

PORTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY 2020 MEET THE AUTHOR SERIES

Kathryn Gualtieri
January 8, 2020
Time: 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Capitola author, Kathryn Gualtieri's first novel in her Nora Finnegan mystery series appeared in print in 2011. *Murder in the Pines* has been followed by 6 additional historical mysteries, each set in the bohemian village of Carmel-by-the-Sea between 1921 and 1935.

Kathryn and her husband, Tony, have resided on the central coast for 30 years. The couple divides their time between the towns of Capitola and Carmel. "Both draw thousands of tourists annually," she says, "thanks to their unique history, fine beaches, and picturesque architecture." A California historian, Kathryn is the vice-chair of Carmel's Historic Resources Board. She also served a 6 year stint in Sacramento as the State Historic Preservation Officer.

The Red Scare opens during a period of economic uncertainty. A nationwide depression threatens California's well-being. Wealthy newspaper magnate and staunch anti-communist, William Randolph Hearst, is angered over a longshoreman's strike supported by the Communist Party. The strike has forced the delivery of his newsprint to his home at San Simeon on the central coast instead of to the docks of San Francisco. Frustrated over these costly delays, he has asked "Carmel Pine Cone" reporter Nora Finnegan to secretly investigate who is financially supporting the Red cause. Chief suspects include the muckraking journalist, Lincoln Steffens, and his card-carrying communist ex-wife, Ella Winter. During a violent political demonstration, the life of an old friend of Nora's is nearly snuffed out. She vows to find the culprit.

In *Murder By Candlelight*, Nora encounters outspoken neighbors holding differing views over the library's circulation of the James Joyce novel, *Ulysses*. For years, the book has been censored due to its obscene passages. Suspicions abound after a local activist protesting the book's banning is brutally murdered. When the village's Theatre of the Golden Bough is set afire, Nora suspects the theater has been targeted because of its controversial plays with racial themes featuring black-face actors. She determines to unmask the arsonist and bring the killer to justice.

These programs are informal coffee hours where local authors discuss their works, answer questions, and autograph their books. They are free of charge and open to the public. Coffee will be provided by The Ugly Mug. For further information call 475-3326

The library is located at 3050 Porter Street, Soquel. Parking is available behind the library. Enter from Soquel Drive into the Bagelry parking lot and drive through to the left.

Library Hours Monday-Friday 12 – 4 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Library website is – www.porterml.org

