vlugt –

Joanna will be releasing book three in her Jade & Sage thriller series, SPY GIRLS. A CIA action officer is released from prison. A Chief Justice is murdered, and the Law Society is scrutinizing Jade Thyme's conduct. Jade's life can't get much worse until she is coerced into finding an elusive double agent. Tangled in lies and political agendas, high-speed chases and sticky bombs, can Jade outplay a dangerous Hungarian assassin before her own life is terminated? Spy Girls is adrenaline-fueled, adventure-packed with heart-pounding action, unexpected twists, and a riveting plot that keeps readers hooked from the first page. With lives hanging in the balance and loyalties questioned, trust in each other is the only way to survive. But even the strongest bonds can be tested when faced with external threats and personal demons.

Buy here: [Spy Girls](#)

Facebook: [Joanna Vander Vlugt](#)

Instagram: [@joannavandervlugt_author_art](#)



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In Other News

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/>

2nd Annual Sacramento Valley Storytelling Festival – Saturday, March 16 from 11:00 am - 5:30 pm at the West Sacramento Community Center, 1212 Merkly Ave, West Sacramento. [Purchase tickets here.](#)

Left Coast Crime – “The Seattle Shakedown” in Bellevue, Washington – April 11-14, 2024. For more info go to: <https://leftcoastcrime.org/2024/index.html>

Pitch-O-Rama – Saturday, April 20, 2024, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. PST on Zoom.

The Women’s National Book Association-San Francisco Chapter (WNBA-SF) invites authors to its Pitch-O-Rama event.

Pitch-O-Rama is for both fiction and nonfiction writers to pitch their works to agents and editors for publication. All writers are welcome to attend both the Pitch-O-Rama event AND a pre-pitch coaching event.

A list of which agents and editors are participating will be published in several weeks.

Pitch-O-Rama is \$85 for WNBA-SF members and \$125 for non-members. To register for Pitch-O-Rama and for more information, please visit their website [using this link here.](#)

To register for **pre-pitch coaching** on March 28th and for more information, please visit their website [using this link here.](#)

Thrillerfest XIX – May 28 - June 1, 2024, Sheraton Times Square in New York City. For more information go to <https://thrillerfest.com/>

Killer Nashville – August 22-25, 2024, Franklin, Tennessee. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Bouchercon – August 28 - September 1, 2024, Nashville, Tennessee. “Murder and Mayhem in Music City.” [Find out more and to register click here.](#)

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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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