

MAY 2023

From the President

We're here for you.

Sacramentans are tried and true — just ask The Kings.

They're in it for the long haul, cheering for the hometown basketball team despite years of drought.

Capitol Crimes is no different. We're here for our members through the ups and downs of this crazy publishing business.

It's all about longevity.

In April, USA bestselling author [Karen Odden](#) shared her own experiences and offered tips for building a community of practice to improve your craft as well as market your books and help fellow writers.

Our May guest [Laurie R. King](#), New York Times bestselling author of 30 novels, is the perfect person to talk to our members about sustaining a writing career.

Laurie's career has run the gamut from the hugely popular Mary Russell-Sherlock Holmes historical mysteries to her contemporary series featuring San Francisco homicide detective Kate Martinelli. Not to mention several standalones.

She will be talking about keeping a series fresh and how to experiment with something new without losing momentum. Say for instance, what happens when a thriller writer takes on a cozy, and gets it published in the [Malice Domestic anthology](#) like Capitol Crimes member James L'Etoile?



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Sue and Greg Richards, the current owners of [Crawford's Books](#) in Sacramento, also know a thing or two about the book biz.

The longtime customers of the Hollywood Park store, which first opened its doors in 1983, took over in 2018, turning the used bookstore into a community hub with over 40,000 books. They started two book clubs, including one for mystery lovers. Their Books to U.S. Military program provides reading materials to U.S. service members.

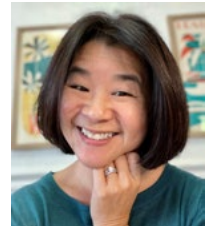
And they support local authors.

Capitol Crimes Board member [Harriet Fox](#) will host Crime Time at Crawford's Books so be sure to stop by at 2 p.m. May 21 for some writing talk and book shopping.

My husband will tell you, I'm no sports fan. Until recently, I didn't even know the Bay Area had a basketball team. But the newshound in me still remembers the cowbells that clanged through the streets of Sacramento the last time the Kings made the NBA playoffs.

Here at Capitol Crimes, we will cheer on our members through thick and thin. Just maybe no cowbells.

—Jennifer Morita, President



Upcoming Events



LAURIE R. KING SUSTAINING A CAREER IN THE MYSTERY GENRE

Saturday, May 20, 2023
1:00 PM (PT) • Zoom

CRIME TIME at CRAWFORD'S BOOKS

Sunday, May 21, 2023 @ 2:00 PM (PT)
5301 Freeport Blvd, No 200, Sacramento, CA 95822

CAPITOL CRIMES WRITERS WORKSHOP with YASMIN ANGOE

October 26-29, 2023
Mercy Center Auburn, 535 Sacramento Street, Auburn CA

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

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Chapter News

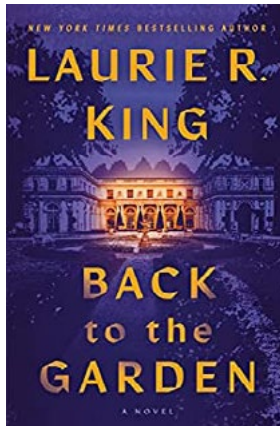
SUSTAINING A CAREER IN THE MYSTERY GENRE with Laurie R. King

Saturday, May 20, 2023 • 1-3:00 PM (PT) • On Zoom

When we first begin our lives as published authors, longer term goals can be a distant dream. But even a successful writer runs into the conflict between “Something New” and “Tried and Dependable.” With 30 years’ worth of mysteries to my name, how do I keep a series fresh, for the readers and for me? And if I want to step outside my successful series, how do I do it without losing any momentum my career may have?

Laurie R. King had these answers and more!

[Register here.](#)



CRIME TIME at CRAWFORD'S BOOKS

Sunday, May 21, 2023 • 2:00 PM (PT)

Please join host Harriet Fox for Crime Time at J. Crawford's Books in Sacramento as local crime writers discuss our experiences with the writing, publishing, and marketing processes.

Whether you're a seasoned pro or struggling through your first draft, it's a great chance 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!

Crawford's 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.

J. Crawford's Books
5301 Freeport Boulevard, No. 200
Sacramento, California 95822
916-731-8001

Crawfordbooks.net

[Register here.](#)



**Crawford's
Books**



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Chapter News

WRITERS RETREAT WITH YASMIN ANGOE

October 26-29, 2023

Mercy Auburn Center, Auburn California

SOLD OUT! Wait list spots available.

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! Developmental editor and bestselling author of *HER NAME IS KNIGHT* and *THEY COME AT NIGHT* Yasmin Angoe will be visiting from South Carolina to spend three packed days with writers. This is your chance to go in-depth on your pages through group AND individual sessions with Yasmin, as well as spend uninterrupted time writing in a beautiful setting with fellow crime writers.

The Capitol Crimes Writing Retreat is limited to 15 attendees. Don't delay! Participants will receive individual critiques of up to

10 pages from Yasmin, an individual consultation with her about the work, five in-depth craft sessions, and time to write and share work with fellow attendees.

Lodging and meals are included at the beautiful Mercy Auburn Retreat Center. [Learn more here.](#)

THREE DAY IN-DEPTH
WRITERS RETREAT WITH
**Yasmin
Angoe**
Bestselling author and
developmental editor
CAPITOL
CRIMES
Oct. 26-29, 2023

NEW YEAR, NEW BOOKS FOR THE CAPITOL CRIMES VIRTUAL BOOKCASE

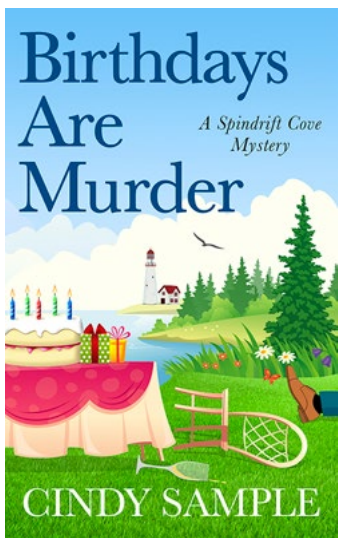
It's time to clear out our shelves and make room for new books – yours!

We're updating the virtual bookcase on our [homepage](#), and we're looking for a few new titles to add. One-click on any cover in the revolving slideshow will take visitors to the author's preferred online bookseller. If you would like to support local, independent bookstores, [bookshop.org](#) is a great option.

Current Capitol Crimes members can submit one book to be featured by completing [this form](#). Be sure to send an image of your book cover in a separate email to capitolcrimes@gmail.com

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Member News



Cindy Sample will be reading from her latest release, BIRTHDAYS ARE MURDER, at the Northern California Sisters in Crime Annual Spring Showcase along with 11 other authors.

Date: May 20, 2023

Orinda Books 276 Village Square, Orinda, CA

Facebook.com/cindysampleauthor

Instagram: Instagram.com/cindysampleauthor

Twitter: Twitter.com/cindysample1

BOOK RELEASE NEWS

Dänna Wilberg just released her 3rd book in the psychic Suzanne Cash series, "Borrowed Time – Mind Games," a story about blackmail, deceit, and mind control. E-book and Audio versions available on April 27, 2023.

When psychic Suzanne Cash witnesses the aftermath of a young woman who takes her life in Paris, she is horrified. But when similar tragedies happen repeatedly, Suzanne's sixth sense kicks into high alert. Are Gen-X suicides on the rise? Or is there something more sinister going on?

A mass shooting in Sacramento strikes close to home, and the facts just don't add up. The anonymous gunman commits suicide, one of the witnesses dies in a fiery car crash, and a little girl and her family go missing...

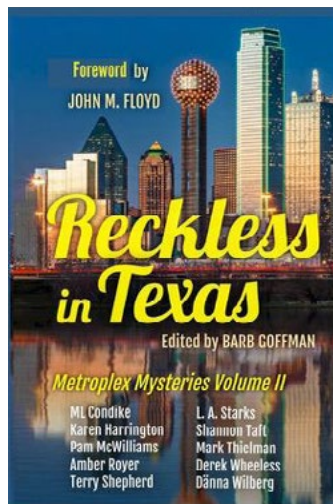
Suzanne and her psychic friends join forces to figure out how the bizarre incidents are connected, and what they have to do with 5G. Detective Sam Metzger battles changes in his own thoughts, his department's behavior, and an overall psychosis affecting the community. The relevance begs the question: Are people out of their minds? Or is a puppet master calling the shots? Amazon purchase link: <https://a.co/d/4mj2r>

Also, Dänna Wilberg's story "Stood Up" is featured in the Sisters in Crime – North Dallas Anthology, "Reckless in Texas", along with a host of amazing authors, including Terry Shepherd's story, "Traction." The official launch date is April 25, 2023, at the Frisco Library, in Frisco, Texas. Amazon purchase link: <https://a.co/d/7INBtxF>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/danna.wilberg>

Twitter: @DannaWilberg

Instagram: dannawilbergauthor



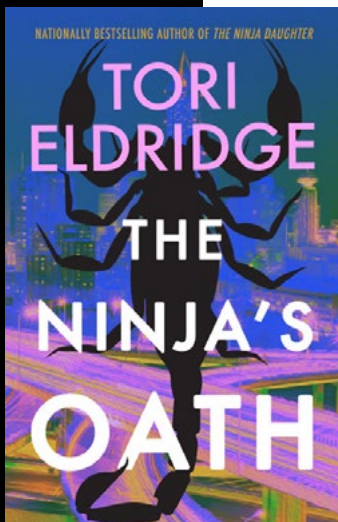
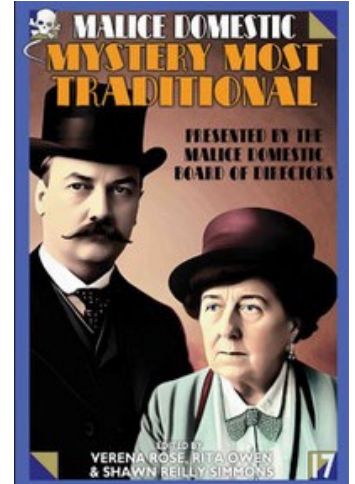
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Member News

From James L'Etoile -

- James L'Etoile is happy to report his short story, ***The Parlin Fork Letters*** was included in the Malice Domestic anthology, ***Murder Most Traditional***.
- On May 31, James L'Etoile will join Neil Nyren to teach "Critiquing First Pages," at CraftFest, part of the annual International Thriller Writers ThrillerFest held in New York.
- On June 3rd, James L'Etoile will moderate the ThrillerFest panel, "Vile, Culpable, or Close to Home: True Crime as Inspiration" with Lyn Liao Butler, J. L. Hughes, Mandy McHugh, Camille Minichino, and Matt Witten
- James L'Etoile will moderate a panel titled, "Mysteries and Thrillers: Dangerous Destinations" at the Bay Area Book Festival on Sunday, May 7th at 3:30 at the Berkley Residence Inn. The panel will feature T. Jefferson Parker, Kwei Quartey, Margot Douaihy, and Catriona McPherson.



From Tori Eldridge -

Cover Reveal for ***The Ninja's Oath***, the 4th book in Tori's award-winning Lily Wong series!

THE NINJA'S OATH takes Chinese-Norwegian modern-day ninja, Lily Wong, to Shanghai in an explosive joint mission with her father's former-triad cook and the assassin J Tran. Get ready for the riveting next book in Tori Eldridge's bestselling Lily Wong series

Learn more and read the first chapter here: <https://bolobooks.com/2023/04/cover-reveal-the-ninjas-oath/>

Visit me at the Spring Craft Fair at Preston Castle where I will be selling my book A DEADLY COMBO. For more info visit: <https://prestoncastle.org/spring-craft-fair/>

When: May 20, 2023

Where: Preston Castle, 900 Palm Drive, Ione, CA 95640

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

Twitter: @phillips-writes

Instagram: kannphillips

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Member News



From June Gillam-

June Gillam's *Nest of White Crows*: A Hillary Broome Novel won 2nd place in the 2023 Firebird Book Awards for Contemporary Fiction and 1st place in Social Justice Fiction. The award includes an author interview on Speak Up Talk Radio, Monday, May 8, at 2:00 pm PDT.

Solano County Library Local Authors Showcase • Vacaville Town Square Library

Friday, May 5 & Saturday, May 6 from 9am - 5pm PDT

Come see us in Vacaville! I'll be there all day both days, enjoying this gem of a library and the terrific town square readers and writers.

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/GorillaGirlInk/>

Twitter: @junegillam

Instagram: junegillamauthor

From Lorie Lewis Ham-

Two new episodes of Mysteryrat's Maze Podcast went up in April!

The first episode features the mystery short story Easter Spam by John Weagly and can be found here: <https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/e/easter-spam-by-john-weagly/>

The second episode features the prologue and first chapter of "With a Twist" by Cathi Stoler and can be found here: <https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/e/with-a-twist-by-cathi-stoler/>

All episodes can also be found in all the usual podcast places!



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In Other News

Bay Area Book Festival - Berkeley, May 6-7, 2023. [Click here for more details.](#)

Desert Sleuths May - Plottr for Pantsers and Plotters Alike. Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. MST. In this interactive session with author, book coach, and Plottr Education Lead, Troy Lambert, you'll learn how to use Plottr's suite of tools to accelerate your writing process, including how to visualize your book and series arcs, track your character and place details, avoid plot holes, and much more. The best part? It works for pantsers, too! [Register here for this Zoom presentation.](#)

NorCal SinC Spring Author Showcase - Saturday, May 20, 2023 • 1 – 3 pm @ Orinda Books, 276 Village Square,, Orinda CA 94563. 12 outstanding authors will read from their latest book! In-person and Zoom event. [Register here for Zoom.](#)

Coastal Cruisers - Interview with Kellye Garrett May 20 – Author Kellye Garrett, author of the award-winning Hollywood Homicide mysteries and the bestselling novel *Like a Sister* will talk about branding, her books and her author career. [Register here.](#)

MWA Norcal - "Improve Your Dialogue" Saturday, May 27 @ 1 PM. Mysti Berry will share some basic tools that you can apply to your own dialog to make it reveal character AND move the plot forward. [Register for this event here.](#)

California Crime Writers Conference - June 10 & 11, 2023. [Click here to go straight to the Registration page.](#)

Save the Date: **SleuthFest 2023** will be July 6-9, 2023. [Click here for info.](#)

Book Passage Mystery Writers Conference 2023, July 21–23, Corte Madera, California. [Click here for info.](#)

Willamette Writers Conference 2023, August 2-6, online and in-person at the Crowne Plaza in Portland, OR. The Saturday Evening Keynote is New York Times Bestselling Author Cheryl Strayed. [Click here for more information.](#)

Killer Nashville Writers' Conference, August 17-20, 2023 - Franklin, TN at the Embassy Suites Nashville South / Cool Springs hotel. [Click here for more details.](#)

Bouchercon 2023: "Murder at the Marina" August 30 to September 3, 2023 at the Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina, California. [For details 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.

APRIL
2023