

APRIL 2024

## From the President

### Authors and Guns

How many of you have written something involving guns? My guess is that most of you have. As crime fiction writers, it's almost impossible not to. Some character pulls a gun or finds a gun or refuses to use a gun or sees law enforcement with a gun. Then you as the writer have choices to make. What kind of gun? How is it held? Is it clean? Dirty? What does all of this say about your character?

These are tough questions, especially if you don't know much about firearms. This month, we're here to help. At our members' meeting **April 20**, you'll hear from Army veteran **Karl Henwood**, who is experienced in many different types of rifles, handguns, artillery and more. Karl is also a writer, so he understands the crazy scenarios our minds invent and how realistic we want to make them. This will be an educational, research-centered presentation.

Here's what Karl will cover as he talks about how to incorporate firearms into your writing: a brief history of firearms as a technology, a short history of American gun culture, basic marksmanship, types of firearms, and where and why they're used, terminal ballistics—what bullets actually do when they hit things, weapon choice, maintenance and their implications for writing.

And yes, there will be Q&A at the end!

Then on **May 19**, Karl is offering an in-person gun range day at his family ranch north of Sacramento. Registration for that will open up later on. Watch the Capitol Crimes website for more details.

That's also where you can register for the Zoom link to our April 20 meeting— [www.capitolcrimes.org](http://www.capitolcrimes.org). I hope to see you there.

—*Claire Booth, President*



## What's Inside

Upcoming Events..... 2

Chapter News ..... 2-3

- Meet the Author with Elizabeth Crowens
- Monthly Meeting: Firearms in Writing with Karl Henwood

Member News ..... 4-7

Left Coast Crime schedule of member events..... 8-9

In Other News ..... 10





## 2024 Anthology to Showcase Sacramento Agriculture and Restaurants

California is the largest agricultural producer in the nation, and this beautiful, bountiful Sacramento region we call home, lies at the heart of it all. Known as the Farm to Fork Capital of America, even *The New York Times* recognizes Sacramento as a great restaurant city because of the amazing chefs who use locally-grown, locally-sourced ingredients in their restaurants.

So it seems only fitting that the theme of the 2024 Capitol Crimes Anthology is ***Farm to Foul Play***.

Maybe the gardener selling his bok choy at a farmstand in South Sac decides to off his wife. Or two farmers have a beef over water rights. What if the obnoxious celebrity chef gets tossed off the Tower Bridge right before the gala Farm to Fork Festival dinner? When it comes to murder in Sacramento, the possibilities are endless.

We open for submissions on April 1. The deadline to submit your short story is May 31. The word count is 1,500-5,000. For more information, updated rules and guidelines, visit [www.capitolcrimes.org](http://www.capitolcrimes.org) beginning April 1.

For now, here are some guidelines:

1. You must be a Capitol Crimes member in good standing, which means you're a current member of Sisters in Crime AND Capitol Crimes.
2. Your story must address the ***Farm to Foul Play*** theme.
3. Your story must include a crime.
4. AND it has to be set in the Sacramento region, or if you must stray go no further than NorCal.

We can't wait to read your ***Farm to Foul Play*** short stories!

### Upcoming Events



#### MEET THE AUTHOR with ELIZABETH CROWENS

Tuesday, April 09, 2024 • 7:00 PM (PT) • Zoom

#### MEMBERS MEETING with KARL HENWOOD

Saturday, April 20, 2024  
1:00 PM (PT) • Zoom



APRIL  
2024

Visit [www.CapitolCrimes.org](http://www.CapitolCrimes.org) for details and to register.

# Chapter News

## MEET THE AUTHOR with ELIZABETH CROWENS

Date and Time: Tuesday, April 09, 2024, at 7:00 PM (PT) Zoom

Please join us as Penny Manson interviews Capitol Crime member Elizabeth Crowens about her latest novel *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles*.

“Sherlock Holmes has lost his dog? We have bigger crimes to solve. Go find him yourself!” That’s what the Los Angeles Police Department told Basil Rathbone. Asta, the dog from the popular Thin Man series, has also vanished, and production for his next film is pending. MGM Studios offers a huge reward, and that’s exactly what young private detectives Babs Norman and Guy Brandt need for their struggling business to survive. Celebrity dognapping is now a growing trend.

[Register here](#)



## FIREARMS IN WRITING with KARL HENWOOD

Date and Time: Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 1:00 PM (PT) Zoom

Please join us on Saturday, April 20th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (PT) as Karl Henwood provides Capitol Crimes with a “how to” for incorporating firearms into our writing.

Karl’s Zoom talk will cover a brief history of firearms as a technology; a short history of American gun culture; basic marksmanship; terminal ballistics—what bullets actually do when they hit things; types of firearms and where and why they are used; and weapon choice and maintenance and their implications for writing.

Karl has also graciously offered a range day in May at the Henwood Ranch north of Sacramento for a firearms familiarization demonstration and “hands on” experience. That will take place Sunday, May 19. More information to come!

Karl is an Iraq veteran who worked briefly as a police officer and received his college degree in history. He has much experience with small arms and their use, both past and present. To branch out into something really practical, he also went above and beyond what the Army decided he needed to know about tanks, because big arms are cool too. Besides the Army stuff, he’s worked in coffee logistics, and writes science fiction/fantasy novels for fun but as yet no profit. He lives in Boise, Idaho, with his wife, son, daughter and two dogs who are more interesting and better people than he is. He can be reached at his website: <https://site-2052674-9062-4196.mystrikingly.com/> or X (Twitter): @manglerofprose.



[Register here](#)

**APRIL  
2024**



## Member News

### From member Claire Booth -

The latest in Claire's Sheriff Hank Worth series, **Home Fires**, comes out April 2.

She'll celebrate with a launch party Saturday, April 20, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Face in a Book, 4359 Town Center Blvd., #113, in El Dorado Hills. Come for food, wine, and conversation!

She'll also be the featured guest on the In Conversation with Terry Shepherd podcast, which will air on the **Home Fires** book birthday, Tuesday, April 2. Listen to it [here](#).

And you can order **Home Fires**, the sixth in the series where Hank has to investigate a huge public tragedy and a horrible personal one, from Face in a Book [here](#) or from Amazon [here](#).



### From member Tori Eldridge -

Tori Eldridge is thrilled to join the Thomas & Mercer family with **KULEANA**, the first book in a brand new mystery adventure series, rich in her own Native Hawaiian language and traditions, that explores contemporary issues facing kanaka maoli today. Her protagonist Makalani Pahukula has a big, complicated 'ohana you are sure to love with the depth of culture and action you've come to expect.



### From member June Gillam -

June Gillam's short story, "Riding Shotgun for Mustang Man," has been accepted for publication in the CA Writers Club anthology, **Vision and Verse**.

### From member Debra H. Goldstein -

Debra H. Goldstein's Super Bowl short story, "Game Day," was published by King's River Life Magazine.

### From member Lorie Lewis Ham -

A new Mysteryrat's Maze Podcast episode went up this month. This one features the mystery short story "Charity Begins At Home" by Herschel Cozine, read by local actor Sean Hopper: <https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/e/charity-begins-at-home-by-herschel-cozine/>



APRIL  
2024

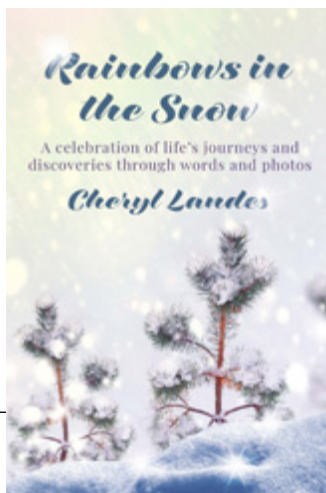


## Member News

From member Cheryl Landes –

Cheryl Landes' latest book, *Rainbows in the Snow*, is now available.

[Buy here](#)



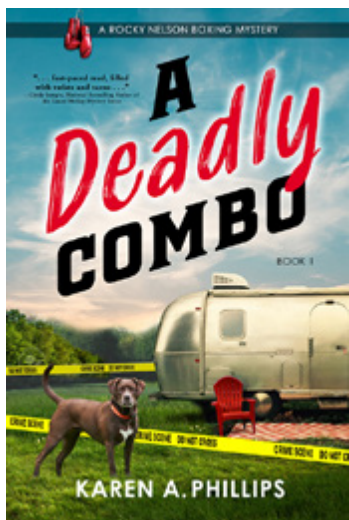
From member James L'Etoile –

James will speak at the Folsom Rotary Club at on Thursday 4/18 at 6:30 on "Turning Crime into Fiction."

On Friday 4/19, at noon, James will appear on Sierra College's Online Learning Institute talking about *Face of Greed*, and why he chose Sacramento as a series setting.

crimewriter@comcast.net | jamesletoile.com

Facebook @AuthorJamesLetoile | Twitter @JamesLetoile | IG @authorjamesletoile



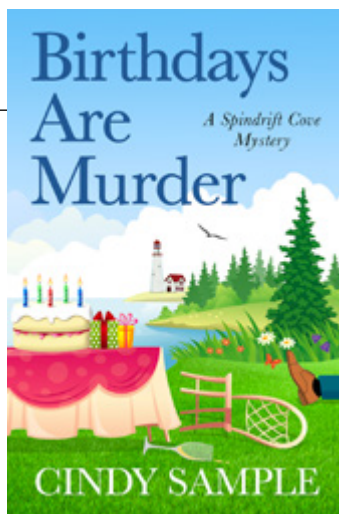
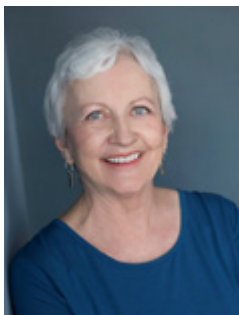
From member Karen A. Phillips –

On March 10, 2024 *A Deadly Combo* was featured in the [Top Ten First Cozies of 2023](#) on [CozyMystery.com](#).

"... Combine[d] with good characters and an interesting story, and you have a hit on your hands (see what I did there?)" —Marian Cozy

From member Cindy Sample –

*Birthdays are Murder*, a Spindrift Cove mystery by Cindy Sample, is a finalist for the Chanticleer Murder and Mayhem award for best cozy mystery.



APRIL  
2024



## Member News

From member Terry Shepherd –

Terry Shepherd just completed his 20th audiobook narration, his second for Pamela Fagan Hutchins in the Patrick Flint series. Look for ***Skin And Bones*** on your favorite audio platform soon. And in what Pamela calls, “An award-worthy performance.” Terry and Penny Manson narrated our last anthology ***Cemetery Plots Of Northern California.***

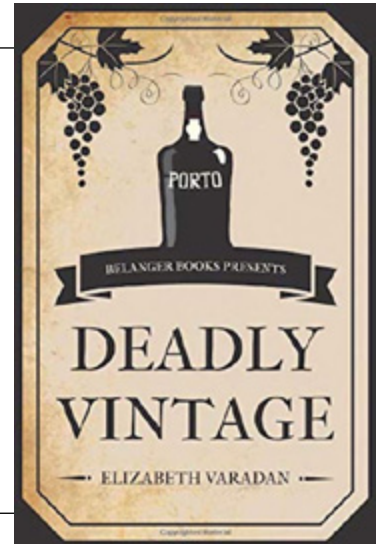
Terry’s newest non-fiction book, ***How To Be A Dynamic Podcast Guest And Sell Stuff***, will be in full circulation soon. He’s offering free digital copies to any Capitol Crimes member who is looking for a no-nonsense guide to making a great interview impression. Write to him at Terry@TerryShepherd.com to get your personal copy.

[TerryShepherd.com](http://TerryShepherd.com)



From member Elizabeth Varadan –

The audio version of ***Deadly Vintage*** is available at Audible and any Amazon location.



# BEERS BOOKS

EST NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY - SIX

*Crime Time* is a way for Capitol Crimes to support local bookstores. In March we mingled and then went shopping at Beers Books, 712 R Street in Sacramento, CA.

APRIL  
2024



## Member News



On March 9th President Claire Booth and V.P. Karen Phillips represented Capitol Crimes at the Sac Women & Girls Festival sponsored by the Sacramento County Women's and Girls Commission at Sac City College.



Capitol Crimes members attend the March Writers Coffeehouse. **Writers Coffeehouse** meets at Face in a Book in El Dorado Hills, CA (4359 Town Center Blvd. #113) on the third Sunday of the month at 1:00 pm. The Writers Coffeehouse is an informal gathering of writers at every stage of their publishing journey. Young and unpublished writers are welcome. There are no critiquing sessions, or reading your work to others—just a gathering of like minds with a passion for writing.



## Member News - Left Coast Crime



### THURSDAY

**Baron Birtcher** and **James L'Etoile**  
**Claire Booth** (and Elena Hartwell Taylor)

**George Cramer** and **Karen Phillips**  
*Speed Dating*  
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
Evergreen E-I

**Elizabeth Crowens**  
*Ready For My Close Up: Mysteries Set in LA.*  
12-12:45 p.m.  
Grand AB

**Ana Manwaring**  
*Are You Full Yet? Culinary Mysteries*  
12-12:45 p.m.  
Grand G

**Baron Birtcher**  
*Hot, Hot, Hot: Mysteries Set in Tropical Locations*  
1:15-2 p.m.  
Grand G

**Jennifer K. Morita**  
*Debut Authors Panel* (moderator)  
2:30-3:15 p.m.  
Grand G

**Holly West**  
*Qu'est-ce que c'est: Psycho-thrillers*  
(Moderator)  
1:15-2 p.m.  
Grand C

**Catriona McPherson**  
*Qu'est-ce que c'est: Psycho-thrillers*  
1:15-2 p.m.  
Grand C

**Sarah Bresniker**  
*Murder Between the Stacks: Biblio Mysteries*  
3:45-4:30 p.m.  
Grand G

**APRIL**  
**2024**



# Member News - Left Coast Crime

## FRIDAY

---

### **Karen Phillips**

*Meet the New Authors Breakfast*

7:30–8:45 a.m.

Evergreen E-I

### **Catriona McPherson**

*Lefty Humorous Nominees*

9–9:45 a.m.

Grand EF

### **Terry Shepherd**

*Book Buzz: You Know... That One Book...*

10:15–11 a.m.

Grand C

### **Danna Wilberg**

*Book Buzz: You Know... That One Book...*

10:15–11 a.m.

Grand C

### **Karen Phillips**

*Not My Day Job: Amateur Sleuths*

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Grand G

### **James L'Etoile**

*Lefty Best Novel Nominees*

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Grand EF

### **Holly West**

*Stiff Upper Lip: Why We Love British Mysteries*

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Grand AB

### **Claire Booth**

*Blood on the Badge*

2:45–3:30 p.m.

Grand AB

### **James L'Etoile**

*Blood on the Badge*

2:45–3:30 p.m.

Grand AB

### **George Cramer**

*Talking About Tough Topics: Writing About Addiction, Mental Illness, PTSD, etc.,*

4–4:45 p.m.

Grand EF



## SATURDAY

---

### **Chris Dreith**

*The Whole Story in a Single Sitting: Short Fiction that Satisfies*

10:15–11:00 a.m.

Grand G

### **Susan McCormick**

*Not Dead Yet: Older Sleuths in Mystery*

4–4:45 p.m.

Grand EF

## SUNDAY

---

### **Laura Jensen Walker**

*Setting as Character*

9–9:45 a.m.

Grand C

### **Erynn Leigh**

*Hitting the Right Note: Musical Mysteries*

10:15–11 a.m.

Grand G



**APRIL  
2024**



## In Other News

**SINC National “Making Marketing Easier for Authors”** - Tuesday, April 2, 2024 - 7:00pm ET/6:00pm CT/5:00pm MT/4:00pm PT - Zoom. [Click here for more info.](#)

**Left Coast Crime – “The Seattle Shakedown” in Bellevue, Washington** – April 11-14, 2024. For more info go to: <https://leftcoastcrime.org/2024/index.html>

**Elk Grove Writers Guild presents “Spring Seminar”** – April 13, 2024 – “Exploring Deep Point of View: Fiction and Memoirs” with Gini Grossenbacher, M. Ed. Elk Grove Community Center, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Suite 140, Elk Grove, CA 95757. Registration fee is \$35.00 which includes lunch. [To register click here.](#)

**Pitch-O-Rama** – Saturday, April 20, 2024, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. PST on Zoom.

The Women’s National Book Association-San Francisco Chapter (WNBA-SF) invites authors to its Pitch-O-Rama event.

Pitch-O-Rama is for both fiction and nonfiction writers to pitch their works to agents and editors for publication. All writers are welcome to attend both the Pitch-O-Rama event AND a pre-pitch coaching event.

A list of which agents and editors are participating will be published in several weeks.

Pitch-O-Rama is \$85 for WNBA-SF members and \$125 for non-members. To register for Pitch-O-Rama and for more information, please visit their website [using this link here.](#)

To register for **pre-pitch coaching** on March 28th and for more information, please visit their website [using this link here.](#)

**Thrillerfest XIX** – May 28 - June 1, 2024, Sheraton Times Square in New York City. For more information go to <https://thrillerfest.com/>

**Killer Nashville** – August 22-25, 2024, Franklin, Tennessee. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

**Bouchercon** – August 28 - September 1, 2024, Nashville, Tennessee. “Murder and Mayhem in Music City.” [Find out more and to register click here.](#)

---

**FOLLOW US, LIKE US - JOIN US!**



Visit [www.CapitolCrimes.org](http://www.CapitolCrimes.org) for details.

---

### GOT CONTENT?

Send your press-ready article to: [CapitolCrimes@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**APRIL  
2024**