

CAPITOL CRIMES

Sharing the thrill of mystery.

AUGUST 2021

From the President

We need your help!

The **Anthology** is going gang-busters. There is another Capitol Crimes **Book Club** on the 10th of August. The incredible **Hallie Ephron** is speaking to our Chapter at our August membership meeting and there will be another **Members Marketplace** in September. The Chapter has never been stronger and I don't want to talk to you about any of that. Everything is set up and going well for the remainder of the year with the exception of the **Holiday Party** and I am working on that but I can't sit back and enjoy what almost a year and a half of hard work has achieved. Why? Because I am afraid it is all going to end without your help.

Ask not what your chapter can do for you, ask what you can do for your chapter—to paraphrase John F. Kennedy (Yes, I am THAT old.)

By now you all should have received your copy of the changes to the **By-laws**. Once you have voted to approve them we can move on with the business of elections.

Reader Member Andrea Slavin has agreed to coordinate the election process. **Nominations** will be open in September with the slate announced at the beginning of October. Election ballots will go out via email on October 15th with results announced November 1st.

Next year we need a Treasurer, a Secretary, and a Vice-President (who is willing to serve as President in 2023) and 4-5 Members at Large with tech, social media, and organizing skills between them. We are past due for a Writer's Workshop for the membership but without someone to chair and oversee that project it is not going to happen.



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From the President continued

Each of the current Board members has taken the time to write down how they saw their role and what they did for the chapter. You will find their thoughts here in the Newsletter on pages 4-5. I encourage you to look over the positions and don't ask if there's a place in leadership for you, ask instead, where in leadership can you make the biggest difference to Capitol Crimes? You say you're busy, I say, who isn't?

The only way this Chapter will continue to grow is if new people step up. You say, you don't know how, you don't have the skills. I say, neither did I, but I learned and I found people to do what I couldn't. I know if you are willing you can be a part of the team that takes Capitol Crimes forward. Everything is in place. You have little to lose and so much to gain in experience, contacts, and a sense of fulfillment and purpose. I hope you will decide to volunteer for leadership in the Chapter. There will never be a better time to toss your hat in the ring.

-Penny Manson, President



Upcoming Events

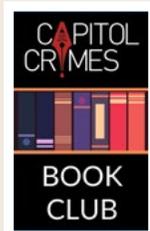
BOOK CLUB

The Fog Ladies: Family Matters

by Susan McCormick

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

7:00 PM • Zoom



HALLIE EPHRON

Crafting Suspense: You know it when you feel it, but how do you build it into a scene? Into a novel?

Saturday, August 21, 2021

1:00 PM • Zoom

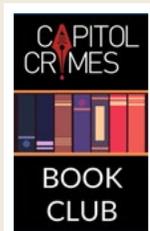
BOOK CLUB

Black Label

by James L'Etoile

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

7:00 PM • Zoom



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

Chapter News

BOOK CLUB

Join us **7pm PT on August 10, 2021**, when our featured author will be Silver Falchion Award Finalist, Susan McCormick! We will be discussing Susan's fantastic mystery, ***The Fog Ladies: Family Matters***. 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.](#)

**THE FOG LADIES:
FAMILY MATTERS**
-Susan McCormick

August 10, 2021 7:00 pm (PT)

MEMBERS MARKETPLACE

MURDER MOST FOUL 2
A spectacular showcase featuring four fabulous authors!

Donna Del Oro June Gillam Susan McCormick Marie Sutro

September 18, 2021 (1-3PM PT)

MEMBERS MARKETPLACE

Join us at **1pm on September 18, 2021**, for our second Members Marketplace! ***Murder Most Foul 2*** is a spectacular showcase featuring four fabulous authors - **Donna Del Oro, June Gillam, Susan McCormick, and Marie Sutro!**

FREE event. Register today!

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Chapter News - Board Roles

Penny Manson - President

I had been a VP forever and was happy to stay in the shadows doing that role, but you know the saying “Man plans and God laughs” so here I am, your reluctant President. I have had to learn to delegate because there are aspects to this position I don’t know how to do and/or there are people who do them better than I. (Like Twitter, Instagram, and the whole social media arena.) I am the co-host for all the monthly meetings. While I don’t have to, it is something I enjoy and think I do well. I create agendas for, and preside over, the monthly Board meetings, write the President’s letter for the monthly Newsletters, coordinate most Zoom meeting schedules, recruit members to help out with projects, and occasionally encourage members to step forward and serve on the Board, and be an official liaison with National and other Chapters as spokesperson for Capitol Crimes. I manage and coordinate correspondence from National and the membership. I support the unsure and inexperienced, soothe ruffled feathers, take the hit when a mistake is made, keep my finger on the pulse of the Chapter and burst with pride every time we get a new member or when someone compliments this group of awesome people.

Mary Griffith - VP, Membership

I have to admit that I was not wildly enthusiastic when Penny drafted me for the board to handle our membership system, a feeling that was by no means alleviated when I began to learn how to use our Wild Apricot management system, or when that position also meant I became a member of our Technology Committee. But serving on that committee with Sarah, Karen, and Marie has turned out to be one of the real joys of working with Capitol Crimes, and the overall job has even turned out to be a lot of fun.

Once we cleaned up the multiple membership levels to simplify the system, and created templates for membership emails, managing our membership has transformed from an hours-per-week slog to simple oversight and maintenance—less than a couple of hours per month.

With increasing family obligations, I’m not able to commit to the board for more than another year, and during that year I’d like to train someone new to take over membership by the end of 2022, so if you’re mildly computer-competent and looking for a way to help the chapter, please consider that as an option.

(While membership has traditionally been a Vice-President role there is no reason why it has to be, especially given the computer savvy needs of Wild Apricot and the By-laws change of the duties of the VP.)

Marie Sutro - VP, Social Media

In my primary position, I manage all of the chapter’s social media accounts. I also try to pitch in wherever help is needed by making videos for chapter events, serving on the Technology Committee, helping to redesign our website, and helping launch new initiatives such as Book Club and Members Marketplace.

The opportunity to serve in leadership has allowed me to grow my relationships within our chapter and beyond. I have worked hard to be of service to our chapter and deeply value the relationships I have forged during my tenure. I look forward to seeing the wonderful future that awaits Capitol Crimes!

Sarah Bresniker - Treasurer

If you are comfortable using Quicken or online banking, you can be Treasurer! As Treasurer, I am a co-signer on our chapter accounts, manage and pay our bills, collect dues and other payments, and provide monthly reports to the Board. The great thing is, nearly all of this can be done from my desk at home, and the time I spend on these activities is less than two hours per month. All of our regular expenses are paid online and most of our income comes through our website. Occasionally I have a check to deposit, but I can do that through my phone as well.

I also attend the monthly board meetings and may have gotten my hand in a few other aspects of running the chapter (anthology, website...). I chose to take on a more active role because I believe in the benefits that this chapter provides to writers, and I enjoyed working with the other people in leadership. This amazing team has accomplished so much over the last year, and have had fun doing it. We have worked hard to create continuity by providing job descriptions and guides for incoming board members, so no one will be starting from scratch next year. If you would like to be more involved in the chapter but worry

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Chapter News - Board Roles

that you don't have a lot of time to give, consider becoming Treasurer. I will provide training and support to ensure a smooth transition, and once you master the basics, this is a concrete role that shouldn't be overwhelming. You might even find that you have time to spare, and want to get involved in other ways!

Frank Rankin - Secretary

Last November, Capitol Crimes President, Penny Manson, asked me if I would take over as the Secretary for the Board. I advised Penny I had no experience as a secretary, and I doubted I had the skills needed to fulfill that role, but I would try. I was a correctional officer in a prison for ten years, and an attorney for thirty years, but neither of those roles qualified me to be a secretary. While I have managed to fulfill my duties, I found the role to be challenging and I know there are other Capitol Crimes members who would be a better secretary than me. I was fortunate to work with outstanding board members, Penny, Rae Franklin James, Dänna Wilberg, Sarah Bresniker, Karen Phillips, Marie Sutro, and Mary Griffith. The work they do is remarkable.

My duties included taking notes of board meetings and notes of our monthly chapter meetings. I learned how to use the Google Docs system, which is not complicated. We like to keep information from past presentations and meetings.

I am hopeful that one of our Capitol Crimes members will take over the role of secretary. If re-elected, I plan to stay on as a Capitol Crimes Member at Large to assist with other projects.

The next Board Secretary will find her or himself, surrounded by other brilliant Capitol Crimes board members, and I can promise she or he will enjoy this experience. One does not need to be a writer to contribute and make a difference, only be a Capitol Crimes member.

Karen Phillips - Member at Large, Newsletter Editor

As Member at Large I pitch in wherever help is needed such as; serve on the Technology Committee, help redesign the website, update the book cover carousel on the website, help compose and schedule emails to the membership, and help at member meetings such as monitoring chat.

I also manage the monthly newsletter, which is a lot of fun to put together. Anyone can do it! If you're interested in creating the newsletter, I'll help you. :-)

Serving in a leadership capacity has helped raise my confidence. This special opportunity has forged new relationships. I have learned so much from the other officers who are willing to share their expertise. I encourage other members to step into an officer position and reap the rewards!

Rae James - Member at Large

As a departing Member at Large I look back gratefully at my many years serving on the Board. Being a Member at Large meant I got to create opportunities for how I wanted to contribute to the health and membership of Capitol Crimes. Most recently, I was able to create and design Members Marketplace. Over the years, I have produced three successful Capitol Crimes Workshops, and one of my favorite efforts was the production of a Writers Retreat with Hallie Ephron. You'll be meeting Hallie later this month and you'll see why she made it so special. Being a Member at Large means you can design your own role. It is a great position to educate, inform and most importantly ensure that you and the membership have fun!

Dänna Wilberg - Member at Large

As Member at Large, I help out with booking and scheduling speakers for our Saturday meetings, make connections for outside assistance with chapter projects, and fill positions for hosting meetings when needed.

I consider being on the board a privilege, in that I get to help in the decision making process, and be a part of a dynamic team that has strived to grow membership, provide tools for authors to further develop their craft, expand their relationships with readers, and in turn provide the opportunity for readers to connect with authors.

Being a Member at Large has allowed me to learn more about the chapter and the organization as a whole. It has been interesting, fun, and I feel blessed to work with incredible people, many of who have become friends.

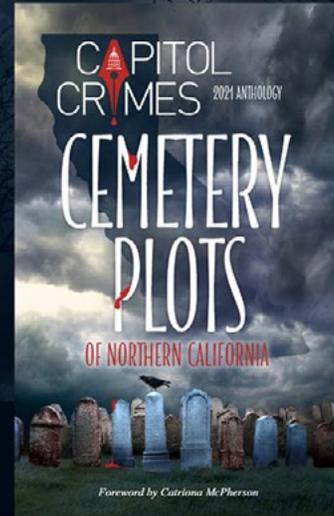


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Chapter News

Donna Benedict, Melissa H. Blaine,
Jenny Carless, Chris Dreith,
Eve Elliot, Elaine Faber,
Kenneth Gwin, Kim Keeline,
Virginia V. Kidd, Nan Mahon,
Jennifer Morita, Karen Phillips,
Richard Schneider, Terry Shepherd,
Joseph S. Walker



This Anthology promises to be our best yet!

Catriona McPherson will be writing the foreword!

Even if you are not a contributing author, you can join the fun by participating in one of the following ways:

- **Join our Anthology Marketing Team** (Have a blast helping to generate social media buzz as we work together to make this our best release ever! Contact us at capitolcrimes@gmail.com for more details.)
- **Advertising** (Visit our [Advertising page](#) to learn more.)

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Member News

from member James L'Etoile -

Capitol Crimes members are invited to James L'Etoile's **Black Label** release party at **Face in a Book** in El Dorado Hills, on **August 14th, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.**

Face In A Book, 4359 Town Center Boulevard #113,
El Dorado Hills, California 95762

He'll be talking about the book, playing true crime trivia for fun and prizes, and there will be thriller-themed snacks.

If you're not comfortable attending events yet, Face in a Book can ship any book for you. Hope you can attend and it would be wonderful to actually see people in person again.

On the road again!

James L'Etoile will be traveling to Nashville, Tennessee, for **Killer Nashville**, from August 19th to the 22nd. One of the panels he'll be participating in is "Daily Writing Resilience—strategies to keep your writing on track" with Bryan Robinson, Elena Taylor, Bruce Coffin, and Roger Johns.

Following Nashville, he'll be in New Orleans, Louisiana, for **Bouchercon**, from August 24th to the 29th. In addition to all the panels and pageantry that is Bouchercon, James will be signing at an exclusive Small Press event where he'll be giving away a few copies of **Black Label**, compliments of Level Best Books.

And in September . .

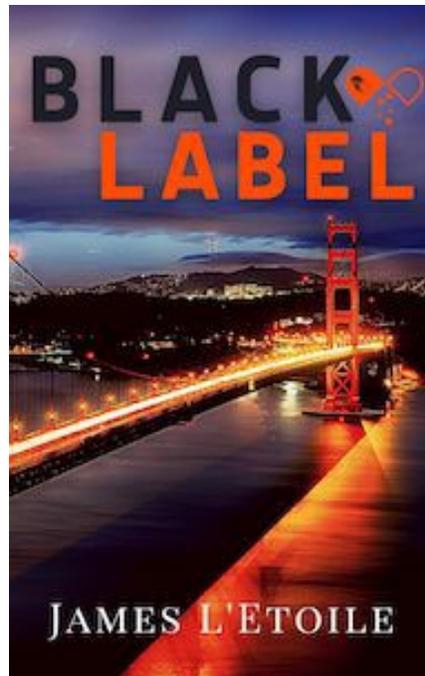
Join James L'Etoile, in person, at the **Lincoln Public Library**, 485 Twelve Bridges Drive, Lincoln California, on September 8th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm for one of the library's well-attended author events. A talk about **Black Label**, book signing, and crime fiction trivia will make for an entertaining evening.

James L'Etoile will participate in a virtual author event along with Mark Lechliter, Marlie Wasserman, and DonnaRae Menard for the **Highland Park Library**, in Highland Park, New Jersey, on September 9th at 4:00 pm.

And in October . . .

Capitol Crimes Book Club
Tuesday, October 12, 2021
7:00 PM • Zoom

[Click here to register!](#)



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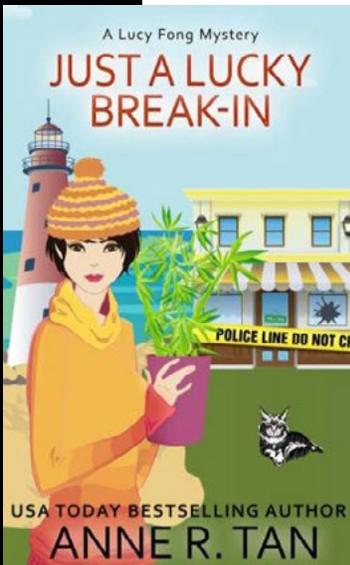
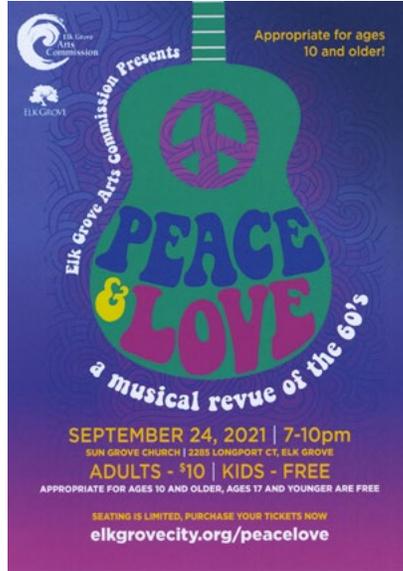


Member News

from member
Nan Mahon –

This is a show that I created and wrote the script for. It is being produced by the City of Elk Grove Arts Commission.

I hope to see you there!



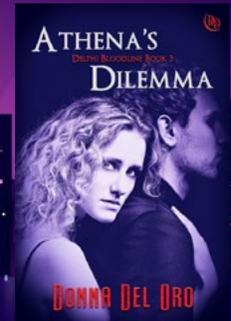
from member Anne Tan –

Anne R. Tan's *Just a Lucky Break-In* (A Lucy Fong Mystery #2) was released in July. Lucy Fong is keeping the family's private investigation firm afloat while her mother is in a coma. When a man collapses outside the PI office, Lucy is once again drawn into another murder investigation. Who is the dead man, and why does he have a crazy chicken in his knapsack? It's a race against time to find the murderer before danger catches up with Lucy. Join Lucy and her friends in this fast-paced cozy mystery. Chinese culture, hijinks, and murder.

Follow the exciting romance-suspense

Delphi Bloodline Series

by Award-winning author Donna Del Oro



AVAILABLE NOW!

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Member News

from member Michelle Corbier –

In the summer of 2018, I left a lucrative job in clinical medicine. My departure had been a precipitous, unplanned escape from a toxic environment. Without the burden of a demanding job, I relaxed and reflected, writing more in six months than ever before in that time.

Before the year ended, I completed a novel over 100K pages. My knowledge about publishing was minimal. A friend bought me a book on how to get published, directed primarily toward traditional publishing.

One afternoon CapRadio aired an episode of Marketplace regarding social media, e.g. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram. Afterward, I read posts on writing blogs and sites like Reedsy about social media for authors. After weighing the different sites, I set up an account with Twitter and reviewed posts from writers, agents and publishing companies. They agreed a social media presence was important for authors, and each platform had individual strengths. Though Twitter posts can be inflammatory, I find it easy to manage and less stalking than Facebook.

Whatever social media site you choose, establish an online presence to connect with authors and readers. Resist the temptation to set up a presence on multiple sites. Consistency is important, and life is unpredictable. Do not commit to more than necessary. Set high but reasonable expectations. Stress inhibits creativity.

Whether self-publishing, traditionally or serially on platforms like Patreon, deliver a consistent product to satisfy your audience. Writers coordinate with editors, book cover designers and marketers—to name a few. Weigh the added responsibility of social media, and remember to respect your brand. What you post on social media remains part of the internet stratosphere. Give a second thought to everything you post before hitting send.



“

**Give a second thought to everything
you post before hitting send.**

”

Michelle Corbier, author of upcoming *Murder is Revealing* at
www.MichelleCorbier.com



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Member News

from member Sarah Bresniker –

Storyknife Writers Retreat

Storyknife Writers Retreat, located in Homer, Alaska, hosts residencies for women from Alaska, across the United States, and internationally, to give women writers the time and space to explore their craft without distraction. Women's voices are powerful and necessary. *Storyknife Writers Retreat* has been established to foster those voices, to provide women a supportive community and the time and space to devote to writing, and to lend cultural weight to women's writing.

Author Dana Stabenow decided in 2005 to create a women's writing retreat based on Hedgebrook, a retreat on Whidbey Island that she credits with igniting her writing career. She purchased ten acres in Homer, Alaska that would be perfect to create such a place.

Four-week residencies begin on the 1st of each month and end on the 28th. Two-week residencies begin on the 1st of each month and end on the 15th. Residencies are available April through October.

Applications for the 2022 residency period will open on August 1st and close on September 30th, 2021. [Click here for more information.](#)

from member Norma Jean Thornton –

Accepting submissions for two Northern Ca Publishers & Authors (NCPA) Anthologies

Submitted a story for this year's Capitol Crimes Anthology, but not accepted? NCPA has just the answer for you: We're currently working on anthologies #6 (***Beautiful Americas***) and #7 (***ALL Holidays 2021***). Only 10 spaces left in each. Soft DEADLINE TO SUBMIT 15 Aug 2021: Minimum 500 words to maximum 3000 for Americas and 3500 for Holidays. Poetry accepted for Holidays. Adjust your story (or write a new one), and submit to 2021NCPAAnthology@gmail.com. For pictures of our 5 anthologies and contact info for questions, click <https://www.norcalpa.org/>

No charge to submit, plus receive one free book with option to purchase more. All books are available locally with our publisher, Sharon Darrow, at cost (so far, they've been \$6 and \$7, depending on size), and on Amazon at their inflated price. MUST BE A CURRENT NCPA MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING TO BE INCLUDED IN AN NCPA ANTHOLOGY. Membership is \$40/year.

Several Capitol Crimes members are also NCPA members, and many have stories in our anthologies. Each story is proofed upon receipt, sent through two editors, then back to be proofed again, and returned to author for corrections, if necessary, prior to being added to the anthology. Anthology is proofed one final time, in its entirety, from cover to cover. Yes, we have rejected stories, and authors receive feedback if applicable. ANY GENRE WILL WORK as long as it fits each theme. Questions? Email: 2021NCPAAnthology@gmail.com

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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!



Writer's Conference

All day workshops with successful authors and agents.
For information on the conference visit the
Elk Grove Writer's Guild website at www.egweg.org



Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

Author and Book Vendor

Vendors must bring their own tables, chairs, canopy (optional)
No access to electricity. Spaces are assigned by EG Arts Commission.
Outside booth space fee \$25 (8x36, includes table and 2 chairs) 10x10 or limited to 5 inside booth space fee \$50.
[Information on the website click here for details.](#)

Eileen Rendahl



CAPITOL
CRIMES

Our deepest thanks to [@EileenRendahl](#) for an outstanding presentation on Scrivener! From templates to metadata (and everything in between) she's the quintessential Rosetta Stone!! An exceptional author and a great teacher!

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*

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Other News:

National Sisters In Crime Webinar: "Historical Research and Conducting Oral History Interviews" on August 4, 2021. [Register here for this FREE event.](#)

Northern California Sisters In Crime Chapter Events: "Feminism and the Mystery" with Sujata Massey on August 7 @ 12:00 – 1:30 pm. "Writing Your Best Book" Panel on September 11 @ 12:00 – 2:00 pm. For more information go to: www.sincnorcal.org

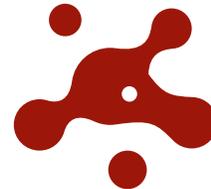
Grand Canyon Writers Class: "Mastering Pace—A Critical Key to Captivating Readers" with Robin Burcell, Internationally Bestselling Author, Two Time Anthony-Award Winner, Barry-Award Winner and Macavity-Award Nominee. August 14, 2021 @ 10:30 am (PST). For more information and to register for this FREE event, go to: grandcanyonwriters.com

Killer Nashville's 15th Annual Writers' Conference: August 19-22, 2021, Franklin, TN. killernashville.com

Bouchercon 2021: New Orleans, Louisiana. August 25 - 29, 2021. This annual crime fiction event draws a diverse selection of international authors, publishers, book reviewers, and editors. Sisters-in-Crime traditionally has a significant presence at Bouchercon.. LAST DAY FOR CONVENTION REGISTRATION IS AUGUST 1, 2021. Go to: www.bouchercon2021.com

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



**OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS! MALICE DOMESTIC 17:
"MYSTERY MOST TRADITIONAL" Anthology
Deadline to Submit is September 1, 2021**

<https://www.malicedomestic.org/anthologies.html>



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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