

CAPITOL CRIMES

Sharing the thrill of mystery.

NOVEMBER 2022

From the President

I spent some time the Sunday before Halloween enjoying a beer and some spooky treats with fellow Capitol Crimes members at Sac City Brews, after doing a little shopping at Wild Sisters Book Co. Talk about a perfect fall afternoon! As always, I loved hearing from our various members about the books they are working on and the paths that brought them to the crime writing life. Each of us has a unique story (many stories, really, we are writers after all!) but we've all come together to share our love of crime fiction, and I learn so much from every member that I get to know.



I'm sure that some of you are in the thick of NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) and working hard to keep that word count high. Even if you haven't made that commitment, you will want to **join us for our November meeting. Lisa Kessler is a master at producing content, and she's going to share some of her tips and strategies for getting those words on the page.** This will be our last meeting of the year with a presentation, after that we take time to enjoy the festivities of the season! We will have our **in-person luncheon on December 17th**, and then we'll close out the year with our **Zoom cocktail party on December 27th**. Find out more below, and join us for one or both. When I look back at all of the books launched by members this year, conferences members have attended, and the variety of events that we've hosted, I can't help but be grateful for all of you. We have so much to be thankful for this year. We've been able to gather in person and meet with our members all over the world on Zoom. We've built on old programs and created new ones. And now we are preparing for the new year, with so many exciting opportunities ahead of us.

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I will keep this short so that you can check out everything else that we have in store for you this month. We welcome in our 2023 board members, start gearing up for our Writers Retreat next year with Yasmin Angoe, and more. I hope that you will find the time in the busy-ness of the holiday season to spend some time with us. You won't regret it!

—Sarah Bresniker, President



WELCOME YOUR NEW BOARD FOR 2023!

President: Jennifer Morita
President Emeritus: Sarah Bresniker
Vice President: Claire Booth
Secretary: Jessica Cline
Treasurer: Jim L'Etoile
Member-At-Large: Harriet Fox
Member-At-Large: Richard Meredith
Member-At-Large: Paula Benson

Upcoming Events

BOOK CLUB (*TAPESTRY OF TEARS* with MICHELE DRIER)

Tuesday, November 8, 2022 @ 7:00 PM (PT) • Zoom



NOVEMBER MEMBERS MEETING FEATURING LISA KESSLER *Learn How To Write Faster!*

Saturday, November 12, 2022
1:00 PM (PT) • Zoom

FACE-TO-FACE FA LA LA HOLIDAY PARTY 2022

Saturday, December 17, 2022 @ 1:00 PM (PT)
The Old Spaghetti Factory
12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova CA

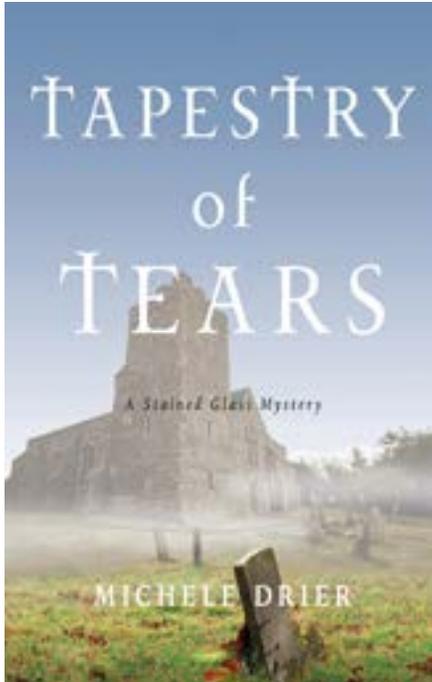
CAPITOL CRIMES END OF 2022 VIRTUAL COCKTAIL PARTY

Tuesday, December 27, 2022 @ 7:00 PM (PT) • Zoom

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

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Chapter News



BOOK CLUB

Don't miss our next Book Club meeting on **Tuesday, November 8, 2022, 7:00-8:30 PM (PT), Zoom** when we discuss Michele Drier's mystery, ***Tapestry of Tears***. [Register here.](#)

Join us to discuss Book Two in the Stained Glass Mystery series. ***Tapestry of Tears*** is about an internationally renowned stained glass artist who jumps at the chance to translate a medieval tapestry into stained glass, researching its history in Southern England and Northern France. But the 21st century drags her back when she finds a body crumpled against a wall in an ancient stone church in the small town of Lympne, on the southern coast of England. Has she walked into a contemporary murder?

[Click here to buy the book](#) before we meet!



LISA KESSLER'S TIPS ON WRITING

Be sure to attend this month's meeting! **Saturday, November 12 @ 1pm (PT) on Zoom.**

Whether you're participating in NaNoWriMo or would just like to learn tips for writing faster, you'll want to hear from author and book coach Lisa Kessler.

Join us for her presentation at our November Members Meeting. Lisa has published as many as seven books in a year, and finished a novel in 17 days!!! Take a peek behind the curtain to discover tips for writing quickly, cleanly, and keeping yourself on a tight publishing schedule to release books rapidly. We'll also discuss juggling hybrid publishing, fitting in indie releases between publisher schedules.

[Click here to register.](#)

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Chapter News



Save the Date! You Won't Want to Miss This!

Registration will open in January, but you'll want to start planning now! This in-depth craft retreat will include critique of your work, individual time with Yasmin, sessions on:

- Writing Characters that Thrill**
- Writing Plots that Hit**
- Pacing Conflict, Tension, and Suspense**

and more, plus time to dedicate to your writing in a beautiful, peaceful setting with fellow writers. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more information soon!

We want to spread the word about our fabulous Capitol Crimes members. We've started a new, streamlined system to make it easier for members and our volunteers to create announcements that we will publish in the newsletter as well as post on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram as time and space allow.

If you're a current Capitol Crimes member, hit us with your good news about:

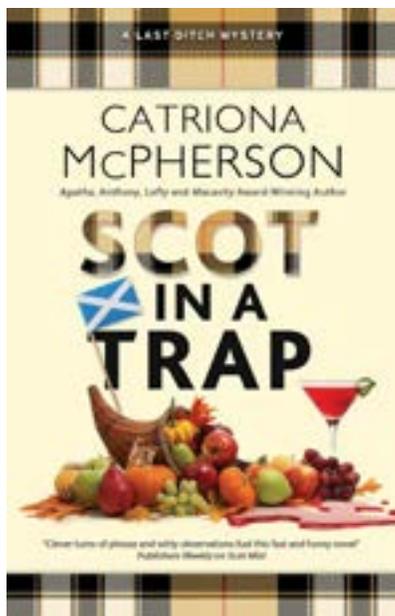
- * Book release date and/or book launch event
- * Book Deals
- * Writing Award
- * Publication in a magazine or anthology



Just go to our new [Members News Submissions page here](#), fill out the form. Note: You must be logged in as a member to access the page.

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Member News



From Catriona McPherson –

I'm having an in-person launch party for **SCOT IN A TRAP - Last Ditch Motel No. 5** at the **Avid Reader in Davis at 6pm on Thursday, December 8th**. It would be lovely to see some of my sibs there. <https://avidreaderbooks.com/events>

About **SCOT IN A TRAP** –

A mysterious object the size of a suitcase, all wrapped in bacon and smelling of syrup, can mean only one thing: Thanksgiving at the Last Ditch Motel. This year the motel residents are in extra-celebratory mood as the holiday brings a new arrival to the group – a bouncing baby girl.

But as one life enters the Ditch, another leaves it. Menzies Lassiter has only just checked in. When resident counsellor Lexy Campbell tries to deliver his breakfast the next day, she finds him checked out. Permanently. Shocking enough if he were stranger, but Lexy recognises that face. Menzies was her first love until he broke her heart many years ago.

What's he doing at the Last Ditch? What's he doing *dead*? And how can Lexy escape the fact that she alone had the means, the opportunity – and certainly the motive – to kill him?

From Penny Manson –

Guess What??? I got to guest host on the Authors on the Air podcast, interviewing author Mike Gayle. We talked about his lovely book "All the Lonely People." Such fun (And an accent to die for.) [Feel free to give a listen - click here.](#) (It's short, about 15 minutes.) I may become a regular host. So excited!

Also check out the post: [From My Point of View by Penny Manson](#), which first appeared on The Stiletto Gang.



From Lorie Lewis Ham –

My interview on the Sisters In Crime Podcast recently went up! I hope you will check it out! I talk about my books, KRL and Mysteryrat's Maze Podcast <https://www.sistersincrime.org/page/podcast>



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Member News

From Anna J Stewart -

COMING NOVEMBER 15th

EXPOSED - Circle Of The Red Lily, Book 1

Some secrets should stay buried...

"Atmospheric, vivid and intense, this is modern romantic noir at its best."

—*NYTimes Bestselling Author Jayne Ann Krentz*

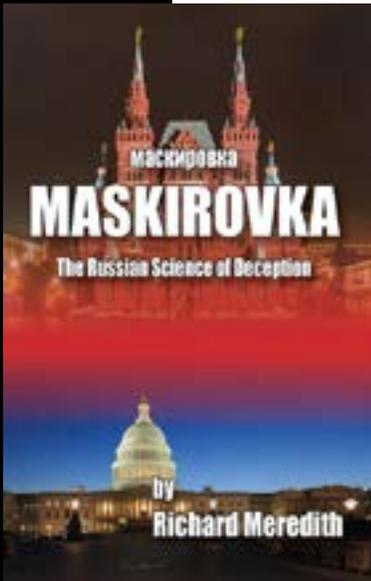


Hollywood secrets, deadly reveals. One woman's shocking discovery leads her to a cop she shouldn't trust; a man she can't resist. EXPOSED is the first in a new romantic suspense series from USA Today bestselling author Anna J Stewart. [Click here to find out more.](#)

Facebook: AuthorAnnaJStewart

Twitter: AJStewartWriter

Instagram: AnnaJStewart



From Richard Meredith-

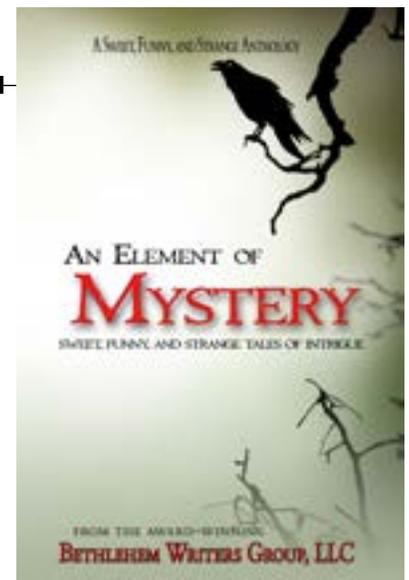
I will be having a book launch and signing for my new thriller, "Maskirovka—The Russian Science of Deception" on **Sunday November 13th from 1:30-3pm** at [Face In A Book](#) - 4359 Town Center Blvd, Ste 113, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762. I hope you'll come by to say hello and maybe buy a book!

[Visit my website here.](#)

From Paula Benson-

My short story "Sense Memory" is one of twenty-three featured in the anthology, *An Element of Mystery: Sweet, Funny, and Strange Tales of Intrigue* (A Sweet, Funny, and Strange Anthology).

[Only 99¢ on Amazon. Click here to buy.](#)



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Member News

Stay True to You

September 2022, I viewed a zoom webinar led by Dan Blank, called *Identify and Find Your Ideal Audience*. The program helped me rediscovered my original writing goals.

A key concept in Mr. Blank's message was to create three to ten simple statements about what you write and why. Since childhood, I've enjoyed helping people, whether volunteering, donating, or mentoring. Medical school allowed me to extend that objective to health and wellness as a physician. By publishing books, articles, newsletters, and a creating website, I had the potential to reach a wider audience.

I will write until death or disease no longer makes it possible, but publishing is different. It requires time, commitment, and money. In deciding to publish my writings, I determined to use every opportunity to share health issues. But in self-publishing my first novel—establishing a website, newsletter, marketing, and advertising—I neglected my original purpose.

What were my initial publishing goals? I would:

- Write books I appreciate.
- Share information about wellness.
- Include details about Black African American history.
- Ensure good triumphs over evil.
- Create diverse characters.



Life intercedes and knocks us off our chosen path. Was the effort in self-publishing worthwhile if I couldn't accomplish my goals? Writing is fun, an exciting process taking me around the planet, to new worlds, and on incredible adventures. The book publishing business, however, is arduous.

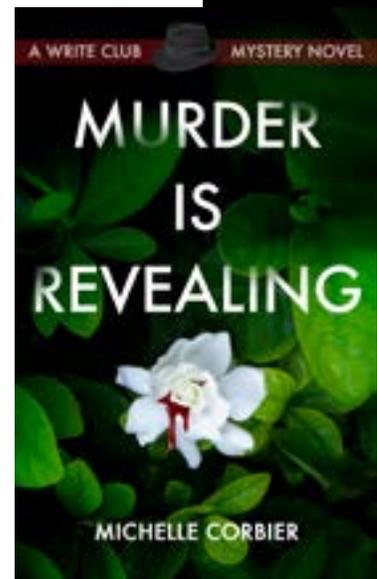
Before I committed to this journey, I promised myself not to spend more money than I could afford. My goal toward becoming a successful author should not risk of my sanity, savings, or home.

Attending workshops and presentations provides writers opportunities to learn new skills and rediscover lost ambitions. In the six months since I self-published my first novel, I've sold more books than expected, but the process has been challenging. The learning curve steep. Despite the mistakes, I give myself credit for perseverance.

As I prepare to launch an urban fantasy series and release my second mystery novel, I'm excited about this next phase of my career. Once you set foot on a path toward publication, difficulties will multiply. But dedication and determination must be our mantra. Anyone with me? I hope to read the fruits of your labors.

"Vision without execution is just a hallucination." —Henry Ford

Michelle Corbier
www.MichelleCorbier.com



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Member News

You may be a writer...

If anyone has ever pressed the “more” button on a social media platform to read one of your meandering posts, you may be a writer.

If you decided to explore a literary career without calculating the average income of a typical author, you may be a writer.

If your characters talk to you when you are driving and the person in the car next to you thinks you are conversing with yourself, you may be a writer.

If you have ever stopped talking with a restaurant companion to listen to the dialogue going on at the next table, you may be a writer.

If you have a closet full of unsold books and keep a stash in the back of your car, you may be a writer.

If someone says, “do you frequent independently owned bookshops,” and you instantly want to take them to lunch, you may be a writer.

If you’ve ever quibbled with an editor over a plot point most readers will instantly forget, you may be a writer.

If Bouchercon feels more like a family reunion than a conference, you may be a writer.

If you have ever treated a cover-reveal like a movie premiere, you may be a writer.

If you have more rejection emails than Facebook birthday greetings, you may be a writer.

If you are the guest of honor at a book signing and a customer approaches you to ask where the rest rooms are, you may be a writer.

If you stop to smell the roses and an exposition paragraph starts to form in your mind, you may be a writer.

If the muse has ever kept you up until 3 a.m. and you feel like you are in heaven, you may be a writer.

If a colleague in The Craft starts sharing the plot of their newest work in progress and you stare at them in loving, rapt attention until they finish, you may be a writer.

If you share the plot of your newest work in progress with a colleague and they change the subject before you finish describing the first scene, you may be a writer.

If you’ve invested hundreds of dollars in BookBub, Amazon and Facebook ads without selling a single copy of the book you are promoting, you may be a writer.

If your best friends are introverts like you, who are happiest alone with a keyboard and a story to tell, you may be a writer.

If you believe your most recent book will be the last book anyone ever buys, you may be a writer.

If you keep writing anyway, you may be a writer.

TerryShepherd.com

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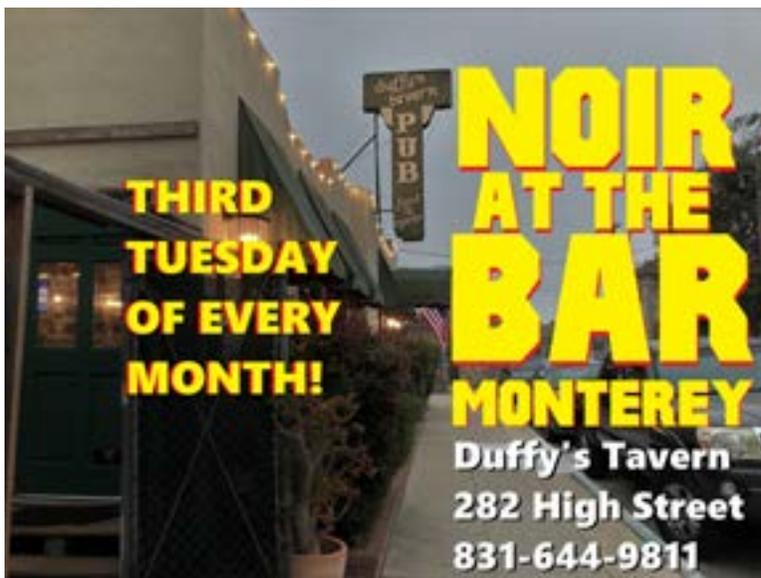
Member News

Thank you to **Claire Booth** for hosting Coffee Hour at **Wild Sisters Book Company** and **Sac City Brews** on October 30th.

Check out the ghoulishly fun menu!

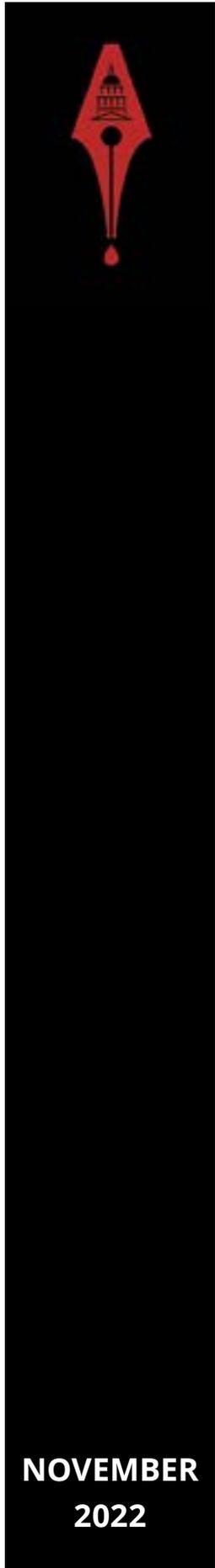


The sister-owners of **Wild Sisters Book Co.** 3960 60th St, Sacramento, would love to work with our members! If you are interested, email your elevator pitch to them at wildsistersbookco@gmail.com. They have a large children's section, and their customers also enjoy historical and cozy mysteries. If you haven't visited them yet, go by and check them out, they are a wonderful addition to our book-loving community!



Noir at the Bar: Monterey

If you're interested in reading your own work or listening to other authors, you'll want to take a trip to Monterey for one of their Noir at the Bar events! Held monthly at Duffy's Tavern in Monterey, it's a great excuse for a trip to the coast! For more information, contact Alec Cizak at 831-644-9811.





In Other News:

November 2022 - It's National Novel Writing Month – a fun way to challenge yourself to set and meet writing goals! At Face In A Book we're a "Come Write In" space for NaNoWriMo, and invite you to write in our welcoming bookstore on **Thursdays and Sundays from 10am-1pm** for the month of November. Coffee and treats on us! [Face In A Book](#) - 4359 Town Center Blvd, Ste 113, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762.

Sisters in Crime National webinar - The Magic in the Middle: NaNoWriMo Style on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 7pm EDT/6pm CDT/5pm MDT/4pm PDT. USA Today best-selling author, five-time Agatha winner, and SinC past president Hank Phillippi Ryan will show you how the "muddle in the middle" can be crafted to intrigue, surprise and delight your readers—and have them turning the pages as fast as they can. Never fear—with practical advice and two dozen specific tips, Hank will show you the way to the magic in the middle. [Click here to register for this free webinar.](#)

"SoWest: Wrong Turn" Sisters in Crime Desert Sleuths Anthology – Book 10. To be published: September 2023. Submissions will be accepted beginning October 1, 2022, and close at 11:59 p.m. January 15, 2023. Contributing authors will be chosen using a blind submission process. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance offers: **"Backstory: Where, When, and How to Include It"** with writer and editor Tanya Whiton. Saturday, December 3, 2022, from 12 - 4 PM. [Click here for more information.](#)

Left Coast Crime 2023: "Trouble in Tucson" – Tucson, Arizona. March 16-19, 2023. [Click here for more details.](#)

Sign up now for the **2023 California Crime Writers Conference** on June 10 & 11, 2023. [Click here to go straight to the Registration page.](#) And [check out the hotel](#) for the event, the Hilton Los Angeles, Culver City, 6161 W. Centinela Ave., Culver City, CA. Two intense days of incredible information, inspiration, and networking for any crime writer at any stage in your career. There will be panels for the beginner who has barely written that first line to established professionals looking to step up their game, plus workshops and some exciting surprises.

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.

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