

OCTOBER 2023

From the President

It takes hustle to be an indie author.

Just ask former journalist, U.S. diplomat and university administrator [Delia C. Pitts](#), who I had the pleasure of meeting last month at Bouchercon in San Diego.



Delia is a fellow member of Sisters in Crime as well as [Crime Writers of Color](#) who happened to mention later how the skills she gained as an indie author are helping her launch her new book.

She self-published five books in her Ross Agency Mysteries series. Minotaur Books will publish TROUBLE IN QUEENSTOWN, featuring private investigator Vandy Myrick, in July 2024.

“Self-publishing my first series was a great way to learn about online advertising, marketing, writing essays, design and cover issues, doing podcasts and panels, working with editors, hand selling my books, doing in-person or virtual readings, and other parts of hustling,” Delia said.

Online platforms have made it easier — and cheaper — to self-publish books than ever before, making it a great option for authors, particularly when breaking into traditional publishing seems increasingly difficult. Many writers are even going hybrid by doing a bit of both.

This month’s Capitol Crimes meeting is all about the ins and outs of self-publishing. Our panel of successful self-pubbed authors, including members [Cindy Sample](#), [Anne R. Tan](#), [Jessica Arden Cline](#) and [Karen A. Phillips](#), will discuss the business end of writing, the pros and cons of Amazon, marketing and publicity strategies.

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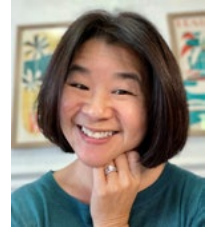


Writers going the traditional route can learn a lot from October's stellar line up, too. Like why you need a Facebook author page, ways to work with booksellers and how to be a guest book blogger.

In other words, how to sell your book. I'll be taking lots of notes, because I need to hustle.

October is Mystery Month. If you're in town Oct. 28 be sure to attend a panel hosted by Mystery Writers of America NorCal featuring Capitol Crimes authors [Claire Booth](#), [Pat Canterbury](#), [James L'Etoile](#), [Catriona MacPherson](#), [Eileen Rendahl](#) as well as [Faye Snowden](#). The event will be held at the Folsom Public Library, 411 Stafford Street, at 1 p.m.

—Jennifer Morita, President



GV BF

GREAT VALLEY BOOKFEST

Great Valley Bookfest - Capitol Crimes is participating in the [Great Valley Bookfest](#) on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10 AM to 4 PM at The Promenade Shops at Orchard Valley in Manteca! We will have a booth and need people to help us run it. If you're an author with a book to sell, contact us at capitolcrimes@gmail.com to sign up for a shift.

Upcoming Events

MEET THE AUTHOR WITH DÄNNA WILBERG

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 7:00 PM (PT) • Zoom

HOW TO SELF PUBLISH YOUR BOOK

Saturday, October 21, 2023 1:00 PM (PT) • Zoom

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.

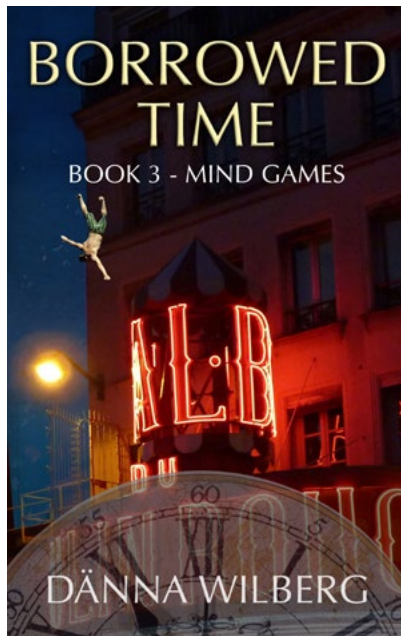
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Chapter News

MEET THE AUTHOR WITH DÄNNA WILBERG

When: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 • 7:00 - 8:00 PM (PT) • Zoom

Please join us as Penny Manson interviews Capitol Crimes member Dänna Wilberg about her latest novel, BORROWED TIME: BOOK THREE - MIND GAMES.



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?

[Register here.](#)



HOW TO SELF PUBLISH YOUR BOOK with Cindy Sample, Anne R. Tan, Jessica Arden Cline and Karen Phillips

When: Saturday, October 21, 2023 • 1:00 - 2:30 PM (PT) • Zoom

Many writers choose self-publishing over traditional, and a growing number of hybrid authors do both.

Capitol Crimes authors Cindy Sample, Anne R. Tan, Jessica Cline and Karen A. Phillips will discuss their experiences in self-publishing and offer their tips and tricks of the trade, including:

- setting up the writing and business foundation
- marketing strategies and tactics
- thriving as an indie author
- whether to go wide or Amazon only

These days, even traditionally published authors do most of their own marketing and can learn a lot from our panel about selling your book.

[Register here.](#)

CAPITOL
CRIMES

How to Self Publish Your Book

Sat. October 21 at 1 PM Pacific via Zoom
with Cindy Sample, Anne R. Tan, Jessica Cline
& Karen A. Phillips

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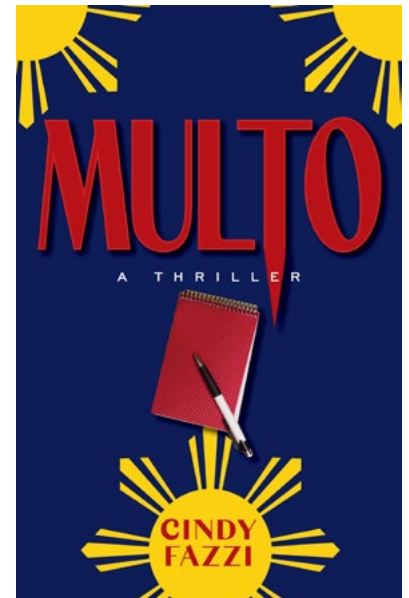


Member News

From Cindy Fazzi –

MULTO, meaning ghost in Tagalog, is Filipino-American author Cindy Fazzi's debut thriller. The novel pits a dogged Filipino-American bounty hunter against a desperate undocumented Filipina who can disappear like a ghost. Agora Books published the title on September 26.

MULTO is available at [Ruby's Books](#).



From Larry Keeton –

My first mystery short story "Some Treats are Nasty Tricks" was published in Mystery Magazine September 2023 edition.

From Rachele Baker –

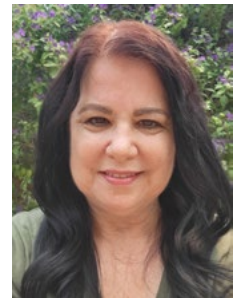
Rachele Baker's debut cozy mystery, TRAGEDY IN TAHOE: RYLIE SUNDERLAND MYSTERIES BOOK 1, released in August. Description: "This mystery is for anyone who loves suspense, twists and turns, lovable characters, and a surprise ending." Available on Amazon in e-book, paperback, and hardcover. Or read for free in Kindle Unlimited. [Click here to purchase on Amazon.](#)

Author website: www.rachelebaker.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rachele.baker.author/

Instagram: www.instagram.com/rachelebakerauthor/

X: twitter.com/RacheleBakerDVM



From Karen A Phillips –

In October Karen will be speaking with author George Cramer on writing the mystery at the following Contra Costa County libraries:

Oct 13 Friday 3-4pm Clayton library

Oct 14 Saturday 2-3pm Pinole library

Oct 23 Monday 6:30-7:30pm Pleasant Hill Library

For more information [click here to visit the Contra Costa Library events page](#).

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Member News

From Jim L'Etoile, Claire Booth, Pat Canterbury –

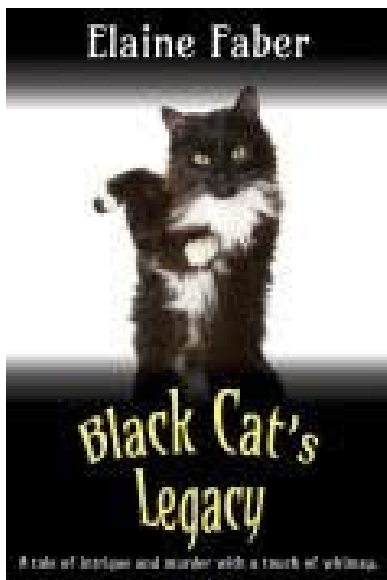
The NorCal chapter of Mystery Writers of America will hold a multiple author event to celebrate Mystery Month. On October 28th at 1:00 pm at the Folsom Public Library (411 Stafford St., Folsom CA 95630) join authors Claire Booth, Pat Canterbury, James L'Etoile, Catriona McPherson, Eileen Rendahl, and Faye Snowden for *A Killer Lineup of Mystery Authors*. The authors will talk about their most recent books and be available to answer questions from attendees. Their books will be available for purchase by Face in a Book bookstore of El Dorado Hills.

MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA PRESENTS:
A Killer Lineup of Mystery Authors

The NorCal chapter of Mystery Writers of America will hold a multiple author event to celebrate Mystery Month. The authors will talk about their most recent books and be available to answer questions from attendees. Their books will be available for purchase by Face in a Book bookstore of El Dorado Hills.

**Saturday
October 28
1 p.m.**

FOLSOM PUBLIC LIBRARY
Georgia Murray Building
411 Stafford St
Folsom, CA 95630
www.folsom.ca.us/library
libstaff@folsom.ca.us
916-461-6136



From Elaine Faber –

My first cozy cat mystery novel, BLACK CAT'S LEGACY, was re-released with a different cover, matching the e-book version. It is the same story but updated, revised, and with new information regarding why the cold case murder was never fully investigated. Black Cat (Thumper) continues to narrate part of the story, and with his ancestors' memories, is able to reveal clues to Kimberlee, who seeks answers regarding her father's murder. But, some secrets should never be told... Will Thumper succeed in his legacy to help Kimberlee solve the puzzling cold case?

[Available at Amazon.](#)

Author website:

mindcandymysteries.com/

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/elainefaberauthor



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Member News

From Judith Starkston -

Judith Starkston will be reading from and discussing her historical fantasy *PRIESTESS OF ISHANA* at the Avid Reader Davis, 617 2nd St, Davis, CA 95616, along with 4 other California Writers Club authors. 6-8 pm on October 17th.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/judy.starkston/

Instagram: www.instagram.com/judith_starkston/

X: twitter.com/JudithStarkston

From Joseph S. Walker -

Joseph S. Walker's story "Crime Scene" is included in the 2023 edition of *BEST AMERICAN MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE*, edited by Steph Cha (series) and Lisa Unger (edition). The same story was included in *BEST MYSTERY STORIES OF THE YEAR*, edited by Otto Penzler (series) and Amor Towles (edition), released in September.

X: @JSWalkerAuthor

From Lori Lewis Ham -

Up on Mysteryrat's Maze Podcast this month we featured the first chapter of "Murder Faux Paws" by T.C. LoTempio, read by local actor Ariel Linn which can be found here: mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/e/murder-faux-paws-by-tc-lotempio/

We also featured the prologue and first chapter of "Secret Identity" by Alex Segura, read by local actor Cady Mejias. At press deadline for the newsletter this episode had not yet gone up, but it can be found on the podcast homepage: mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/. You can also find all episodes in all the usual podcast places!

From Donna Wierzbowski -

Donna Wierzbowski, aka Donna Del Oro, is organizing monthly Round Table Critique Groups.

This is how they will work: A group of five or six writers will pass 5-10 pages of their work to the writer on their left. Each person has 10 minutes to read and make written comments, before passing it along to the next person. At the end of the hour, each writer will have her pages back with comments from five people. Meetings will be held at a coffee shop or Donna's home.

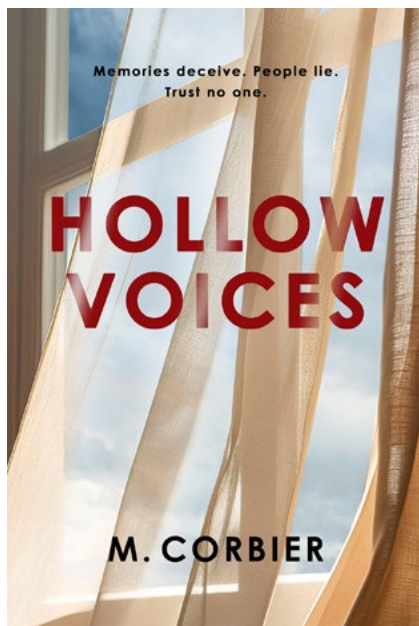
If you're interested in participating, please email Donna at dlwierz@earthlink.net

Also, Donna sold her short story, "Lucky Joe", to her Canadian publisher (ExtasyBooks.com/DonnaDelOro). This publisher provides short stories like hers to Amazon for sale at \$1.99 as holiday stocking stuffers. "Lucky Joe" offers dark, wry humor to a honey-trap crime story involving an older man who tries to recapture his youthful sexual escapades.



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Member News



From Michelle Corbier –

In newly released HOLLOW VOICES, pediatrician Julia Toussaint is recovering after the death of her son. But when she catches her psychiatrist in a lie, she doubts many things from her past, particularly surrounding the death of the woman who murdered her son. Description: Julia starts over in a new city with a narcissistic boss with his own dark secret. Suddenly, the past catches up with her, and she fights to maintain her sanity while protecting the people she loves. Time is crucial and Julia must remember what she did because the decisions she makes will have fatal consequences.

www.MichelleCorbier.com

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

[Click here to purchase the book.](#)

High Flying Act

A good mystery is a magic act. By utilizing a minor distraction, a magician creates an illusion. While the audience focuses on one area, a dramatic scene develops in another part of the stage. Similar to a mystery where the author wants readers to follow red herrings peppered throughout the story until the big revelation. A gifted author focuses readers' attention in one direction while the plot leads in another. If done well, the audience will appreciate the deceit, amazed by their own gullibility.

This year I wrote a psychological thriller titled HOLLOW VOICES. Not my usual genre. Traditional mysteries and urban fantasy are my regular haunts. However, this story materialized from a life event. As a panster, I allowed the plot to materialize, and produced a thriller.

Stories can be magical and somewhat like a circus. Like a person being shot out of a cannon, the story begins. The plot resembles high-wire acrobatics. As ringmaster, the author directs spectators to the appropriate performance at the correct moment. Timing matters. In HOLLOW VOICES, I endeavor to entertain readers while employing misdirection. If done properly, readers will appreciate my plot twists and finish the story satisfied.

Biography

After over twenty years in clinical medicine, Michelle now works as a medical consultant. As a member of Crime Writers of Color, Sisters in Crime and Capitol Crimes, her writing interests cover many genres—mystery, paranormal, and thrillers. If not writing, you can find her outside gardening or bicycling.



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In Other News

Grand Canyon Writers – October 5, 2023 – join us for the AUTUMN FIRESIDE CHAT with USA Today bestselling, multi-award-winning author, Gigi Pandian, when she shares the secrets to making NaNoWriMo work for YOU! [Click here for details.](#)

SinC NorCal – October 7, 2023, 10am - 12pm. Marketing and Publicity Powerhouse. Each chapter of SinC has the unique ability to wiggle the social media algorithm to increase visibility for their own book launches. Find out how with Pam Stack, host of Authors on the Air. [To find out more click here.](#)

SinC National Webinar – October 7, 2023, 9am - 2:30pm. SinC Into Great Writing Masterclass Day. Part 1- Now, Then, and Later: Narrative Time and Pacing in Fiction. Part 2 - Writing Real Mixed-language Dialogue. [Click here for more info.](#)

Great Valley Book Fest 2023 – October 14, 2023 – Manteca, CA. Capitol Crimes will have a booth at the Great Valley Book Fest. We'll post a sign-up soon for people to work a shift and sell some books so keep an eye out for more information. [Click here for more information about the event.](#)

San Diego SinC – October 15, 2023 @ 2pm – Come to a talk by Gigi Pandian, author of locked room mysteries and more. Gigi is an *USA Today* bestselling and award-winning mystery author, breast cancer survivor, and accidental almost-vegan. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Arizona Desert Sleuths – October 18, 2023, 6-7:30pm – TWO-TRACK MIND: How a Second Career Shapes Your Writing Career (and vice versa), A conversation with screenwriter/teacher Wendall Thomas and author/licensed psychotherapist Dennis Palumbo. Virtual or in-person. *Preregistration required.* [Click here for more details.](#)

SinC Virginia – October 7, 2023 @ 7pm. Curious Copyright Facts with David Newhoff. David is an author, communications professional, and copyright advocate with more than 20 years providing creative services and consulting in the area corporate communications. [Click here to find out more.](#)

MWA NorCal – October 28, 2023, 1-2pm at the [Folsom Public Library](#), 411 Stafford Street, Folsom, CA. Join MWA NorCal members Catriona McPherson, Claire Booth, Pat Canterbury, Faye Snowden, and Eileen Rendahl, with James L'Etoile moderating this event. Panelists will have books to sell and sign.

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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