

January 2021 Newsletter

CAPITOL CRIMES



The Capitol

Monthly Newsletter — January 2021 Edition

Highlights...

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From the President



A New Year and New Possibilities but ...

As I write this it is still 2020.

I am very excited about being almost done with Physical Therapy for my shoulder replacement. During a recent session I commented that I could see the end of the year from where I stood. I said, "It's so close I can almost touch it." Without looking up my therapist says, "That's when people fall and get injured. They lose their focus, and look ahead instead of where they are and what they are doing." Those words stayed with me as I worked on this President's letter for the start of the new year.

I was writing about how I was looking forward to our State of the Chapter meeting in January and how we have the input from the surveys to discuss with the membership. The changes to the newsletter we are making. Turning the newsletter into a blog on the website which would mean it would only be available to current members. We are considering sending

out an email to the remaining contacts with announcements of events via Mailchimp.

In the new year the Board is looking at changes to membership benefits and how to help you to get more out of your dues. Should we do tier levels of membership where you pay more for additional benefits? And/or go the sweat equity route: charge a greatly reduced rate for services but people who volunteer would get a price break. For example, the Youtube committee would work on chapter and member projects, learn how to make videos and then are able to get a price break having them done for their own book promotion.

We have the ability to do more Social Media Marketing and video clips for your books. The problem is not a lack of people with the talent but needing to compensate those people for their time and talent while keeping the service a good deal for our membership. Also, it is about having multiple individuals dedicated to doing those projects. One thing we learned painfully last year is what happens when the one person doing the job is suddenly not available.

The Anthology is going to happen this year, Lord willing and the creek don't rise. My Grandmother used to say, "Honey, you know the Lord is willing, it's the darn creek you need to watch out for."

Book Club! The Book Club is well on the way to becoming a reality. You all know I have been a vocal advocate for our members who identify as Readers. I want to make sure they feel included and valued. They play one of the most important roles in why we as writers create our stories. I'm hoping to give them something of value and a forum as well as reach out to them as beta readers for works in progress.

And then the dog peed on the bed. Yup, right in the middle, on top of the duvet at 9 o'clock at night. For a moment, it was as if I could feel myself falling and hitting the ground. One last little kick in the pants from 2020.

So, yeah that happened. I was looking forward and losing sight of what was right in front of me.

As I counted to 110 I reminded myself, it's annoying and inconvenient but not the end of the world. An article by Mark Manson, author of, "**The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck**," said, "The one lesson that keeps coming back this year is how something can be both good and bad. If you only see the bad, then you are missing the good and also if you only see the good, you are missing the bad (and the chance to grow)."

For better or worse, I invite you to grow with us this year. There may be a few stumbles along the way but that will just make crossing the finish line of 2021 that much sweeter. Please plan on coming to our State of the Chapter Meeting, January 16th 1-3pm Pacific. Think about all the things we are considering for the new year and join us ready to discuss. Bring your ideas for new projects for the future while keeping your eyes on what going on in the moment. We are survivors!! Happy New Year.

— Penny Manson, President

Capitol Crimes (Virtual) Calendar



January 16, 2021 • 1 - 3 pm

Membership Meeting

See what great things we have planned for the new year!

[Register Now](#)

Virtual Workshops for Mystery Writers & Readers

These webinars are designed to be interactive and are hosted on a professional video conferencing platform.

February 20, 2021 • 1 - 3 pm

[Matt Coyle](#)

Writing A Series

March 20, 2021 • 1 - 3 pm

[Rachel Howzell Hall](#)

Questions and Answers

Visit www.CapitolCrimes.org for details.

CHAPTER NEWS

Dues increase

Our dues will be \$30 per YEAR starting January 2021.

So many reasons to join: Guest Speakers, Workshops, Newsletter, Book Club, and promotional opportunities such as; Author Spotlight in the newsletter, Book Cover Carousel / Book Trailers on website, and more!

BOOK COVER CAROUSEL

We're starting fresh in the new year! Starting February, 2021, showcase your book cover in the Capitol Crimes website carousel. Only one cover per author. **Send cover art to web@capitolcrimes.org**. File requirements: 1200 pixels on longest side, 72dpi minimum resolution, RGB, jpeg, gif or png.

Member News

Author Spotlight: DÄNNA WILBERG

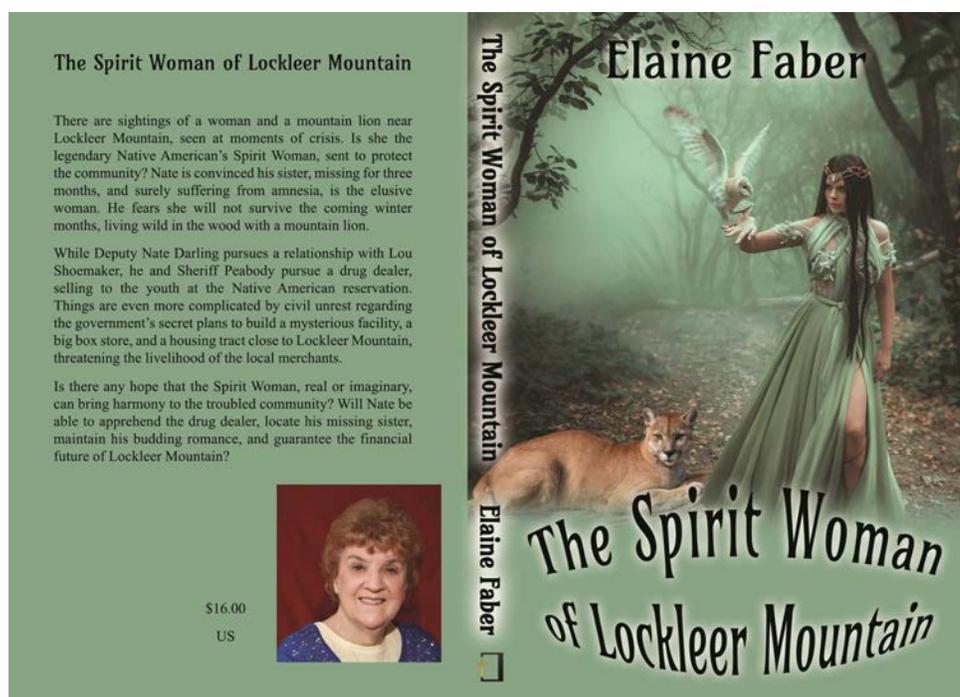


Broken Promises, Book 1 in the Borrowed Time series is [available on Amazon](#) and is being narrated by Terry Shepherd for audio book. [View the exciting trailer here](#). For more information about Dänna, visit her website www.DannaWilberg.com. Also, check for updates [on her Facebook page](#).

Imagine being shot, thrown into a pool, and left for dead. But by some miracle you survive—only to be tormented by visions of young women being murdered...When Suzanne Cash's dead fiancé, Jack, appears during her near-death experience, she credits him for saving her life. But when he keeps reappearing, hijacking her sanity, and insisting she revisit her past, she questions his motives. Why would he

lead her into the lair of a serial killer? And what is his connection to the victims? Detective Sam Metzger wants answers, even if it means suspending his disbelief about things unknown. As the body count rises, Suzanne's visions become more frequent and Goldorado's Sheriff's Department is on the hook. Sam knows the clock is ticking, and although Jack is determined to help Suzanne understand her nefarious visions, lifting the veil to the other side is out of his control. After all, in the Universal Law of Cause and Effect, destiny must prevail.

From member Elaine Faber -



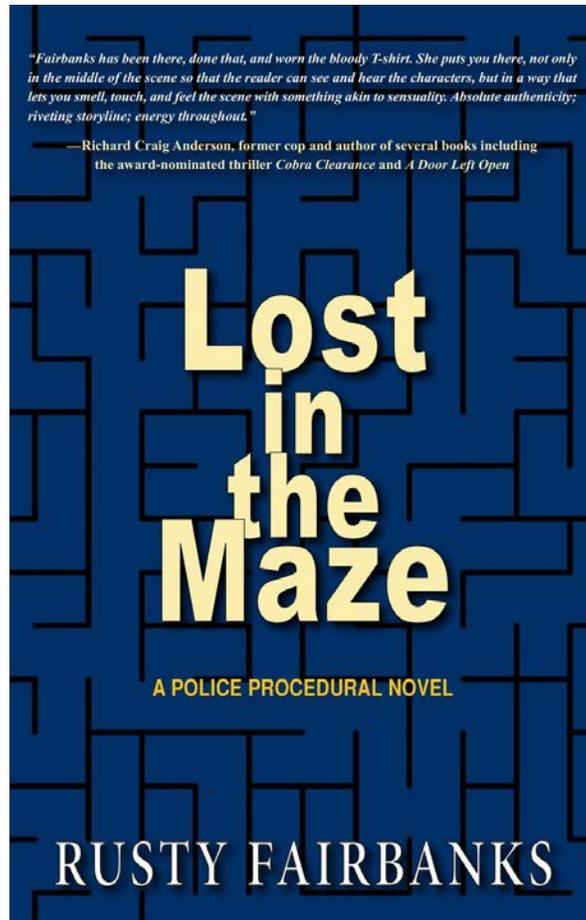
My latest mystery novel, **The Spirit Woman of Lockleer Mountain** is [now available at Amazon](#).

This time a little bit paranormal as the Native American legendary Spirit Woman, who claims to protect the community, appears to be more of a reality than a legend.

Or is the woman in the woods running with a mountain lion, Nate's sister, who went missing three months ago following an MVA?

A bit of romance, a suspense story, but still a cozy mystery without extreme violence, explicit sex, or profanity.

From member Rusty Gagnon -



The first novel for Rusty Gagnon, who writes under the name Rusty Fairbanks, has been released and is [available through Amazon](#). "**Lost in the Maze**" is centered in Sacramento with its protagonist, Homicide Detective-Sergeant Susan Edmonds, from Sacramento County Sheriff's Department.

During a Friday night of too much murder and not enough help, Sacramento Sheriff's detective Susan Edmonds is roused out of bed to "just go sign the paperwork" for release of a body to the coroner's office. According to the young patrol deputy standing by, Dee Polachek, CSU had come and gone, declaring the nude female died from apparent natural causes.

When Susan recognizes the victim as her best friend, JJ, a California parole agent, she's sure the crime scene was staged to ruin her friend's personal

and professional reputation. In the state capitol where politics affect everything, the death of a state parole agent in a reported BDSM playhouse would be front page news and ripe fodder for the morning talk shows.

Truth being more important to Susan than caring about whose toes she steps on or the rules she breaks to find it, she puts together an off-the-record investigative team consisting of Dee, three parole agents, and Ivan—JJ's half-wolf/half-dog. Now the hunt is on with suspects ranging from a sadistic sex offender parolee-at-large to a few judges and high political figures...to a BDSM Dungeon Master named Girard.

CHAPTER HELP

YouTube Opportunity - seeking an enthusiastic volunteer!

Guess what? Capitol Crimes has a YouTube account. Member Marie Sutro has some great suggestions on using it and on being able to offer more opportunities to members. Here are a few of her ideas:

- A simple promo for the virtual workshop series (with pics of upcoming presenters as well as images/video clips from prior presentations)
- Promo for the upcoming anthology (with pics of prior books, etc.)
- Promo for us as an organization (always great to attract new members!)
- Monthly book promos for members' new releases. (Envisioning a simple template into which we could plug in any new releases.)

Marie is happy to lead the effort, but would appreciate input and assistance from the membership. YouTube can be an important tool in your digital marketing. If any of you are interested in working with Marie to help create

videos for Capitol Crimes and learn how to start using this skill for your own marketing, please send an email to: web@capitolcrimes.org

Capitol Crimes Virtual Critique Groups

Looking for a critique group? (Available for Capitol Crimes members only.) [Click here](#) and scroll down to "Virtual Critique Groups." (For members only.)

IN OTHER NEWS...

Elk Grove Writers Conference - October 16, 2021

The Elk Grove Writers Guild is planning their next conference for 2021, exact date is October 16, 2021. To help us plan, please let us know if you're interested or have questions, by sending an email to elkgrove.writersguild@aol.com. Someone will get back to you ASAP. We are excited about doing this, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Any information you want to publish in the newsletter send to: web@capitolcrimes.org by the third (3rd) Saturday of the month. We will publish the first of the following month.