

MAY 2024

From the President

That Creative Spark

As crime fiction writers, we deal in whodunits and whydunits and even howdunits. That means we're always on the hunt for any idea or creative spark that will lead us to the -dunit we need.



How do you get your imagination going? News stories are a particular favorite of mine. Truth is always stranger and makes for a great catalyst when you're thinking about plot ideas.

Everyday activities—kids' sports, moms' nights out, local bowling leagues—all provide enough potential conflict to get you writing. (And don't even get me started on the PTA. Talk about deadly. . .)

You could begin your brainstorming with a job. Garbage collector, astronaut, housing advocate, congressman—what would lurk in their deep, dark hearts that you could turn into a thriller or a heist novel?

Even an existing mystery can spawn another mystery. Come up with your own solution or spin its unsolvability in a different direction. DB Cooper and his bag of money. The whereabouts of Jimmy Hoffa's body. Why Keanu Reeves never seems to age. That last one's easy (he's the One), but I'll toss one more at you before I go. One of life's great mysteries gets its own commemorative day this month. May 9th is Lost Sock Memorial Day. See what you can do with that one.

—Claire Booth, President



What's Inside

Upcoming Events..... 2

Chapter News 2-4

- Monthly Meeting: Independent Publishers Panel
- Sign Up for Gun Range Day

Member News 4-6

In Other News 7

- Art Taylor short story workshop
- Get Smart: Understanding Artificial Intelligence

... and more!





2024 Anthology Deadline is May 31

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.

The deadline to submit your short story is May 31.

1. Word count is 1,500 to 5,000 words.
2. You must be a Capitol Crimes member in good standing, which means you're a current member of Sisters in Crime AND Capitol Crimes.
3. Your story must address the *Farm to Foul Play* theme.
4. Your story must include a crime.
5. AND it has to be set in the Sacramento region, or if you must stray, go no further than NorCal.

For more information and a full list of rules and guidelines, please visit the [Capitol Crimes 2024 Anthology Page](http://www.capitolcrimes.org) at www.capitolcrimes.org.

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

Upcoming Events



**SHAWN REILLY
SIMMONS**
Level Best Books



JENNIFER MCCORD
Camel Press



FAITH MATSON
Oceanview Publishing

MEMBERS MEETING INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS PANEL

Saturday, May 18, 2024 • 1:00 PM (PT) • Zoom

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

**MAY
2024**

Chapter News

Independent Publishers: What's Happening Out There?



**SHAWN REILLY
SIMMONS**
Level Best Books



JENNIFER MCCORD
Camel Press



FAITH MATSON
Oceanview Publishing

MONTHLY MEETING: INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS PANEL

Saturday, May 18, 2024

Please join us on Saturday, May 18th, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. PT as our distinguished panel of Independent Publishers provides Capitol Crimes with a look at different publishing options available to unagented authors.

SHAWN REILLY SIMMONS is an Agatha and Anthony Award-winning author and editor. She's written eight novels in her Red Carpet Catering mystery series, and over twenty-five of her short stories have appeared in various anthologies. She is co-owner of Level Best Books and serves on the Bouchercon board of directors. Shawn is a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, the Crime Writers' Association, and International Thriller Writers. She lives in historic downtown Frederick, Maryland. www.shawnreillysimmons.com; Facebook: @ShawnReillySimmonsAuthor; Twitter & Instagram: @ShawnRSimmons

JENNIFER McCORD is an Associate Publisher and Executive Editor for Epicenter-Cofftown-Camel Press. She is also an educator, writer and publishing consultant in Seattle, Washington. In a career spanning more than 30 years, Jennifer has worked in many areas of the publishing industry—from national book retailers and New York publishers to small presses and self-publishing ventures. She has served as advisor or board member to University of Washington Continuum College Writing Programs, Write on the Sound Conference, and as past president and board member of the Pacific Northwest Writers Assn. www.jennifermccord.com; Facebook: www.facebook.com/CamelPressBooks

FAITH MATSON is the Senior Editor and Publicist at Oceanview Publishing, where she has worked since 2021. Originally from Colorado, she moved east to Florida for college, graduating summa cum laude from Florida State University's Editing, Writing, and Media program. In her free time, Faith is an avid reader, crossword puzzle enthusiast, and amateur gardener. www.oceanviewpub.com; Facebook: www.facebook.com/oceanviewpub/; IG: @oceanviewpub; Twitter(X): @oceanviewpub; Tiktok: @oceanviewpub

[Register here](#)



**MAY
2024**



Chapter News

SIGN UP FOR GUN RANGE DAY

Date and Time: Sunday, May 19, 2024, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (PT) In-person event.

Firearms expert Karl Henwood is offering a range day at the Henwood Ranch north of Sacramento for a firearms familiarization demonstration and “hands on” experience. The site is accessible to those with mobility issues. Karl is an Iraq Army 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. Questions? Karl can be reached at his website: <https://site-2052674-9062-4196.mystrikingly.com/> or X (Twitter): @manglerofprose.



You can sign up for this non-Capitol Crimes event via Karl’s website at <https://writersandguns.mystrikingly.com/request-a-spot>. Sign ups are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Member News

From member Claire Booth –

Author Event: In-person

Date of Event: May 9, 2024

Place of Event: Avid Reader, 617 2nd Street, Davis, CA

Claire Booth will appear at Avid Reader in Davis on Thursday, May 9 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. She and Sisters in Crime NorCal member Susan C. Shea will discuss their new Severn House releases—Claire’s HOME FIRES and Susan’s MURDER AND THE MISSING DOG. Join them for a fun conversation!

Preferred Book Seller: <https://avidreaderbooks.com/events/36880>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/claireboothauthor

Instagram: @claire.booth10

Twitter: @claire.booth10

AVID READER BOOKSTORE
AUTHOR EVENT

CLAIRE BOOTH
HOME FIRES

MURDER and the Missing Dog
SUSAN C. SHEA

Join us for a night with two local mystery authors

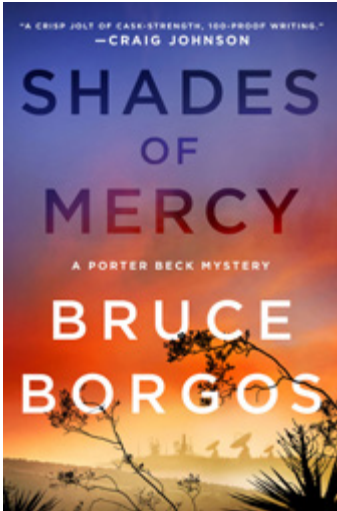
Claire Booth & Susan Shea

Thursday May 9, 2024
6:30-7:30 PM
617 2nd Street Davis, CA

Stay up to date and sign up for our events newsletter!

**MAY
2024**

Member News



From Bruce Borgos -

Book Deal

The first book in Bruce Borgos's Porter Beck Mystery series has been so well received that his contract with Minotaur Books/St. Martin's Press is now a four-book deal! Book #2, SHADES OF MERCY, comes out July 16.

Preferred Book Seller: <https://www.amazon.com/Shades-Mercy-Porter-Beck-Mystery-ebook/dp/B0CGSCPH4B/ref>

From member Elizabeth Crowens -

Award Announcement

HOUNDS OF THE HOLLYWOOD BASKERVILLES won First Prize in the M & Ms (Murder & Mayhem Awards) for Animal Mysteries (subgenre), sponsored by the Chanticleer Review. Last year, as an unpublished manuscript, it placed as a finalist in Killer Nashville's Claymore Awards for Humorous Mystery and First Prize in Chanticleer's Mark Twain Awards for Humor.

Author Event: In-person

Date of Event: May 7, 2024

Place of Event: Hein & Company Books 61 Main Street, Sutter Creek, CA 95685 7-9 pm May 7, 2024

Linda Hein and Beth Barnard of Baker Street West will interview Elizabeth Crowens, author of HOUNDS OF THE HOLLYWOOD BASKERVILLES, where Sherlock Holmes meets The Thin Man when two private eyes team up with Basil Rathbone, Myrna Loy, and William Powell to track down Asta, the canine star of The Thin Man movies and other dognapped celebrity canines in 1940s Hollywood. Light refreshments, Q&A, book signings.

Preferred Book Seller: <https://bookshop.org/shop/heinco>

Bookseller Social Media: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UsedandRare/>

X: @ECrowens



MAY
2024



Member News

From Debra H. Goldstein -

Podcast release: April 2024

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY: OPENING GAMBIT, an anthology edited by Tina and Jack Wolff, includes Debra's short story, "All the Marbles." Her story is also being featured as a Mysteries to Die For April podcast.

<https://www.amazon.com/Games-People-Play-Opening-Mysteries/dp/B0CVX65J6J/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DebraHGoldsteinAuthor>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/debrahgoldstein/>

X: @DebraHGoldstein



From member Lorie Lewis Ham -

A new Mysteryrat's Maze Podcast is up! This one features the mystery short story "Squashed to Death" written by Charlotte Morganti and read by local actor Donna Beavers <https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/e/squashed-to-death-by-charlotte-morganti/>

From Judith Starkston -

Book Release, Book Launch Event

Date of Event: May 14, 2024

Place of Event: Avid Reader Bookstore Davis, 617 2nd Street, Davis, CA 95616

Please join Judith Starkston for the book launch of her latest historical fantasy FLIGHTS OF TREASON at The Avid Reader Bookstore Davis, May 14th, 6:30 pm, 617 2nd Street Davis, CA 95616. It will be an evening of lively conversation and laughter led by fellow Cap Crimes member and author Eileen Rendahl. Wine and goodies, of course!

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B087JGNHF9>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/judy.starkston>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/judith_starkston/

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JudithStarkston>

From Sandra K Sullivan -

Author Event: In-person

Date of Event: May 7, 2024

Place of Event: El Dorado County Senior Center

The joy of Tuesday May 7th is the beginning of Sandra leading a writer's group at the senior center for any senior interested in writing in any genre. The focus is to offer support and encouragement for aspiring writers. The group will meet every Tuesday from 1:30 to 3:30 in the afternoon. As with all groups at the senior center, the writers group is free to any senior interested in joining.

**MAY
2024**



In Other News

Sinc Desert Sleuths – May 11, 2024, 11– 12:30 p.m. (MST) **“Four or Five Key Points on the Short Story”** - A virtual workshop with Art Taylor. In this virtual workshop, Edgar Award-winning short story author Art Taylor offers fresh insights and perspectives into some of the “rules” for writing short fiction—and offers tools for writers to use in drafting, revising, and putting the final polish to their own stories. Workshop \$25 Desert Sleuths and TSinC members, \$35 all others. [Click here to preregister.](#)

SINC National Webinars –

“From Graphic Novels to Storyboards: Using Visual Techniques to Transform Your Storytelling” - Tuesday, May 14, 2024 - 8:00pm ET/7:00pm CT/6:00pm MT/5:00pm PT - Zoom. [Click here for more info.](#)

“Grave Inspiration with Dr. Sharon Pajka” - Thursday, May 16, 2024 - 7PM (Eastern). Cemeteries hold a wealth of stories. See how cemeteries and grave markers could liven up your writing. This is open to all SinC members, but registration is required. [Click here for more info.](#)

“Protecting Your Artistic Rights - Artificial Intelligence: The Robots are Coming” - Thursday, June 6, 2024 - 8:00pm ET/7:00pm CT/6:00pm MT/5:00pm PT - Zoom. [Click here for more info.](#)

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

Sinc NorCal – June 1, 2024, 1-3pm - **“Get Smart: Understanding Artificial Intelligence.”** AI is here to stay. Confused about the basics? What kinds of tools are out there? How could you be using it... and should you? Join us as our panelists share their expertise and help authors navigate these technical and ethical challenges. The panelists are: [Vera Chen](#), [Reece Hirsch](#), William Bruce Johnson. [Register here.](#)

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 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.

MAY
2024