

CAPITOL CRIMES

Sharing the thrill of mystery.

NOVEMBER 2023

From the President

Cooking with grease!

I was cooking with grease thanks to [Yasmin Angoe](#).

My Crooked Lane editor wanted a couple more scenes to flesh out a murder victim, and I was still a few thousand words shy of the magical 75,000 mark.

But I'd hit a wall, and my Nov. 1 deadline was days away.

The Capitol Crimes Writers Retreat couldn't have come at a better time. Four days holed up with writers learning about characterization, plotting, pacing and self-editing from the award-winning author of the Nena Knight series pushed me over the hump.

Yasmin's classes delved into the writing craft and got us thinking about everything from character tics to dialogue and scene blocking. She offered practical tips and useful resources (even a few spreadsheet examples.)

Yasmin's talk on suspense and pacing sparked an idea to rework the middle scene of my book, and her advice about amateur sleuths being active investigators was the shove I needed to get my main character knocking on doors and chasing down witnesses.

I'm not going to lie, I squirmed through the self-editing class. I could see my word count spinning backwards as Yasmin talked about deleting fillers and repetitive phrases.

She was right, of course.



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The retreat was a perfect blend of information and inspiration.

Yasmin's journey to publication is a lesson in persistence and the importance of finding your writing community. Just check out her [Writer's Digest article](#) or listen to her [Sisters in Crime podcast](#) with Julie Hennrikus.

Four days later, I had a thousand more words on the page and a solid plan to get over the finish line.

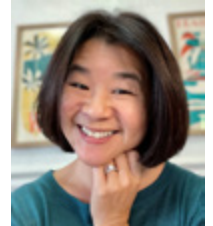
By the time we crammed Yasmin's suitcase into my messy car, I had new ideas for my second book.

"Now we're cooking with grease," she said.

In the end, I got my edits in on time.

So if you're lagging behind on your writing, be sure to register for our November 18 meeting with Yasmin Angoe. She'll be back with us on Zoom with highlights from the retreat that will get you cooking with grease, too..

—Jennifer Morita, President



Upcoming Events

WRITERS RETREAT RECAP WITH YASMIN ANGOE

Saturday, November 18, 2023 • 1:00 PM (PT) • Zoom

MEET THE AUTHOR WITH BRUCE BORGOS

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 • 7:00 PM (PT) • Zoom



FACE-TO-FACE FA LA LA HOLIDAY PARTY 2023

Saturday, December 16, 2023 • 1:00 PM (PT)
Old Spaghetti Factory
12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova, CA 95742



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

Chapter News

WRITERS RETREAT RECAP WITH YASMIN ANGOE

When: Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, 1 p.m. (PT) • Zoom

Please join us as bestselling author and developmental editor Yasmin Angoe recaps her reflections and experiences working with attendees at Capitol Crimes' October Writing Retreat at the Mercy Center in Auburn.

Yasmin Angoe is the Anthony-nominated author of the critically acclaimed thrillers *Her Name Is Knight*, *They Come At Knight* and *It Ends With Knight* of the Nena Knight series. She is a first-generation Ghanaian American and in 2020 received the Eleanor Taylor Bland Award for Emerging Writers of Color from Sisters in Crime.

The Nena Knight series has been optioned for a TV series by Ink Factory and Fifth Season and is currently in development.

Yasmin is a proud member of several prestigious organizations, such as Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, Crime Writers of Color, International Thriller Writers, and the Women's National Book Association.

Yasmin is a former English teacher and lives in South Carolina with her husband Vincent and their four children.

[Register here.](#)



MEET THE AUTHOR WITH BRUCE BORGOS

When: Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, 7 p.m. (PT) • Zoom

Please join us as Penny Manson interviews Capitol Crimes member Bruce Borgos about his debut novel, *The Bitter Past*. The story follows Lincoln County, Nevada, Sheriff Porter Beck as he works to solve a gruesome murder that leads him back to the dawn of the atomic age and the hunt for a Soviet spy left behind all those years ago.

[Register here.](#)

Bruce can be contacted at his website, Bruceborgos.com, and through his social media links:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bruceborgos/>;

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/bruceborgos/>;

Ig: <https://www.instagram.com/authorbruceborgos/>

[Buy *The Bitter Past* here.](#)



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Chapter News

FACE-TO-FACE FA LA LA HOLIDAY PARTY 2023

Lunch, Book Exchange, and Merrymaking!

Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova, CA 95742

Show up with your best Festive Apparel: holiday sweater, t-shirt, head adornment or all of the aforementioned, to this in person event.

Book exchange: please bring a new, or gently used, wrapped book for our traditional book exchange.

There are three meal options for lunch. Cost is \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members. Registration closes December 9th and tickets are non-refundable.

[Register here.](#)



Member News

From member James L'Etoile -

Book launch event

Authors Matt Coyle and James L'Etoile will discuss their new releases, ODYSSEY'S END and FACE OF GREED at Book Passage Bookstore, 51 Tamal Vista Blvd, Corte Madera, CA, on December 2nd at 11:00 am.

[Click here for more information.](#)

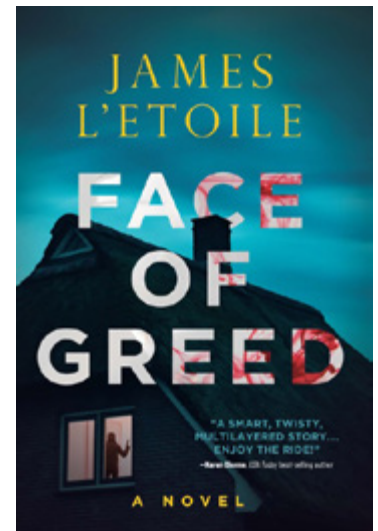
James L'Etoile will speak at the Gold Country Writers meeting on Wednesday, November 15th at 10:00am on Author and Bookstore Relationships. The importance of establishing a connection with your local bookseller and developing strategies to get your book on display has never been more important. Event details: Gold Country Writers, Auburn City Hall, Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA

Join James L'Etoile at Face in a Book at 3:00 pm, Saturday, November 18th for a book release celebration for FACE OF GREED. The first book in a new series set in Sacramento featuring Detective Emily Hunter. The event will include snacks, perhaps an adult beverage, and California Crime Trivia! Event details: Face in a Book 4359 Town Center Blvd, Unit 113, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

[Click here for more information.](#)

Facebook: @AuthorJamesLEtoile

Instagram: @jamesletoile | X: @authorjamesletoile



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Member News

From member Cindy Sample -

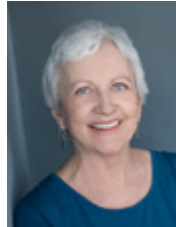
Book release

DYING FOR A DECORATION, the ninth book in the national bestselling Laurel McKay Humorous Mystery series, will be released on November 15, 2023. The launch party will be held on December 9th at Face in a Book in El Dorado Hills. [Click here to learn more.](#)

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

Instagram: [twitter.com/cindysample1](https://www.instagram.com/cindysample1)

X: [instagram.com/cindysampleauthor](https://www.instagram.com/cindysampleauthor)



From member Bruce Borgos -

Book release

The cover for SHADES OF MERCY, the follow-up to THE BITTER PAST is out! [See the write-up in Criminal Element.](#)

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

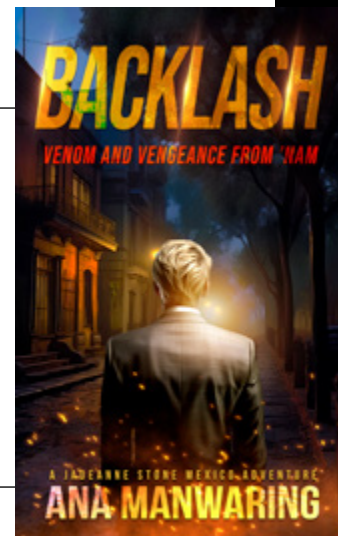
Instagram: [@bruceborgos](https://www.instagram.com/bruceborgos) | X: [@bruceborgos](https://www.x.com/bruceborgos)

From member Ana Manwaring -

Book release

BACKLASH VENOM AND VENDETTA FROM 'NAM, the 5th in the JadeAnne Stone Mexico Adventures, launches on 11/15. [Click here to purchase.](#)

Instagram: [@anamanwaring](https://www.instagram.com/anamanwaring)



From member Laura Jensen Walker -

Book release

Laura Jensen Walker, author of the Agatha-nominated MURDER MOST SWEET, is thrilled to announce she has signed a 3-book contract with Level Best Books for a historical mystery series--The Nightingale Mysteries. The first book, DEATH OF A FLYING NIGHTINGALE, featuring a group of overlooked WWII women heroes, releases in September 2024. This is Laura's historical fiction debut.

Facebook: [@LaurajensenWal1](https://www.facebook.com/LaurajensenWal1)

Instagram: [@LaurajensenWalker](https://www.instagram.com/LaurajensenWalker)

X: [@LaurajensenWalker](https://www.x.com/LaurajensenWalker)



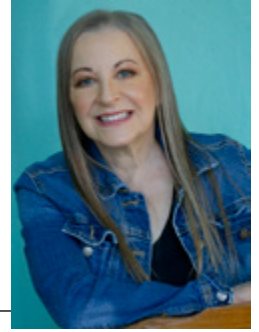
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Member News

From member Elizabeth Crowens -

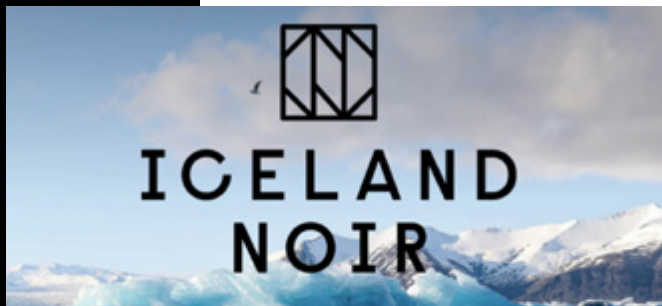
Elizabeth Crowens has a fictional essay coming out in the next issue of Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine. The title of the article is "Six Degrees of Tentacular Separation," and it's a bizarre spoof on Arthur Conan Doyle's The Adventure of the Lion's Mane.



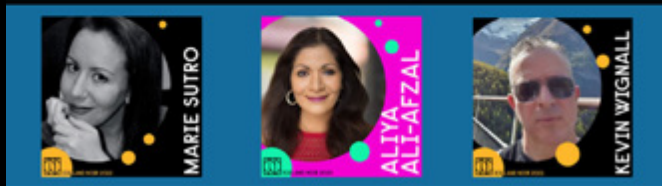
From member Chris Dreith -

Anthology acceptance

Chris Dreith's story, "The Road To Limerick," will be published in the (former Malice Domestic) Mystery Most International Anthology in April, 2024. Her four characters, Clio, Thalia, Polly, and Calliope, will be returning from the 2020 Bouchercon Anthology, "Old Soles," and they are as quirky and unique as ever.



A SENSE OF DREAD
MODERATOR: Jacky Collins



November 16, 2023 11:00am Reykjavik

From member Marie Sutro -

Author event virtual or in-person

Marie Sutro will be part of the outstanding lineup at Iceland Noir in Reykjavik! What better place could you imagine for a literary festival celebrating darkness in all its forms, and what better time to celebrate than during the darkest time of the year?

[Click here for event details.](#)

Facebook: @mariesutro

Instagram: @mariesutro

X: @marie.sutro

From member Donna Wierzbowski/ Donna Del Oro -

Award Announcement

Bronze Medal award at the 2023 International Latino Book Awards Ceremony

From the international judges: "Bronze Medal-SAVING LA FAMILIA, by Donna Del Oro; Extasy Books; Ancestry of the author(s): USA/ Hispanic; The author(s) lives in: Sacramento, CA; Insights from the ILBA judges, 'Secrets, cartels FBI, secret baby, enemies to lovers story. Another great troupe. Lots of suspense.'"

Author website: DonnaDelOroBooks

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Member News

From member D. J. Adamson –

Book release

Having seven books published in the mystery genre, COOKIN' UP MURDER is the first true cozy. [Click here to purchase.](#)

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

Instagram: @adamson@dj

X: @djadamson_author



From member Anna J Stewart –

Book release

Anna J Stewart is celebrating the release of VANISHED, Book 2 in the Circle of the Red Lily series and follow-up to the award-winning EXPOSED. When recent discovery of a house of horrors crime scene finally promises to give rape advocate and single mother Mabel Reynolds answers regarding her twin sister's disappearance eight years ago, there's only one thing standing in her way: The LA DA's new special investigator Paul Flynn. Mabel isn't the only one with ghosts to put to rest, but soon Mabel and Paul find themselves targeted by people who

will stop at nothing to prevent the truth from being uncovered.

www.arcmanorbooks.com/redlily

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

Instagram: @AJStewartWriter



From member Lorie Lewis Ham –

New Podcast Episodes

Two episodes of Mysteryrat's Maze Podcast went up in October.

This first episode features the mystery short story The Perfect Patsy written by Bern Sy Moss. It is read by local actor Jessica Williams. [Click here to listen.](#)

The second one features the Halloween mystery short story "When a Prank Goes Bad" written by John R. Clark and read by local actor Theodore Fox.

[Click here to listen.](#)

You can also find them in all the usual podcast places!



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In Other News

NaNoWriMo – November, 2023 – National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) is a fun, empowering approach to creative writing. The challenge: draft an entire novel in just one month. Why do it? For 30 wild, exciting, surprising days, you get to silence your inner critic, let your imagination take over, and just create! It's not too late to get started. [Click here for details.](#)

#SinCNaNo 2023 in November. SinC is a proud sponsor of NaNoWriMo, and we have got special events set up for this November, including 4 virtual write-ins a day. #SinCNaNo is open to all, though the online community is for SinC members only. If you register here, you'll get a weekly update of events, zoom links, and more. Join us this November as we NaNoWriMo SinC style! Note, everything is free for SinC members. Webinars are \$15 for non-members. [Learn more here.](#)

San Diego SinC – November 11, 2023 @ 2pm. Carl Vonderau will be making a presentation to Partners in Crime San Diego to talk about his new book, *SAVING MYLES*, as well as the challenge of creating emotion in thrillers. Curtis Ippolito a member of the San Diego board, will interview him. I hope you can tune in. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

SinC NorCal – November 12, 2023, 1-3pm. Fall Author Showcase @ Books Inc. - Mountain View, CA. Here's our outstanding list of authors who will be reading from their latest books: Ana Brazil, Josie Brown, Michele Drier, Victoria Kazarian, Claudia Hagadus Long, Ana Manwaring, Karen A. Phillips, Nannette Potter, Terry Shames, and Lisa Towles. [To find out more, click here.](#)

MWA NorCal – November 19, 2023, 9:30am. Free range day! Karl Henwood is offering another free range day! This great event is sponsored by a former military officer and police officer at his family's ranch east of Sacramento so that writers can learn all about guns in a safe environment. The cut off to register is November 17. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Left Coast Crime 2024 • "The Seattle Shakedown" • Bellevue, Washington – April 11-14, 2024. The registration price is \$329 through December 31, 2023; \$349 beginning January 1, 2024. <https://leftcoastcrime.org/2024/index.html>

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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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