

CAPITOL CRIMES

Sharing the thrill of mystery.

MAY 2021

From the President

IT'S MAY!!

Short letter this month because there is so much going on that I am busier than a cat coverin' up poop!

We hope to see you at our first Members Marketplace – **MURDER**

MOST FOUL! – a spectacular showcase featuring four fabulous authors: Elaine Faber, Rae Franklin James, Cindy Sample, and Richard Schneider! May 15, 2021 from 1-3pm PT. FREE event. [Register today!](#) Come listen, learn about and support Capitol Crime members.

The Anthology is open for submissions of your wonderful stories. Don't forget:

- Submissions must be in the mystery genre.
- The stories must include a real or imagined Northern California cemetery.
- These tales of gore and/or suspense have to be 5,000 words or less.
- The window for submission to the Anthology closes May 15th.

Even if you don't have a story to submit for the Anthology, you can still play an important role. The Anthology is looking for a title. Also, the Anthology Committee is looking for marketing help. Please contact CapitolCrimes@gmail.com with suggestions, questions or to volunteer.

The Book Club's first meeting was such fun, although we are all dying for Pat Canterbury to write a memoir and tell us the rest of the Fairmont Hotel stories. (Not to mention the three lost days in Mexico . . . Shhhh! I said we weren't going to mention it.) We have to delay our visit from Terris McMahan Grimes and reading

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From the President continued

“Somebody Else’s Child.” Stay tuned for details about when it will be rescheduled. It will be an evening well worth the wait, I promise.

We are very excited to have Dänna Wilberg take the June 8th Book Club slot and share her fabulous book “Broken Promises.” Join us to discuss this fabulous mystery with multi-award-winning short film maker, writer, producer and TV host, Dänna Wilberg!

Last thoughts. You may think it’s too soon to talk about elections, but I assure you it isn’t. We are one month away from the halfway point of the current Board members’ terms. 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. You get to work with an incredible Board to learn the ropes and see how the sausage is made before stepping into the role. The management of the chapter would continue like a well-oiled machine growing stronger and better as time passes. AND Misters, don’t be intimidated by the Sisters. We love all our siblings and there is a place for you 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



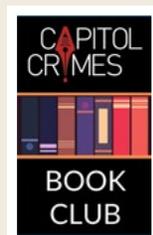
Upcoming Events



Members Marketplace

Murder Most Foul!

Saturday, May 15, 2021
1:00 pm • Zoom



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

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

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Chapter News



CAPITOL CRIMES MEMBERS MARKETPLACE

MURDER MOST FOUL
A spectacular showcase featuring four fabulous authors!

Elaine Faber R. Franklin James Cindy Sample Richard Schneider

May 15, 2021 (1-3PM PT)

MEMBERS MARKETPLACE

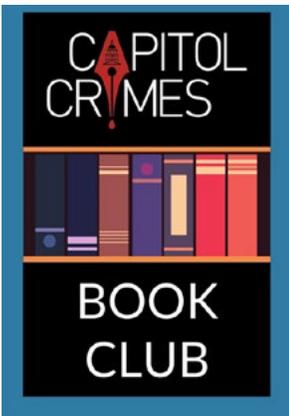
Coming Up This Month - *Murder Most Foul!*

A spectacular showcase featuring four fabulous authors:

- Elaine Faber
- Rae Franklin James
- Cindy Sample
- Richard Schneider

May 15, 2021 from 1-3pm PT. FREE.

[Please register here to get the link.](#)



CAPITOL CRIMES

BOOK CLUB

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, Dänna Wilberg! We will be discussing Dänna'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 - YOU PICK THE WINNER!

The suggestions are:

Caps Haps

The Rap Sheet

The Capitol Connection

Capitol Communiqué

Human Capitol

(In) Capitol Letters

Email your choice to CapitolCrimes@gmail.com by May 24, 2021.
Winner will be announced in the June newsletter.

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Chapter News

The clock is ticking for submissions to the 2021 Capitol Crimes Anthology.

A panel of distinguished judges will select the top 15 stories for publication in the collection. The foreword will be contributed by award-winning author

Catriona McPherson. The 2021 Capitol Crimes Anthology will receive worldwide distribution, extensive promotion and copies will be available to local booksellers.

The theme of the 5,000-word submissions should include include a real or imagined Northern California cemetery. Specific guidelines for the 2021 Capitol Crimes Anthology can be found on our website. May 15 is the deadline for entries.



NAME THE ANTHOLOGY AND WIN A FREE COPY!

Capitol Crimes is looking for a title for our cemetery-themed anthology of short stories and we want to hear from you! If your title submission is selected, you'll win a free copy of the anthology and "eternal" bragging rights for having named it.

Rules:

- Enter your submission in the Facebook comments section below the post. [Click here to go to post.](#)
- Entries must fit the cemetery theme and mystery genre.

- Entries must be five words or less.
- Entries must be family-friendly.
- Deadline for submissions: 5 pm PT on May 30, 2021.
- Winner will be announced on June 15, 2021.
- No purchase necessary.

If you're interested in learning more about the 2021 Capitol Crimes Anthology, visit our [website at CapitolCrimes.org](http://www.CapitolCrimes.org). Can't wait to see what our new title will be!



Screenshot from Anthology promotional video.

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Member News

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

From Member Laura Jensen Walker -

Hello, my fellow Capitol Crimes members from a mostly silent member. Although I joined CC about three years ago and have attended a couple meetings and workshops, I haven't been a very active member because initially I was still working full-time for the state and writing two cozies at the same time. Then the pandemic hit, and life got weird and scary...BUT I'm delighted to now be fully vaccinated (such a relief!) with exciting book news to share! Actually, three pieces of exciting news. Drumroll...

1. I'm over the moon that my debut cozy, MURDER MOST SWEET (A Bookish Baker Mystery) has been nominated for an [Agatha Award](#) for Best First Novel! Woot! Never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined this. Thank you to everyone who nominated me. I'm more grateful than I can say. Such an honor.
2. DEADLY DELIGHTS, my second Bookish Baker Mystery (releasing June 8) just received a great review from [Publishers Weekly!](#) Here's a snippet:

"...Entertaining sequel to 2020's MURDER MOST SWEET... Lively characters complement the twisty plot." -Publishers Weekly

This total pantsner (who never outlines or plots in advance) is especially thrilled at PW calling it a "twisty plot!" Woo-hoo! Made. My. Day.

3. [Capital Books on K](#) is hosting a virtual launch for DEADLY DELIGHTS, my third cozy on June 8 at 6 p.m. I'm delighted that my award-winning author pal, Catriona McPherson (whose THE TURNING TIDE is nominated for an Agatha for Best Historical) will be joining me for an evening billed as "Laura, Catriona, and possibly, Agatha."

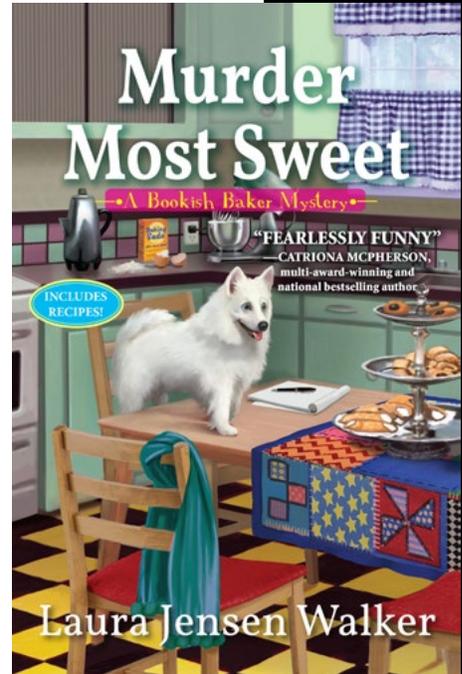
I hope you'll join us for this food and books themed evening where we'll be reading food scenes from our novels, talking about our favorite Great British Bake-Off moment (DEADLY DELIGHTS opens with an annual baking contest—picture the GBBO writ Midwestern) talk about our favorite books of the year, and more! You must register in advance to attend; here's the link:

<https://capitalbooksonk.com/events?fbclid=IwAR2ag5PWQPPG0-dTib3X5XOwLqVYBeyhxeVFjVwxGpL7lwP24XINU1gVAzo>

I just remembered one more thing... my second cozy, HOPE, FAITH, & A CORPSE (think The Vicar of Dibley meets Father Brown, only set in California) will be featured as a Kindle Monthly Deal on Amazon for \$1.99 for the month of May.

Thanks! I look forward to becoming a more active member.

Laura Jensen Walker
www.laurajensenwalker.com



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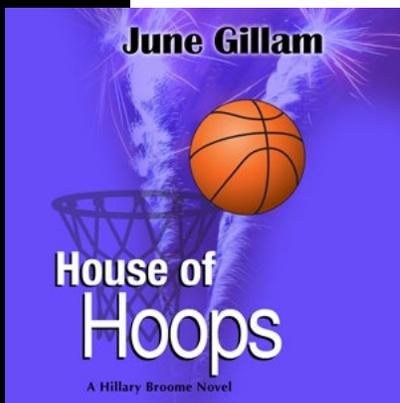
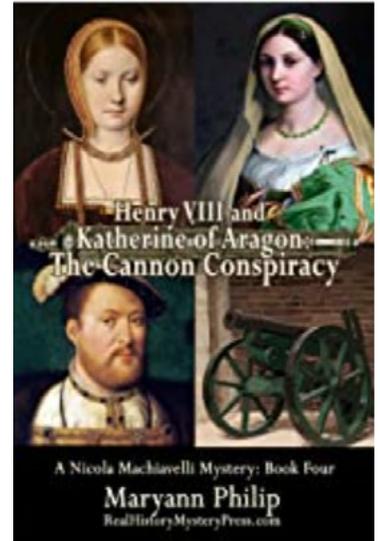
Member News

From Member Mary Ann Bernard -

Member Mary Ann Bernard, writing as Maryann Philip, has brought out her fourth book in the Nicola Machiavelli “real history mystery” series, which averages 4+ stars after 250+ reviews on Amazon! She uses her Renaissance Studies degree from Stanford to tell the history of the Renaissance and its art through Nicola Machiavelli, fictional bastard daughter of the real-life bastard, Niccolò “the end justifies the means” Machiavelli. Each “real history mystery” features historical figures who appear only when and where they did in real life, doing what they did in real life. The history is accurate, and will eventually span the entire high Renaissance.

New in the series is ***Cannon Conspiracy***, which finds Nicola at the court of Henry VIII in the first year of his reign and marriage to his most powerful and fascinating queen. Nicola hunts assassins trying to re-ignite the War of the Roses by stealing cannons from King Henry VIII after beheading those guarding them.

All e-book versions are lavishly-illustrated with period art and portraiture. Find out more at: www.maryannphilip.com or at https://www.amazon.com/Maryann-Philip/e/B009WCCZ6O/ref=dp_byline_cont_pop_ebooks_1



From Member June Gillam -

Out now on Audible.com: ***House of Hoops***, Book 4 in the Hillary Broome series by June Gillam.

[Click here to purchase.](#)

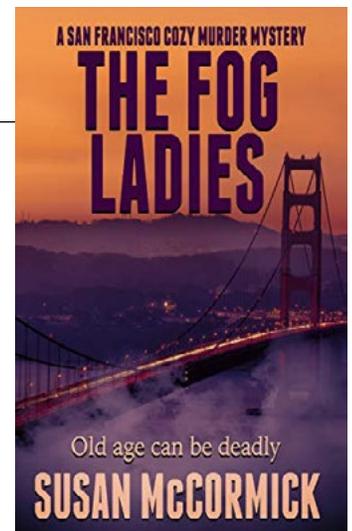
Visit June’s website for more about this author:

www.JuneGillam.com

From Member Susan McCormick -

Susan McCormick’s San Francisco Cozy Murder Mystery, ***The Fog Ladies***, is on the short list for Chanticleer’s Murder and Mayhem Award. Spunky senior sleuths and an overtired young doctor-in-training live in an elegant apartment building in San Francisco where old ladies start to die.

Discover more at: SusanMcCormickBooks.com



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All About Podcasts

by member [Eve Elliot](#), author and voiceover artist

If you're looking for a way to get your name, your writing, or even your brand out there, consider starting your own podcast.

The beauty of podcasting is that it's still a relatively new phenomenon – there are an estimated 1.7 billion websites globally, and only about 2 million podcasts. It's growing quickly, too. In Feb 2018 there were only 500,000 active podcasts, so interest is definitely picking up.

Headly numbers to be sure, but when you compare one with the other, it should be obvious that if you want to 'get in on the ground floor' of something, you might want to consider putting your time and effort into a podcast instead of a website.

The reasons are obvious, if you think about it. Podcasts are easier to consume than videos or websites, people can listen while commuting, exercising, or cleaning the house. It's estimated that 104 million Americans listen to podcasts monthly, and 66% people now say they prefer podcasts over tv. Podcasts can be incredibly lucrative as well; the most popular podcast in the world right now is the Joe Rogan experience, and its annual income is estimated to be around \$30 million.

You don't have to be an expert to produce a podcast, nor do you have to have a radio voice. You can create a podcast out of just about anything, for example:

- * reviewing crime fiction you like
- * interviewing authors
- * discussing the challenges of the writing life
- * reading your work, and asking for comments
- * a talk show with a fellow crime fiction writer or reader
- * a show about your all time favourite sleuths
- * Forensic science
- * Crimes in history/early crime reporting
- * True Crime stories

The list is endless. You can make it a limited podcast so people know there will only be a fixed number of episodes, or you can make it ongoing. It's entirely up to you.

If you're interested, Pat Flynn has some great courses and advice series for beginner podcasters. <https://www.smartpassiveincome.com/guide/start-podcast-pats-complete-step-step-podcasting-tutorial/>

Get your name and your work out there, especially now when the sea isn't quite as crowded as it will likely be in years to come.

Here are three podcasts I really enjoy, starting with one from my home town, Dublin.

<https://tunein.com/podcasts/Arts--Culture-Podcasts/Murder-One-The-Podcast-p1277674/>

<https://alexandraamor.com/podcast-its-a-mystery/>

<https://play.acast.com/s/crime-fiction-friday>



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FOUR-ACT STRUCTURE

TORI ELDRIDGE

Author of *The Ninja Daughter*, *The Ninja's Blade*,
The Ninja Betrayed (out 9/14/21)

What a great meeting! Our guest speaker for the April 17 Chapter meeting was Tori Eldridge on the Four-Act Structure.

Coming 9/14/2021 ***The Ninja Betrayed***, available for pre-order on her website:
<https://torieldridge.com/>

Tori recently announced a NICE DEAL for her upcoming stand alone:

Amazon bestselling author of the acclaimed THE LILY WONG SERIES, Tori Eldridge's dark magical realism suspense about a desperate mother who rises from the slums of Brazil to become a powerful Quimbanda priestess bent on revenge, spanning three continents, forty years, and a mysterious incident in 1560 France, to Lisa Kastner at Running Wild Press in a nice deal for publication in May 2022 by Nicole Resciniti at The Seymour Agency (world English).

“

I thoroughly enjoyed [the presentation]. Tori was engaging and her information excellent.

— member Tom Williams

”

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from Founding Member
Pat Canterbury -

To our Book Club Hosts
THANK YOU for inviting
me to be your debut
author. I had a fantastic
time, great questions and
lots of interesting obser-
vations about aliens, scifi,
and mysteries in general.
While I enjoy thrillers but
write cozies, I think the
manner in which my mind
works to define situa-
tions, people, clothing and
ideas helps me enter the
mind of my protagonists
whether a 12 year old girl
or boy, a young police
detective or a 23rd Cen-
tury outlaw, comes from
the words on pages and
thinking waaaayyyy out-
side the box. THANK YOU
to all who tuned in and
listened to my life jour-
ney of getting lost in the
old Soviet Union or riding
ponies in Mongolia.

-Pat Canterbury

Looking for a Website Designed for Writers?

Writer's Digest has
awarded
www.writerunboxed.com
as one of the best websites
in the business.

Writer Unboxed is
dedicated to publishing
empowering, positive,
and provocative ideas and
tips about the craft and
business of fiction.

Check it out....

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.

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 will be available on the website
www.cityofelkgrove/artscommission.



Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

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 cityofelkgrove/artscommission.



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In Other News:

Sisters In Crime Webinars: "Indie Focus - Optimizing Your Amazon Product Page to Sell More Books" on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 and "Working Dogs - Incorporating Canine Characters into Your Writing" on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. [Register here for these FREE events.](#)

The biennial **California Crime Writers Conference** (June 12, 2021) co-sponsored by SinC Los Angeles and MWA SoCal, is back with a twist: virtual and free. If you register at: <https://ccwconference.org> you'll be eligible for a weekly random drawing for an author's book.

The **2021 Maine Crime Wave** will be a half-day of panels, a keynote talk, a contest, and much more on Saturday, June 5, 2021 on Zoom. More details to come. [Click here for more details.](#)

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

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



FOLLOW US, LIKE US - JOIN US!



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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