

# CAPITOL CRIMES

*Sharing the thrill of mystery.*

SEPTEMBER 2022

## From the President

### Getting to know you . . .

What will you remember about this particular summer? I was lucky enough to get to take some wonderful trips, to read some amazing books, and enjoy long evenings relaxing with my husband over a glass of wine. But what I will remember most, I think, is the people. I got to go to conferences, airports, even an actual live concert with people singing and dancing! After the tiny bubble I've lived in over the last few years, this all felt new and shiny, even the crowded, crazy airports. As a writer, being able to observe people besides my family members in all three dimensions, to overhear conversations between strangers, to chat with a seatmate (something I used to avoid at all costs!) made every outing an adventure, and an inspiration for my writing. My Lyft driver in Portland may need his own series, truly.



I mentioned last month that we wanted to spend August getting to know you, and I feel like we did that. We had wonderful conversations at our August meeting, and many of those conversations were continued at our Coffee Hour at A Seat at the Table Bookstore in Elk Grove. As thrilled as I am to meet people in person, I am also grateful that virtual meetings enable us to reach out and get to know so many more people. Our plan for next year is to definitely keep up both components, making our chapter as inclusive and accessible as possible. Every single month we have new people joining us, telling us how excited they are to find their community, and I feel the same way. The support of the Capitol Crimes community keeps me writing when I feel like giving up, with encouragement, a piece of advice I didn't know I needed, or just the fellowship of other people who love what I love.

*continued on next page*

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*From the President continued*

And speaking of our members, some congratulations are in order! **We had a great Capitol Crimes contingent at Killer Nashville, and James L'Etoile and Donna Del Oro came home with Silver Falchion awards!** We are so proud of you both, and if anyone hasn't read their books yet, check them out at the links below. You won't want to miss them.

[\*Black Label\*](#) (on Amazon) by James L'Etoile

[\*Saving La Familia\*](#) (on Amazon) by Donna Del Oro

I can't wait to hear what our members do at **Bouchercon** this month.

As a board member for the past few years, September can be an anxious time. Will anyone step forward for next year? With the new bylaws we implemented last year, there are term limits that ensure that the same few people are not left always taking on leadership roles. I believe that this is crucial to the health of our chapter, but it is also a little scary. Will anyone volunteer? I'm thrilled to announce that we already have a full slate to present to you, and we'll introduce you to them below. I am so excited to see what the new board will do in 2023, and so grateful to everyone who volunteered. Be sure to thank them when you see them, and consider taking your turn next year!



—Sarah Bresniker, President

## Upcoming Events

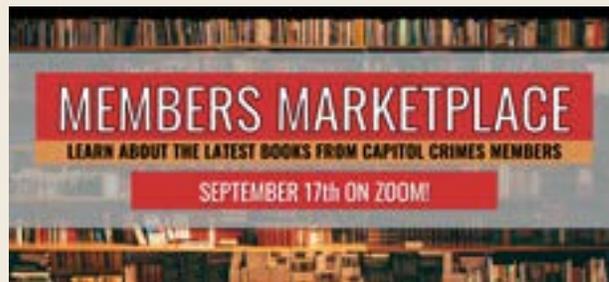


### BOOK CLUB

**(*THE CROW'S NEST* by RICHARD MEREDITH)**

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

7:00 PM (PT) • Zoom



### MEMBERS MARKETPLACE 2022

Saturday, September 17, 2022 1:00 PM (PT) • on Zoom

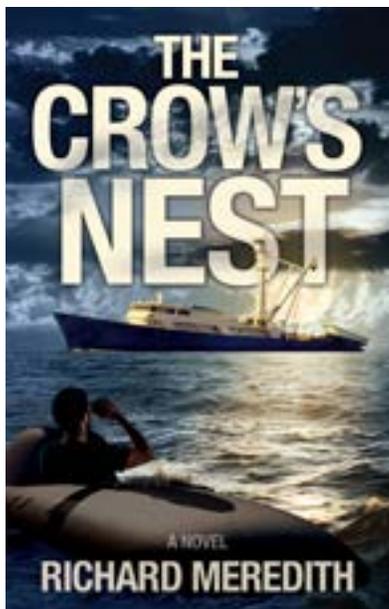
### OCTOBER MEMBERS MEETING - PARANORMAL PANEL

Saturday, October 15, 2022 1:00 PM (PT) • on Zoom

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

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## Chapter News



### BOOK CLUB

Don't miss our next Book Club meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 7:00- 8:30 PM (PT), Zoom when we discuss Richard Meredith's action-adventure thriller, *The Crow's Nest*. [Register here.](#)

*The Crow's Nest*, won the Silver Falchion Award for the best action-adventure novel at the 2021 Killer Nashville Mystery and Thriller Writers Conference. It draws heavily on his work aboard commercial tuna seiners and marine research vessels in the Pacific Ocean.

A native of Flint, Michigan, Richard Meredith moved to California while serving in the US Navy. After obtaining undergraduate and graduate degrees in Biology, he worked as a marine scientist and wildlife biologist for the federal government and the private sector. His first novel, *Sky Dance*, was based on his environmental work in the oil fields of Ecuador.



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### MEMBERS MARKETPLACE 2022

It's back better than ever! [Click here to register.](#)

We all know that having a concise, enticing elevator pitch at the ready is the best way to get others interested in your book, but it isn't easy.

Our member authors have put in the work and created exciting short video promotions of their latest books. See what they've done and then chat with the authors to learn more about them, their books, and their approach to the elevator pitch.

And of course, once you've gotten a taste of these amazing books, you'll want to buy them! We will have links so you won't have to wait!

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### OCTOBER MEMBERS MEETING - PARANORMAL PANEL

Dänna Wilberg will moderate a panel of paranormal authors, at least 1 psychic, and will discuss how to include paranormal elements in your stories, and how to get it right. Panelists include Jessica Cline, Elaine Faber, Erin Burrell, Casi McLean, Eric Gates, Linda Schooler, and Joseph Ernest Martin. Each Author will have 5 minutes to introduce their work, the paranormal elements, and why they chose the genre. Each psychic will be given 5 minutes to introduce themselves and talk about their work, and how they chose their vocation. After introductions, Dänna will proceed with questions to open discussion, followed by questions from the attendees.

[Click here to register.](#)

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## Chapter News

**It's elections time again and do we have an impressive board slate! Read the bios below and get to know the candidates. Voting will be through email in October.**

### **Jennifer K. Morita - President**

Jennifer K. Morita started her writing career as a journalist, working her way up from a small weekly newspaper in Paradise, California to The Sacramento Bee. She spent several years juggling freelance jobs with motherhood until recently taking a job at a university writing articles about the faculty and students.



Six months into the pandemic, after purging, painting and baking along with the rest of the world, Jennifer finally decided to write the mystery she'd been thinking about for the last twenty five years.

She is currently revising her manuscript, a traditional mystery set in Hawai'i.

Her first short story, "Cranes in the Cemetery" was published in the Capitol Crimes 2021 Anthology Cemetery Plots of Northern California. She was a runner up for the Sisters in Crime Eleanor Taylor Bland Award in 2022.

Jennifer is a UCLA graduate and vice president of her local Sisters in Crime chapter. She is a member of Crime Writers of Color and Mystery Writers of America.

Jennifer lives in Sacramento with her husband and two daughters.

### **Claire Booth - Vice President**

Claire Booth is a former newspaper reporter who has worked in Missouri, Washington, D.C., South Florida, the Seattle area, and the Bay Area. She's reported on many high-profile stories, including the Laci Peterson murder and the San Francisco dog mauling. The case of a deadly cult leader became the subject of her nonfiction book, *The False Prophet: Conspiracy, Extortion and Murder in the Name of God*. After spending that much time covering crimes so strange and convoluted they seemed more fiction than reality, she had enough of the real world and decided to write novels instead. Her Sheriff Hank Worth mysteries take place in Branson, Missouri, where small-town Ozark politics and big-city country music tourism clash in – yes – strange and convoluted ways.



### **Jim L'Etoile - Treasurer**

It's my honor to serve as Capitol Crimes Treasurer for 2022. I fully support the Sisters-in-Crime mission for the ongoing advancement, recognition and professional development of women crime writers. I've been very fortunate in my second career as an author and I wish to help our members find success and manage the challenges of publishing commercial fiction in today's marketplace. In terms of fiscal experience, my background includes, grant writing, program audits, and administering a complex statewide operation with an 800 million dollar budget. In addition to Sisters-in-Crime, I'm an active member of International Thriller Writers, Mystery Writers of America, International Crime Writers Association, and the International Screenwriters Association. I look forward to serving you.



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# Chapter News

## Jessica Cline - Secretary

Jessica Cline writes cozy paranormal mysteries as Jessica Arden. Her short fiction has appeared in Woman's World and various anthologies. She's a design nerd, educator, crafter, and newbie homeschool mom as well as a voracious reader, learner and TV watcher.

She's been a Capitol Crimes member since late 2021 and has been thrilled to see people in person again and pitch in on the Killer Workshop committee.

[jessicaArden.com](http://jessicaArden.com), [jessica@jessicaarden.com](mailto:jessica@jessicaarden.com)



## Paula Gail Benson - Member At Large

A legislative attorney and former law librarian, Paula Gail Benson's short stories have appeared online and in publications including, A Shaker of Margaritas: That Mysterious Woman; Fish or Cut Bait: a Guppy Anthology; Killer Nashville Noir: Cold Blooded; Heartbreaks and Half-truths; Once Upon a Time; and My Robot and Me. Her short story "Reputation or Soul" is in Malice Domestic's Mystery Most Diabolical. She blogs regularly at The Stiletto Gang and Writers Who Kill. Her website is <http://paulagailbenson.com>

Paula joined the Capitol Crimes Chapter after "meeting" former President Sonya Hazard online. She continued membership for the opportunities offered (submission of a short story to a developmental editor and to the anthology as well as the online programming). She has been delighted to serve on the board, to get to work with Penny Manson and others in organizing this year's Killer Workshop, and to meet and get to know Sacramento's wonderful mystery writing community.



## Rick Meredith - Member At Large

Rick Meredith is a native of Flint, Michigan, Richard Meredith then moved to California while serving in the US Navy. After obtaining undergraduate and graduate degrees in Biology, he worked as a marine scientist and wild-life biologist for the federal government and the private sector. His first novel, Sky Dance, was based on his environmental work in the oil fields of Ecuador. His crime thriller, The Crow's Nest, won the Silver Falchion Award for the best action-adventure novel at the 2021 Killer Nashville Mystery and Thriller Writers Conference.



## Harriet Fox - Member At Large

Harriet Fox is a true crime author. She is currently working on her third book which is about mothers who kill their children. It will be titled Mommy Murderesses and will be published by Exposit Publishing, a branch off of McFarland Publishing. It should debut in 2023. She has twenty-six years of law enforcement experience working a myriad of positions, with most of her years as a Correctional Officer.

Harriet is a bibliophile, enjoys wine tasting, traveling, spending time with family and friends, and anything involving true crime.



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## Chapter News

We want to spread the word about our fabulous Capitol Crimes members. We've started a new, streamlined system to make it easier for members and our volunteers to create announcements that we will publish in the newsletter as well as post on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram as time and space allow.

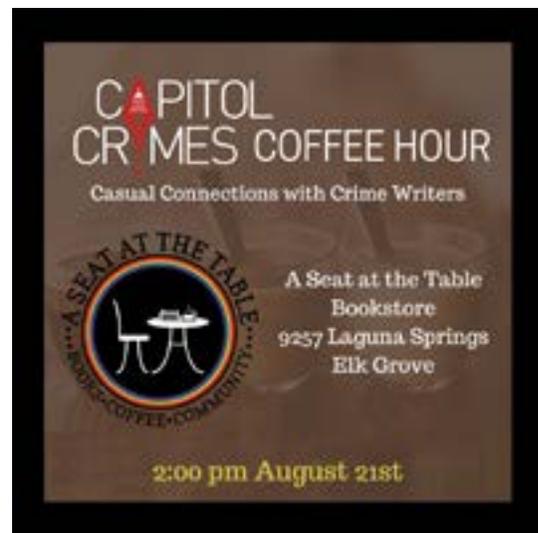
If you're a current Capitol Crimes member, hit us with your good news about:

- \* Book release date and/or book launch event
- \* Author events
- \* Writing Award
- \* Publication in a magazine or anthology

Just go to our new [Members News Submissions page here](#), fill out the form. Note: You must be logged in as a member to access the page.



**Did you know we have a Chapter group in SinC Community?** Log in to Sisters in Crime National and click on the CONNECT tab, then choose SINC ONLINE COMMUNITY: <https://www.sistersincrime.org/page/SinCTradingCommunity>



A great turnout and discussion at Seat At The Table in Elk Grove.

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## Member News



Congratulations to our two  
Silver Falchion Award winners  
at Killer Nashville 2022!

BLACK LABEL by James L'Etoile earned  
a Silver Falchion Award as the Best  
Book by an Attending Author.

SAVING LA FAMILIA by Donna Del Oro  
won the Silver Falchion Award 2022 in  
the Comedy-Suspense category.



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From member Cindy Sample -

Cindy will have a table at the El Dorado County Film Mixer and Business Showcase on September 9 at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds from 4:00 to 8:00. [Click here for more details about this event.](#)

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From member Joseph S Walker -

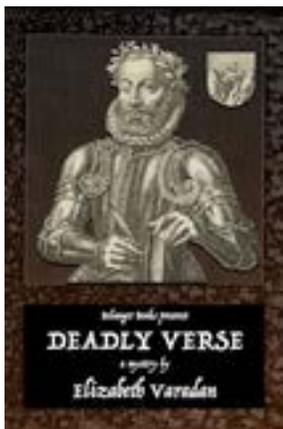
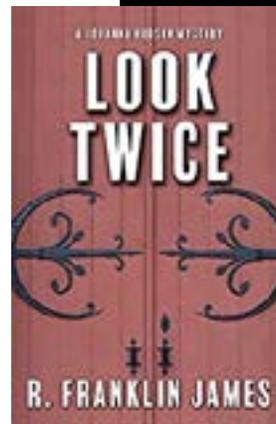
Joseph S. Walker's story "Give or Take a Quarter Inch," originally published in TOUGH, is included in MYSTERIOUS BOOKSHOP PRESENTS THE BEST MYSTERY STORIES OF THE YEAR 2022, to be published on September 12.

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From member R. Franklin James -

The second book in my Johanna Hudson Mystery Series: **Look Twice** was released August 8, 2022. The series is about how genealogists can uncover more than family trees. Johanna Hudson, with her archeologist business partner and an astute but fashion-challenged office assistant, encounter a wall of crime, greed and an assassin.

I've been informed that a movie agent liked the series and is shopping it -- fingers crossed.



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From member Elizabeth Varadan -

"An old college chum gives Carla and Owen Bass a sonnet by Portugal's Renaissance poet, Luís Vaz de Camões. When they reluctantly agree to keep it overnight, he disappears. As Braga Romana festival events unfold, Carla finds herself entangled in a complicated web of murder and theft."

**Deadly Verse** was released by Belanger Books August 2, 2022. Author, Elizabeth Varadan will be hosting a book signing at Avid Reader, 1945 Broadway, Sacramento, CA, Saturday, October 8, 2022, at 2 pm.

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## Member News

From member  
Tori Eldridge -

Going to Bouchercon? Help Tori Eldridge celebrate her Anthony Award nomination for *THE NINJA BETRAYED* (Best Paperback/eBook/Audiobook) at Bouchercon in Minneapolis, September 8-10.

**THE NINJA BETRAYED**  
TORI ELDRIDGE

**BOUCHERCON**  
2022  
LAND OF 10,000 CRIMES

**FIND TORI ELDRIDGE - SEPTEMBER 8-10**

**THUR, 5:30PM:** New Authors Reception  
**FRI, 10:15AM:** Anthony Award Nomination Panel - Best Paperback/eBook/Audiobook  
**FRI, 7:00PM:** Crime Writers of Color Reception  
**FRI, 8:30PM:** Noir at the Bar  
**SAT, 1:45PM:** Kick-Ass Female Protagonists  
**SAT, 3:00PM:** A Blender of Mind Benders - Mixed-Genre Mysteries  
**SAT, 7:00PM:** Anthony Awards Banquet

From member  
Nan Mahon -

In partnership with Mick Martin for the Sacramento Blues Society, Nan Mahon wrote and produced "A Blues Review" which will be performed at Harlow's, 2708 J St, Sacramento, on September 25, 2022.

IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF THE BLUES IN THE SACRAMENTO AREA FOR 20+ YEARS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S INDUCTEES:

**CHRIS FRAIRE**

**CHRIS MARTINEZ**

**JOHN NOXON**

**LEIGH LUNETTA**

**ZOT**

JOIN US FOR A VERY SPECIAL MUSICAL "A BLUES REVUE" SCRIPT BY NAN MAHON

TICKETS ON SALE: SBS: \$15/GA: \$20  
www.harlows.com

FOR MORE INFO: www.sacblues.org

THE SACRAMENTO BLUES SOCIETY PRESENTS  
**THE 2022 HALL OF FAME AWARDS**  
**SUN. SEPTEMBER 25**  
 CEREMONY: HARLOW'S: 1-5PM  
 SHOWCASE: TORCH CLUB: 6-8PM

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## Member News

From member James L'Etoile -

James L'Etoile will attend **Bouchercon in Minneapolis** from September 7th through the 11th. You can find him on panel sessions on Friday September 9th at 11:30 for Pickled Red Herrings along with Heather Graham, Alison Gaylin, Wendy Corsi Staub, Caro Ramsay, and Edwin Hill. At 1:45 he'll be on the Western Elements panel alongside Shannon Baker, J.D. Rhoades, Ann Parker, Taylor Moore, and Lori Armstrong. On Saturday morning, it's author speed dating time.

On September 17th, at 4:00-5:30 pm, James will be at **Capital Books** at 1011 K St. in Sacramento for a DEAD DROP book signing event.

On September 29th, James L'Etoile will return to the **Lincoln Public Library**, 485 Twelve Bridges Dr., Lincoln, CA for a book talk and DEAD DROP signing event.

On October 2nd, from 1-3 pm, James L'Etoile will be at **Face in a Book**, 4359 Town Center Blvd, El Dorado Hills for a special event merging the Writers Coffeehouse with The Open Mic called "The Art and Craft of Writing Crime Fiction." Rich Ehsen is hosting a Q&A with award-winning crime author James L'Etoile, after which Jim will take questions from the audience.

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From member Mary Griffith -

Every September for years, I've celebrated Banned Books Week by changing my social media banners and profile pictures to graphics the American Library Association provides on their Banned Books Weeks site. For this year—September 18-24—I'm not doing my usual week. Because of the astonishing increase in book banning attempts in recent months, I'll be adopting the Banned Books theme on my website and social media for the entire month of September.

If you're interested in learning more about book banning generally and Banned Books Week, here are a few resources:

[ALA Banned Books Week site](#)

Banned Books Week is a big deal among librarians, and the ALA has comprehensive coverage, including downloadable graphics and posters.

[Unite Against Book Bans](#)

The ALA is a part of this initiative to fight book bans throughout the year, not just during Banned Books Week. The site includes the usual social media tools, plus whole toolkits for organizing your community to fight local attempts to ban books.

ACLU

[The ACLU website](#) has information about book bans and school curriculum censorship in its free speech section, including a downloadable "Banned Books Club" bookmark, which includes a list of the current top ten banned books.

That's one sign of hope, of course—with all the recent publicity they've been getting, quite a few of the most banned books are selling better than they have in years. After all, banned books lists make excellent additions to everybody's TBR lists.



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## Member News

### *Tales from the Golden State of Mind*

An Anthology celebrating age and aging.

### **An Invitation to Authors and Poets**

A very new kind of anthology is being put together to celebrate age and life in the golden years. This is an invitation to authors and poets to submit a short story, fiction or non-fiction, and poetry to be a part of this groundbreaking book. The focus of this collection is on the positive aspects of age and aging. Submissions can be humorous, adventurous, romantic, and even thrillers as long as the theme and ending be heartwarming and inspiring. I am looking for plots that focus on being old or older. POV can be young or aged as long as the central characters/heroes be in their golden years.

Short stories can be up to 5,000 words. Minor profanity is acceptable, but please no F-bombs.

Author Marshall Karp has offered to do the foreword for this book and Capitol Crimes own Karen Phillips has created a beautiful cover. Printing will be done through Terry Shepherd's Ramirez and Clark Printing.

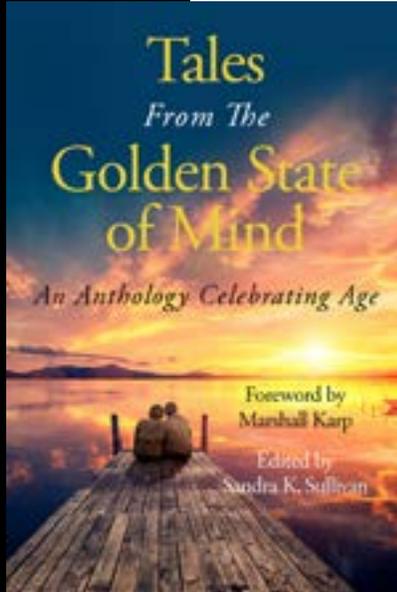
This is not a contest, there is no submission fee. Any author or writer is welcome to join this project. So far we have a Viet Nam veteran, a retired FBI agent, and a cowboy past his prime but still in the saddle.

Submissions can be sent to **Sandra Sullivan** at:  
keudreamsong@gmail.com

At present the deadline is the end of the year.

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There are a lot of great writers in our midst! Drop by **Face In A Book**, El Dorado Hills, on Sunday mornings (10-11 am) during the summer and fall to meet an "author from the neighborhood" (and do a little shopping at the farmers' market at the same time!). (At left, Erin Burrell, Danna Wilberg, Karen Phillips, Sandra Sullivan. At right, Claire Booth, Danna Wilberg, Richard Meredith, and Cindy Sample.)



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## Member News



### Great Valley Book Fest

October 8, 2022, Manteca, California

Come visit Capitol Crimes at the Great Valley Bookfest! At noon we will have a table and a panel on “Pulling Fiction From Real Life” presented by authors **Claire Booth**, **James L’Etoile**, **Richard Meredith**, and **Jessica Cline**. If you’re interested, you can even get your own author’s table.

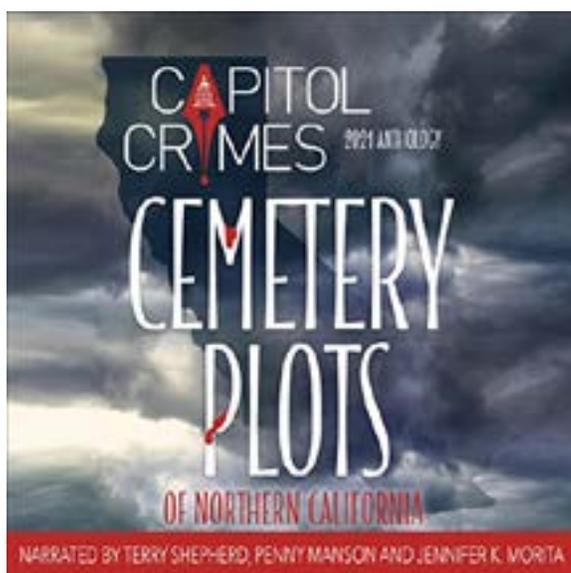
We’d love to see you there!

Visit [gvbookfest.org](https://gvbookfest.org) for more information.

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A new **Mysteryrat’s Maze Podcast** is up! This one features the first chapter of “Slightly Murderous Intent” by Lida Sideris read by local actor Casey Ballard <https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/e/slightly-murderous-intent-by-lida-sideris/>

Also up this month, an episode featuring “Bubbles Baubles” a mystery short story by Elaine Faber read by local actor Thomas Nance <https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/> — **Lorie Lewis Ham**



Just in time for Halloween, get a copy of **Cemetery Plots of Northern California** anthology. Available as eBook, print book and audio.

Did you know the audio book is narrated by our very own Terry Shepherd and Penny Manson? Give a listen!

[Click here to buy the audio book today!](#)

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## In Other News:

**Bouchercon 2022**, September 8-11, 2022. Hilton 1001 Marquette Ave S, Minneapolis. [Click here for more information.](#)

**WriteNOW! 2022 Conference** - Deep Dive in the Desert - September 16 & 17, 2022  
The Desert Sleuths Arizona chapter of Sisters In Crime presents a spectacular line-up featuring, Hallie Ephron, Yasmin Angoe, Edith Maxwell, Alex Segura, Sandra S.G. Wong, Hailey Dezort, Kellye Garrett, Gigi Pandian, Peng Shepherd and more. [For more information click here.](#)

**The Author's Guild - WIT: Words, Ideas, and Thinkers Festival**, September 22-25, 2022, Lenox, MA. WIT means to expand our understanding of critical issues, celebrate America's literary culture, and amplify new voices and perspectives. It is free and open to the public so everyone can participate in the dialogue without barriers. [Find out more here.](#)

**Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop** - October 20-22, 2022. In-person and virtual event. The Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop is the only one in the country devoted to both humor and human interest writing. Through the workshop, the University of Dayton and the Bombeck family honor one of America's most celebrated storytellers and humorists. [Register here.](#)

**New England Crime Bake** - November 11-13, 2022 by New England Chapter of Mystery Writers of America. [Click here for more information.](#)

**The 2022 Kauai Writers Conference**, November 11-13, 2022. Master classes Nov 7-10. For attendees registering at the same time for the conference plus one or more master classes, a combination discount will apply. [Click here for more info.](#)

**Left Coast Crime 2023:** "Trouble in Tucson" - Tucson, Arizona. March 16-19, 2023. [Click here for more details.](#)

**Bouchercon 2023:** "Murder at the Marina" August 30 to September 3, 2023 at the Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina, California. [For details click here.](#) Submit your short story to the Anthology - working title: "Peril Under the Palms" with Holly West as editor. The deadline for submission is October 15, 2022. [Click here for more information about the anthology.](#)

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### 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.

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