

CAPITOL CRIMES

Sharing the thrill of mystery.

OCTOBER 2021

From the President

BOO!

Here's a big treat, (no tricks involved). I am thrilled to announce that the 2021 Anthology, *"Cemetery Plots of Northern California"* is now available on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle formats!



On that note I want to remind you there is NO October Chapter Meeting, I REPEAT, NO MEETING OCTOBER 16TH!! Instead, please join us for the Anthology Launch. This event will be held on Sunday, October 24th from 1 – 3 pm at the Folsom Community Center, 52 Natoma St, Folsom, California 95630.

A lot of hard work went into making this book a stellar offering. From the introduction by best-selling author Catriona McPherson to the 15 amazing stories featuring Northern California cemeteries in the plot, all written by members and selected by a wonderful panel of judges. Thanks to a partnership with 916 Ink, the Anthology includes a story by one of their student writers, Hugo de Léon. I promise you'll enjoy staying up late with these spellbinding tales. All profits benefit our chapter. Please purchase copies for your friends and family as a great way to get into the Halloween spirit!

I hope you will be able to come in person to this event, it will be more fun if you are there. Sonja's husband Kevin is joining us and while I am dying to see everyone, what I really want is a chance to personally, publicly thank the Anthology Committee. Big hugs go to co-chairs, Terry Shepherd, Sarah Bresniker, and the rest of the committee, Kathleen Asay and Stacie Giles. THANK YOU to everyone involved, judges, editors, cover artist, proofreaders, and of course all the authors who submitted their stories. This book would have

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From the President continued

never happened without contributions from each of you. I am forever grateful. This venue is paid for so, if you can, come be part of celebrating a job well done.

FYI COVID guidelines will be sent out about a week before the event to make sure the latest information based on Local and CDC guidance is being followed. Rest assured everything is being done to keep everyone safe.

Volunteers, **I NEED YOU**. Help is still needed with the Anthology Launch and planning for the Hybrid Holiday Happening (aka the Holiday Party is just getting started. I can use your time and creative brains to help with activity planning, shopping, set-up, checking people in, monitoring the second Zoom computer, and breaking down after the event. Please contact me at CapitolCrimes@gmail.com to let me know if you can help.

PHEW! So much going on! You know I love you all dearly but I am ready to step down as President. Especially since I am leaving you in such good hands!

This is the slate of Officers for your consideration when elections are held this month:

President: Sarah Bresniker

Vice President: Jennifer Morita

Treasurer: Jim L'Etoile

Secretary: Karen Phillips

Member-at-Large / Workshop Manager: Paula Gail Benson

Member-at-Large / Website Manager: Michelle Corbier

Member-at-Large / Membership Manager: Mary Griffith

Member-at-Large / Events Manager: Rick Meredith

Member-at-Large / Media Manager: Terry Shepherd

*Note: There will be space for write-in nominations.

Ballots will be sent out on October 6th which is when voting begins. Voting ends October 27th and results will be announced in the November 1st Newsletter. Please make sure you vote!

Join us on **November 20th as Board member Frank Rankin interviews his friend Marshall Karp** in a presentation entitled "The Thrills and Perils of Switching Careers or How I Gave Up The 'Best Job Ever' and Became a #1 Bestselling Author."

These are just highlights of what's going on. You know, even if I could, I wouldn't do it without you. If you want this chapter to grow, you are going to have to step up and help out. Even a great Board, like the one coming in on January 2022, can't do it all.

Happy Halloween, everyone. I hope each of you gets your fill of your favorite treat.

-Penny Manson, President



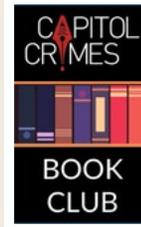
**OCTOBER
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Chapter News

Upcoming Events



BOOK CLUB
Black Label by James L'Etoile
Tuesday, October 12, 2021
7:00 PM • Zoom



Capitol Crimes Anthology Kick-Off Celebration - *In Person*

Sunday, October 24, 2021 • 1:00 PM
Folsom Community Center, 52 Natoma Street, Folsom CA

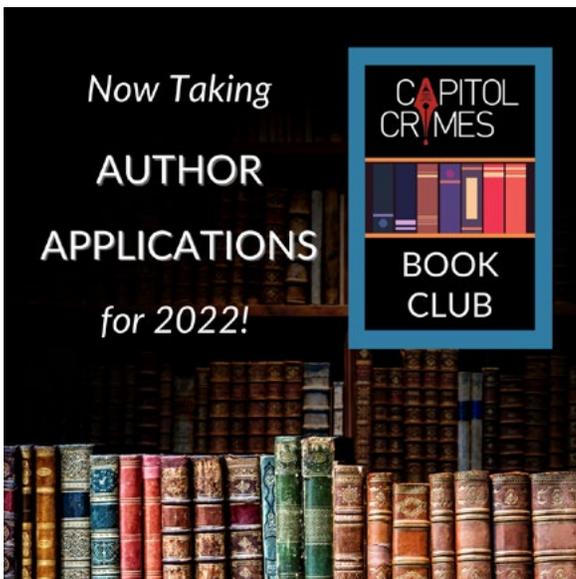
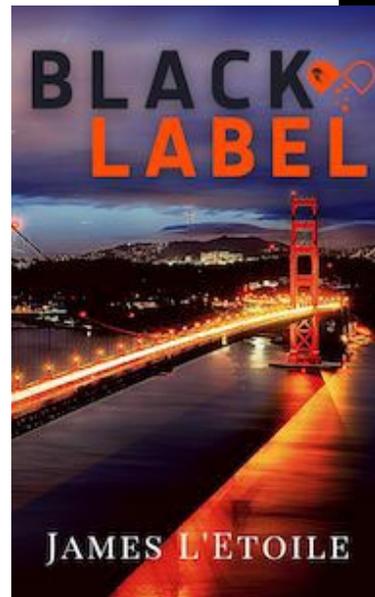
Capitol Crimes Anthology Kick-Off Celebration - *On Zoom*

Sunday, October 24, 2021 • 1:15 PM • On Zoom
Visit www.CapitolCrimes.org for details and to register.

BOOK CLUB

Join us **7pm PT on October 12, 2021**, when our featured author will be Silver Falchion Award and Bill Crider Award Finalist, James L'Etoile. We will be discussing his brand new thrilling mystery, **Black Label**.

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!) [Click here to register](#).



Now taking submissions for Book Club in 2022. [Click here for more details and for the submission form.](#)

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Chapter News

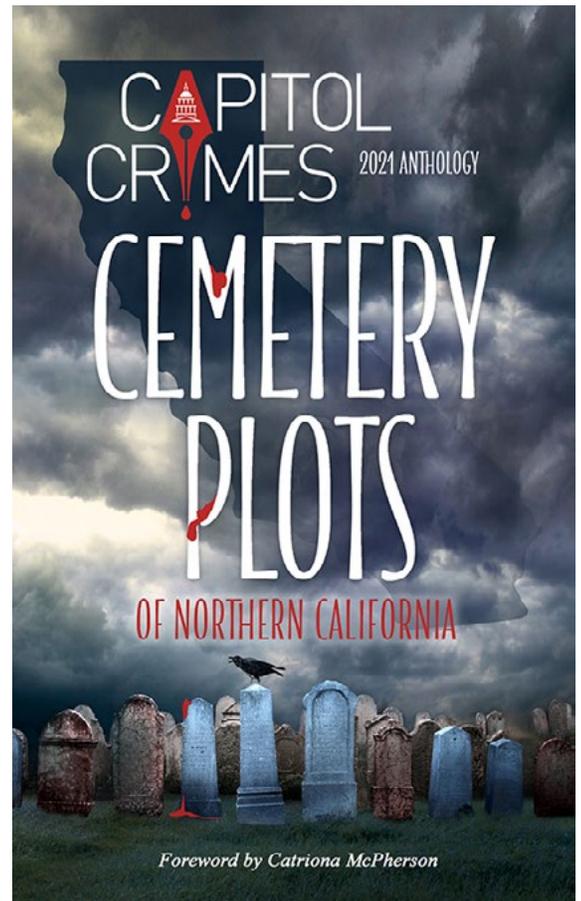
IT'S FINALLY HERE!

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who made this dream a reality - the Anthology Committee, the judges, the editors and all the authors who submitted stories.

Be sure to join us for our very first hybrid event, the Kickoff for the 2021 Anthology, *Cemetery Plots of Northern California* at the Folsom Community Center, 52 Natoma Street.

If you are unable to attend in person, we hope you will attend by Zoom. You will still be able to play games and learn more about the authors. For the in-person event, purchase a copy of the book and get it signed by some of the authors.

We will be monitoring the COVID situation and are prepared to go back to virtual if safety concerns make that the best option. We will follow the local and CDC guidelines and keep you posted as the event gets closer.



BUY NOW ON AMAZON

Volunteer to Help at the Event!

We need you! Our first hybrid event will have lots of moving parts, and you can help! If you are planning on attending the in-person event, please consider volunteering. We need people to help with:

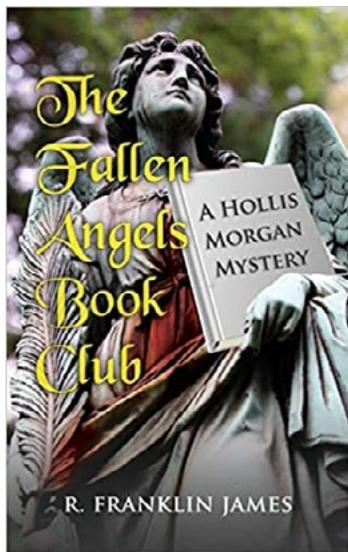
- Food: Setting up and keeping the snack table stocked and tidy. And you get a spot next to the goodies!
- Games: We will have fun games and need some help keeping things rolling. You don't need to be a trivia expert, just willing help out with things like handing out tickets and manning our raffle table!
- Hospitality: Help everyone feel welcome as we venture back out to seeing each other in person. A great excuse to mingle!
- Clean-up: If you can stay a bit later, consider being a part of our clean-up crew. It shouldn't take long!

If you're interested, please email us at CapitolCrimes@gmail.com.

Please consider donating. We are also looking for fun prizes. Books, gift cards, anything you think a writer or reader would enjoy are much appreciated! If you have something to donate, please email us at CapitolCrimes@gmail.com.

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Member News



From member Rae James –

A&E Press Release - Los Angeles, CA, (Sept 27, 2021)

Grammy Winner Toni Braxton to Headline and Executive Produce Lifetime's Multi-Movie Series Event **The Fallen Angels Book Club** based on the Hollis Morgan Mystery Book Series by R. Franklin James.

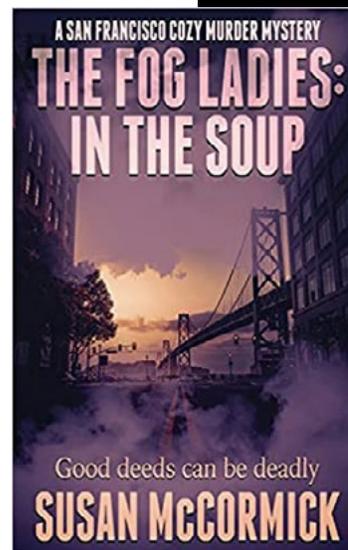
Lifetime asks “whodunnit?!” with the greenlight of “The Fallen Angels Book Club” (working title) movie series event starring seven-time Grammy® Award winner Toni Braxton as Hollis Morgan, an ex-con turned amateur sleuth who sets out to investigate a series of murders at her book club. [Order your copy of the book here!](#)

Pick up Rae's book, **The Inheritance** (2021), the first in her latest Johanna Hudson series. Reviewed as “...An original and compelling whodunit...by an author with a genuine mastery of the genre.”

From member Susan McCormick –

The Fog Ladies: In the Soup, was released this month by The Wild Rose Press, Book 3 in the San Francisco Cozy Murder Mystery series by award-winning member Susan McCormick. The spunky Fog Ladies are back in the third installment of this endearing cozy mystery series. “Age cannot slow them down. Their love and caring of each other is a testament to this humorous and compelling tale, offering a delightful addition to this cozy series.” *New York Journal of Books*

[Order your copy of the book here!](#)

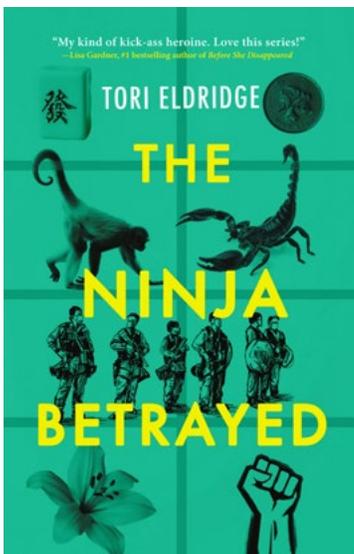


From member Tori Eldridge -

Tori Eldridge winds up her virtual book tour for **THE NINJA BETRAYED** (Lily Wong #3) at **Cook Library Authors Out Loud: The Art of Crime Writing** (Tuesday, 10/12, 5pm PT) with Tracy Clark, Cheryl Head, Rachel Howzell Hall. [Click here for more details.](#)

Then join Tori at **The Back Room** (Sunday, 10/17, 4pm PT) with Lisa Unger Jonathan Santlofer, Lori Rader-Day. [Click here for more details.](#)

Stay tuned in October for the stunning cover reveal for her upcoming Brazilian suspense, **DANCE AMONG THE FLAMES!**



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Member News

Member Update from Mary Giffith –

We are now in that part of the year when if you join Capitol Crimes, your membership will run through the end of 2022, so if you've been thinking about joining us, now is the time!

Since we've been stuck in Zoom meetings, it's been difficult to get to know any of our new members, so we decided that the least we can do is recognize new members in the newsletter. We're starting off with those who've joined since July 1 and including information from the public profile they've entered on our website.

—Mary Griffith, Membership

Welcome Capitol Crimes New Members! (July 1–September 20)

Tori Eldridge www.torielldridge.com

Carol Newhouse

Dona Fox www.donafox.com

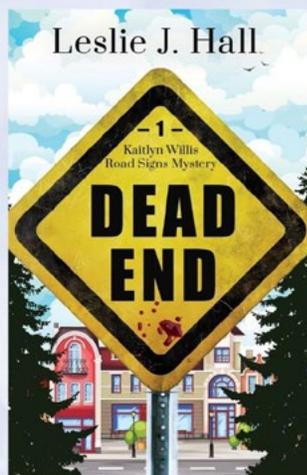
Members – feature your latest book cover*
in the **Book Cover Carousel** on the homepage
of **CapitolCrimes.org**. Send cover art to
CapitolCrimes@gmail.com

**one cover per author*



Kaitlyn Willis Road Signs Mystery Series

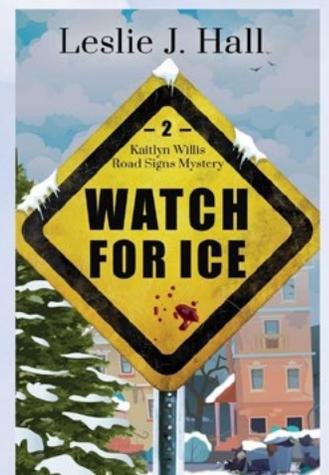
by Leslie J. Hall



Review of Dead End
"This fast paced mystery is laced with plenty of humor even in dire circumstances. The heroine has her own unique way of expressing herself, contributing to plenty of spicy, snappy repartee. It's a page turner."

Curves Ahead Coming soon!

Available on Amazon



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Member News

From Member Anne Da Vigo –

Do you ever open a book and feel as though you've discovered a nugget? That happened to me recently. I was visiting my sister in San Diego, searching her shelves for a good read . . .

"Here's ones," she said. "I found it at a used book sale."

It was long-time Sacramento broadcaster and author Joyce Krieg's debut thriller, *Murder Off Mike*, and it's just as much fun today as when it rolled off the presses in 2002.

Krieg's mouthy, high-energy protagonist is Shauna J. Bogart, host on the fictional Sacramento Talk Radio. When her long-time mentor and colleague Dr. Hipster is found dead of a bullet wound, the cops say it was suicide, but Shauna doesn't buy it.

Who would want Hipster dead? A disgruntled listener? An ambitious wannabe?

Shauna enlists the help of ambitious intern Josh and field reporter Glory Lou in tracking down the killer.

As the trio burrows more deeply into the murder, they contend with opponents in a contentious race for California governor, a suspicious station giveaway contest, and a cutthroat struggle against a radio syndicate.

Drawing on her stint as newscaster at KFBK Radio, Krieg's mystery is abundant with details of radio's past: tape splicing, reel-to-reel machines, and recording decks.

Shauna loves the fast-paced rhythm of drive-time. She juggles news, advertising, crazy callers, and on-air investigations with nerves of steel.

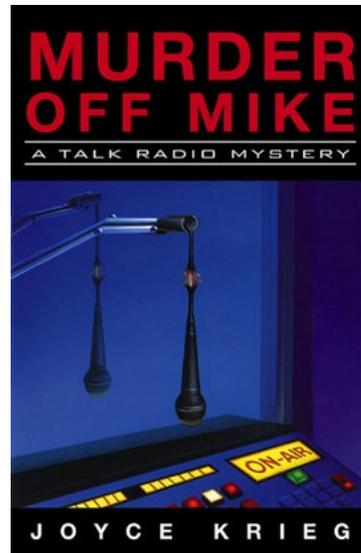
Another delight is Krieg's spot-on depiction of Sacramento's landscape, including the gold-domed state Capitol, Sutter's Fort, and the two major rivers that wind through the city.

The mystery races to its climax at Sacramento Dixieland Jazz Jubilee. The music festival, a Memorial Day fun-fest for over four decades, is the perfect local setting.

With its crowds, non-stop music, and international lineup of musicians, the jubilee was an iconic Sacramento event until its demise in 2017.

It struck me that while some books age like the forgotten leftovers in the refrigerator, others remain fresh.

Krieg's affectionate depiction of Shauna, the Sacramento landscape, and the world of radio make *Murder Off Mike* a tasty treat.



Former print journalist Anne Da Vigo is the author of the thriller, *Bakersfield Boys Club*. [Click here to visit Anne's website](#).

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POV - a new monthly column with video content by member Terry Shepherd

Terry Shepherd's POV distills tech and promotion into actionable ideas every author can leverage to build their brand and sell more books. From selecting the right gear to getting your message across, POV shows you how, with a treasure trove of proven tips and tricks that deliver results.



Pictured: a lavalier microphone

CHOOSING A MICROPHONE

The most important purchase you will make as an author promoting yourself on podcasts is a microphone. It can also be one of the most confusing. Let's simplify things.

Why buy an external microphone if your computer has one built-in? Internal microphones are compromises. They have to work in any environment and any computer configuration with a variety of voices. You'll want one that flatters your voice, eliminates as much background noise as possible, is easy to use and reliable.

Here are some commonly used microphone types with an honest look at their pros and cons.

USB vs XLR? Broadcast and PA microphones have analog connections. They are meant to be plugged into amplifiers and have either XLR, "TRS" mini or standard "phone" plugs at the end of their wires. Most computers and smart devices can accept analog mics. But here's the downside. You need to figure out what adapter to use to pair your microphone with your computer.

Enter USB. Many of us know that USB or "Universal Serial Bus" is the most common connection between devices and peripherals like keyboards and mice. Many Microphones today are USB compatible. You plug them in. Your device recognizes what they are and the microphone becomes an option you can select as an audio input in your system settings.

USB Microphone have one drawback. Latency. Digital signals take more time to process and there can be a slight delay between what you say and what you hear. That's why almost all USB microphones come with a headphone jack built in. This compensates for the delay. You hear your voice without an echo and can still hear the other sounds of your computer or smartphone, too.

Blue's Yeti microphone has become a favorite of podcast guests because of its ease of use and flexibility. It has a USB connection, an amplified headphone jack with volume control and can be configured for several pick-up patterns in both stereo and mono to cover a variety of recording environments. And at around \$100 bucks, it's not too hard on the checkbook.

The Yeti's downside is the sensitivity of its "ears." It can and does pick up outside noise and if you're in room with hard walls that echo, you'll hear that. Microphone placement and volume control can help. Select the Cardioid pattern for best noise

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rejection and keep the mic about six inches from your face for best results. There are many other USB mic options, to choose from that range in price from \$30 to over \$200. You get what you pay for in most situations, but read the specs and especially the customer reviews carefully before you buy.

How about wireless and lavalier microphones? Lav mics were invented in concert with television as a way to capture sound using a small device that could be clipped to your shirt. A rule of thumb for sound capture is, the bigger the ears the better the sound quality. Lavs can work and are a good choice if you're shooting video with a smart phone. But you'll sacrifice the audio bandwidth and lose some of the depth that larger diaphragm pickup elements provide. I share several links to options worth considering. Again, read the specs and reviews with care. Don't be afraid to save the packaging and return any device that doesn't live up to your expectation.

If you're using a lav with a smart phone, the plug is a crucial factor. In a headphone/microphone combination, to be able to hear a stereo signal and send your microphone signal to the phone, a TRRS plug is a must, along with what ever adapter your device may require. iPhones have their own plug and require a TRRS adapter to work with most external analog microphones.

Place the lav as high up on your shirt or sportcoat as possible to get the closest proximity to your mouth.

What about the headsets that come with your phone? Some are surprisingly good. And there are excellent optional smartphone headsets like the Bose SoundSport earbuds that can be competitive with the highest quality lav microphones.

Experimentation is the key. We all have different voice types, and some may sound great with a \$30 USB while others may require a larger investment.

Finally, what about wireless? Bluetooth is a popular wireless protocol for connecting devices to computers and smart devices. There are serviceable bluetooth microphones and wireless lavs on the market and wireless gives you extra flexibility to move around without being tethered to your computer. Bluetooth suffers from the same latency issues common to USB microphones, often exacerbated by the fact that the signal is transformed from analogue to radio frequency then to digital. Each step requires electronic brainpower and brainpower takes microseconds that can stretch into a sound delay that you'll notice. In addition, there are a number of USB wireless options, which come with a USB device that plugs into your computer and serves as an antenna to receive the signal from the wireless microphone you clip on to your outfit.

Talk with friends about microphones they may be using that have a sound you like. After you've done your research, test drive your mic to make sure it works well with your platform. Experiment with the audio settings to ensure that the volume is correct and that you can be heard clearly, without echo and with the depth and clarity that will flatter your unique voice.

Questions? Write to Terry@TerryShepherd.com

<https://www.amazon.com/Blue-Yeti-USB-Microphone-Blackout/dp/B00N1YPXW2>

<https://www.amazon.com/SoundSport-headphones-corresponding-microphone-CHL/dp/B014CI8OWQ>



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Food For Thought- a new column by member Carol Newhouse

Carol Newhouse is a member of the National Sisters in Crime and the Toronto, Los Angeles, Guppies and Sacramento chapters. She writes stories for inclusion in anthologies, four newsletter columns, and is hard at work on her first book in the Zookeeper Mystery series. When not dreaming of dead bodies or taking virtual exercise classes, she plays competitive bridge, hangs out at the Toronto Zoo, and paints with watercolors. She can be reached at newhouse.carol@gmail.com.



MAYBE TOMORROW

I am a professional procrastinator. My to-do lists do not lead straight and sure, but intertwine like the threads of a spider web. I circle again and again embroiled in a maze of half-hearted attempts to get the job done.

It's a fact of my life, although to be fair, I am not alone. Dozens of books purport to tell readers how to break the habit of putting things off, a testament to the universality of the problem. There are plenty of classes on the topic and we're all familiar with shopworn sayings such as keep your nose to the grindstone or your butt in the chair.

Personally, I have been working on the first book in my zookeeper's mystery series for ten years and counting. I've pitched six books to six agents or editors, had five accepted, but have never delivered even one. Small squares of paper crammed with writing litter my desk. Coming up with ideas is not the problem; weaving those ideas into a unified product is a daunting task.

Waiting for tomorrow extends beyond my writing. I am generally in the process of reading four books at a time. Part of the problem: wanting to read everything at once. But an even bigger part of the problem is my reluctance to face the end of the story adventure.

Over the years I have found a few tricks which help me to conquer procrastination or at least whittle it to manageable proportions.

Get a Talisman. I delay because I am afraid of making the wrong decision. Faced with a blank page, I might never think of anything to write. I could write myself into a corner. Maybe I've chosen the wrong book to read at this time. I may be disappointed as the story unfolds. The common denominator here is fear. So I bought an inexpensive Voodoo String Thing. It is a yellow bird with a red comb and beak and it pecks your fears away. Birdie is pinned on my cork storyboard which resides beside my desk. A glance to my right reminds me that instead of putting off, I should face the fear and work through it.

Get into a Habit. I've had varying success with this. I tried getting up an hour early to fit writing into my schedule. What I got was substandard work because my brain functions slowly first thing in the morning and a propensity to fall asleep in my chair in the afternoon. I do my best work in the later evening. As the clock approaches midnight, my writing gets stronger. The problem is I wind up mentally stimulated so

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it is near impossible to fall asleep at a reasonable bedtime. My solution has been to start writing in the evening and switch to reading at least an hour before I plan to sleep. If I stick to this habit three days a week, I'm ahead of the game.

Get the Juices to Flow. When I retired, I decided to follow up on a dream and took a beginner watercolor course for seniors. Although my first efforts were juvenile, I persevered. It cost me hard-earned money, and I was determined to get my money's worth no matter the result. I've found one act of creativity feeds the other in a domino effect.

Get Reasons to Write or Read. Something has to motivate me to write. While I had no problem writing essays for University, crafting fiction for some potential audience fell outside my grasp. I realized I need goals. In the past four years I have authored two newsletter columns geared to mystery writers. One, Agent Insight, asks agents a question and compiles their answers. The other, By the Book, deconstructs different genres of mystery from a writer's point of view. Now, I write two additional columns. Interesting Reads, debuted in last month's newsletter. This one, Food for Thought, is my most recent effort. Motivation is everything.

Get an Accountability Partner. I belong to a Book Club which assigns each member an accountability partner. This forces my hand. We do not critique each other but check-in on a regular basis. Now I have to write because otherwise I will have nothing to contribute at our weekly fifteen minute zoom meeting.

Get a Deadline. Nothing works like having a fixed deadline. Whether it's a date and time to send off that contest entry or submit a column or give your agent the edits on the timeline they expect, deadlines work for me. And nothing focused my reading more than joining two book clubs, one in Texas devoted to writing craft, and one in Arizona, devoted to mysteries. Today, I read those books in a timely manner.

Get Going. I still procrastinate from time to time, but overall I am reading more books, writing more chapters and, because I have a way of cutting through my excuses for not doing something, enjoying myself more.



The City of Elk Grove
Arts Commission Presents

The Great Read Book Fair

October 9, 2021

District 56 8230 Civic Center Drive • Elk Grove, California

A day when imagination soars as authors, readers, and beginning writers come together.



Book Fair
Writer's Conference
Children's Hour

Be part of the literary excitement!



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Other News:

National Sisters In Crime Free Webinars - [Click here to learn about this FREE event.](#)

Writing Humor - **October 5, 2021**, 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm ET. Five masters of comedy discuss how to infuse crime novels with humor. Panelists include: Ellen Byron, Jennifer J. Chow, Catriona McPherson, Wendall Thomas. Moderated by August Norman.

Grand Canyon Writers -

Saturday, October 9, 2021 - "Great Beginnings: Writing a Great First Line, First Paragraph and First Page," with Hank Phillippi Ryan, USA Today Bestselling and award-winning author, winner of five Agatha Awards and Mary Higgins Clark Award winner. [Click here for more info.](#)

October 14, 2021 @ 6 pm - "Mastering the Craft of Riveting Novels by Writing Short Stories" - Dennis Palumbo, Internationally Acclaimed, Award-Winning Author and Screenwriter. [For more information click here.](#)

The Great Valley Bookfest: Manteca, California. **October 9, 2021**

The Great Valley Bookfest will feature numerous authors, arts and crafts, book sales, plus gourmet food and beverage vendors. Vendors will be outdoors so please come prepared for all types of weather. Go to: gvbookfest.org

The Great Read Book Fair: Elk Grove, California. **October 9, 2021** [Click here for more info.](#)

Sunday, October 10, 2021 - Virtual Panel, "*Traditional Detective Fiction Today: The View From America*," with Verena Rose, Shawn Reilly Simmons, and Tonya Spratt-Williams, Alibis in the Archives, Gladstone's Library • 9:30 a.m. EDT (3:30 p.m. in England!). [Click here for more.](#)

Monday, October 25, 2021 - **Art Taylor** interviews Dean Jobb, author of *The Case of the Murderous Dr. Cream: The Hunt for a Victorian Era Serial Killer*, via Crowdcast at Fall for the Book • 7 p.m. EDT. [Click here for more info.](#)

805 Writers Conference - November 6-7, 2021, Ventura, CA. Three Events in One - Conference Sessions, Open Mic and Book Expo. The 805 Writers Conference is not only for people wanting to publish books but for book lovers and poets. Three different ways to enjoy, learn and find new authors and poets. [Click here to register.](#)

Bouchercon 2022 - September 8-11, 2022, Minneapolis, Minnesota. [To find out more and register click here.](#) Submit your short story to the Bouchercon 2022 Anthology. Submission deadline is December 31, 2021. [Click here to find out more.](#)

Poisoned Pen Press Bookstore events - featuring Alex Schulman, Val McDermid, Rhys Bowen and many more! [Click here to view calendar.](#)

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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