

SECOND  
ANNUAL



# Ladies of Intrigue

FEATURING REMARKABLE WOMEN MYSTERY WRITERS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015

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*Sisters  
in  
Crime* †

ORANGE  
COUNTY

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HOTEL HUNTINGTON BEACH

# Sisters in Crime Orange County

*Presents*

## Ladies of Intrigue

*Hotel Huntington Beach  
7667 Center Street  
Huntington Beach, CA*

### **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Jill Amadio, Aileen Baron, Pat H. Broeske, Gayle Carline,  
Gita Fisher, Joan Hansen, Joi Mangan, Jack Martin, Debbie Mitsch,  
Sharon Nelson, Theresa Schultz, Cynthia Weitz, Patricia Wynn

**BOOKS BY THE AUTHORS** *are provided for sale by:*

*Debbie Mitsch, Mystery Ink  
8907 Warner Avenue, #135,  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647  
[www.mysteryink.com](http://www.mysteryink.com)*

*Restrooms are located near the entrance to the hotel.*

*Panelists and Moderators in this program are presented in  
alphabetical order*

# PROGRAM

- 8:00 A.M. – 8:45 A.M.    **REGISTRATION**  
**MEET AND GREET WITH AUTHORS.** A time to purchase books. Coffee, tea, and muffins.
- 8:45 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.    **WELCOME** — President Gayle Carline.  
**INTRODUCTION** of Orange County Sisters in Crime Authors
- 9:00 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.    **GROWING UP DANGEROUS, YA MYSTERIES**  
Panelists: Margaux Froley, Abigail Haas, Michele Scott, Sarah Skilton. Moderator: Marlyn Beebe.
- 9:45 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.    **DARK AND DIRTY**  
Panelists: Anne Cleeland, Ann Parker, Betty Webb, Pamela Samuels Young. Moderator: Barbara DeMarco Barrett.
- 10:30 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.    **BREAK**
- 10:45 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.    **FEATURED SPEAKER CATRIONA MCPHERSON**
- 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 A.M.    **BOOK SALES, ROUNDTABLE BOOK SIGNINGS**  
for speakers and panelists
- 12:30 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.    **LUNCH**
- 1:30 P.M. – 2:15 P.M.    **THE LIGHTER SIDE OF MYSTERY**  
Panelists: Connie Archer, Sue Ann Jaffarian, Harley Jane Kozak, Mary Marks. Moderator: Diane Vallere.
- 2:15 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.    **FEATURED SPEAKER CAROL HIGGINS CLARK**
- 3:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.    **RAFFLE**  
**BOOK SIGNINGS AND BOOK SALES**
- CONCLUSION OF PROGRAM**

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

### CATRIONA MCPHERSON



Catriona McPherson writes the Agatha and Macavity winning Dandy Gilver detective series, set in her native Scotland in the 1920s. The latest, *A DEADLY MEASURE OF BRIMSTONE*, won a third consecutive Left Coast Crime award this year. In 2013 she started a strand of darker (that's not difficult) standalones. The first, *AS SHE LEFT IT*, won an Anthony award and *THE DAY SHE DIED* was shortlisted for an Edgar. Catriona immigrated to America in 2010, and lives in northern California with a black cat and

a scientist. She is proud to be the 2015 National President of Sisters in Crime. [www.catrionamcpherson.com](http://www.catrionamcpherson.com)

### CAROL HIGGINS CLARK



Carol Higgins Clark is the *New York Times* bestselling author of 15 Regan Reilly mysteries. She is also co-author, with her mother Mary Higgins Clark, of a bestselling holiday suspense series. Carol's first mystery, *DECKED*, was published in 1992 and was nominated for both the Anthony and the Agatha Awards. Also an actress, Carol studied at the Beverly Hills Playhouse after receiving her B.A. from Mount Holyoke College. She appeared in Wendy Wasserstein's *Uncommon Women and Others* at Carnegie Hall. Recently she played twins who own a bar together in the TNT production of *DECK THE HALLS*, the first book Carol wrote with her mother.

## PANELISTS AND MODERATORS



**CONNIE ARCHER**, aka Connie di Marco, is the national best-selling author of the Soup Lover's Mystery series from Berkley Prime Crime. The fifth in the series, *A CLUE IN THE STEW*, will be released in April 2016. Her recipes can also be found in *THE COZY COOKBOOK* and *THE MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA COOKBOOK*. Her new Zodiac Mystery series, featuring San Francisco astrologer Julia Bonatti, will be released next summer from Midnight Ink. Visit her at [www.ConnieArcherMysteries.com](http://www.ConnieArcherMysteries.com).



**BARBARA DEMARCO BARRETT**'s first book, *PEN ON FIRE* (Harcourt, 2004; 11th printing), was a *Los Angeles Times* bestseller. Her story, "Crazy for You," published in *ORANGE COUNTY NOIR* (Akashic, 2010) was anthologized in *USA NOIR: Best of the Akashic Noir Series*. She has stories in *The Big Click*, *Radius*, and the *Oyez Review*. Her essays and articles have seen print in *The Writer*, *Writer's Digest*, *Poets & Writers*, *The Toronto Sun*, *Orange Coast*, and *Los Angeles Times*. She teaches "Jumpstart Your Writing" for Gotham Writers Workshop and hosts "Writers on Writing" at KUCI-FM.



**MARLYN BEEBE** grew up in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, where she graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in Library and Information Studies. Not being a fan of frozen water falling from the sky, she now lives in Southern California with her husband, Tod and their cat Puck. She works part-time at multiple libraries and spends the rest of her time reading, reviewing, blogging, and watching hockey games. Marlyn reviews books for *School Library Journal*, as well as her blog *Stuff and Nonsense* (<http://mbstuf-fandnonsense.blogspot.com>).



**ANNE CLEELAND** is a lifelong Southern Californian and makes her home in Newport Beach. An attorney, she's been reading mystery stories since her Nancy Drew days, and especially loves Agatha Christie and the other Golden Age British mystery writers. The first in her Acton & Doyle mystery series, *MURDER IN THRALL*, features two Scotland Yard detectives. It was followed by *MURDER IN RETRIBUTION* and *MURDER IN HIND-SIGHT*. Anne also writes a historical series set in 1814. Being a romantic at heart, all her stories have a strong romantic element. She has four grown children, three wonderful grandchildren, and one nutty dog. [www.annecleeland.com](http://www.annecleeland.com)



**MARGAUX FROLEY** grew up in Santa Barbara, California. She attended two boarding schools during her high school years, one in Southern California and another in Oxford, England, and ever since then she has been a fan of boarding school stories. She studied film at the University of Southern California. Margaux has been writing and producing television for over a decade and has worked for such networks as: TLC, CMT, Travel Channel, MTV, HGTV, and as a writer on the CW series *Privileged*. She currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband and dog. Her first young adult mystery was *ESCAPE THEORY*. *HERO COMPLEX* is her second novel.



**ABIGAIL HAAS** was born and raised in Sussex, England. She graduated from Oxford to work as a music journalist and entertainment critic, however, soon turned to fiction full-time. She is the author of a dozen novels for adults and teens, including the young adult thrillers *DANGEROUS GIRLS* and *DANGEROUS BOYS*. Writing as Abby McDonald, she has penned other novels for teens and adults, including *THE ANTI-PROM* and *JANE AUSTEN GOES TO HOLLYWOOD*. She also has a not-so secret double life as *New York Times* bestselling romance author, Melody Grace. She is now a full-time author and screenwriter in Southern California.



**SUE ANN JAFFARIAN** is the author of three critically acclaimed mystery series: The Odelia Grey series, beginning with *TOO BIG TO MISS*, the Ghost of Granny Apples series, including *GHOST A LA MODE*, and the Madison Rose Vampire Mysteries with *MURDER IN VEIN* and *BAITED BLOOD*. She also writes the Winnie Wilde romances under the pen name Meg Chambers, as well as short stories. In addition to writing, Sue Ann is a full-time paralegal living in Los Angeles. *Kirkus* has said of Sue Ann, “Like Stuart Kaminsky, Jaffarian juggles her franchises deftly, giving each a unique voice and appeal.” Visit her at [www.sueannjaffarian.com](http://www.sueannjaffarian.com), or on Twitter or Facebook.



**HARLEY JANE KOZAK'S** *DATING DEAD MEN* won the Agatha, Anthony, and Macavity awards, and was followed by *DATING IS MURDER*, *DEAD EX*, and *A DATE YOU CAN'T REFUSE*. Her short prose has appeared in *Ms. Magazine*, *The Sun*, *The Santa Monica Review* and anthologies *MYSTERY MUSES*, *THIS IS CHICK LIT*, *A HELL OF A WOMAN*, *BUTCHER KNIVES AND BODY COUNTS*, *THE RICH AND THE DEAD*, AND *CRIMES BY MOONLIGHT*. She's an International Thriller Award nominee and her latest novel is the paranormal *KEEPER OF THE MOON*. A sometimes actress, Harley lives with her kids and dogs in Southern California.



**MARY MARKS** earned a BA in Anthropology from UCLA and an MA in Public Administration from the American Jewish University. After taking an early retirement from UCLA administration, she became an award-winning quilter. The first book in her Quilting Mystery series was published the year Marks celebrated her seventieth birthday. These cozy mysteries take place in the San

Fernando Valley and feature Martha Rose, a zaftig, fifty-something divorced Jewish quilter. *GONE BUT KNOT FORGOTTEN*, the third book in the series was published in August, 2015. Marks lives in Camarillo, CA with her loyal dog Gingie, orange cat Louie, and dozens of unfinished quilts.



**ANN PARKER** lives in the San Francisco Bay Area, and is a science/corporate writer by day and crime fiction writer by night. Her award-winning Silver Rush historical series, featuring saloon-owner Inez Stannert, is set in 1880s Colorado, primarily in the silver boomtown of Leadville. Books in series order include *SILVER LIES*, *IRON TIES*, *LEADEN SKIES*, and *MERCURY'S RISE*, all published by Poisoned Pen Press. Ann is co-administrator and

blogger at The LadyKillers group blog (<http://theladykillers.typepad.com>). She can also be found on Facebook and Twitter. Visit her website at [www.annparker.net](http://www.annparker.net).



**MICHELE SCOTT** started writing when she was nine years old, writing short stories on her dad's notepads. After she graduated from USC she gave birth to her first son, who was six weeks premature and had health issues. She stayed home with him and wrote her first book. It took her twelve years to become a published author and several manuscripts. Michele has now written over three dozen books, is a *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Wall Street*

*Journal* and Amazon bestselling author. Under Michele Scott and her pen-name AK Alexander, she writes everything from young adult mystery, paranormal, and women's fiction to dark psychological thrillers.



**SARAH SKILTON** is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do, which came in handy while writing her martial arts-themed debut YA novel, *BRUISED*, which received a starred review from *Publishers Weekly*, and which the *Horn Book* called "nuanced and honest." Her latest novel, *HIGH AND DRY*, was called "A dark, well-constructed mystery with a strong voice" by *Kirkus*. Sarah graduated with a TV/Radio degree from Ithaca College and worked as a production

assistant, a TV extra, a film reviewer, a blogger, and a script analyst. She and her husband, a magician, live in Southern California with their toddler son. She's never been sawed in half, but there's still time. Find her on twitter: @Sarah\_Skilton.



**DIANE VALLERE** traded fashion accessories for accessories to murder after two decades working for a top luxury retailer. *CRUSHED VELVET*, the second book in the nationally bestselling and Lefty-Nominated Material Witness Cozy Mystery Series, came out in August. Diane also writes the Madison Night and Style & Error Mystery Series. She is the current president of Sisters in Crime Los Angeles and was co-chair of the 2015 California Crime Writers Conference. Diane started her own detective agency at age ten and has maintained a passion for shoes, clues, and clothes ever since.



**BETTY WEBB** is the author of the nationally best-selling Lena Jones mystery series (*DESERT RAGE*, *DESERT WIVES*, *DESERT NOIR*, *DESERT WIND*, etc.) and the humorous Gunn Zoo mysteries (*THE KOALA OF DEATH*, *THE LLAMA OF DEATH*, etc.). Before beginning to write full time, Betty worked as a journalist, interviewing everyone from U.S. presidents, astronauts who walked on the moon, Nobel Prize-winners, and polygamy runaways. She has taught creative writing classes and workshops at Arizona State University and Phoenix College and has been a nationally-syndicated literary critic for more than 20 years. She is currently reviewing for *Mystery Scene Magazine*. In addition to other organizations, Betty is a member of the National Federation of Press Women, Mystery Writers of America, and Sisters in Crime.



**PAMELA SAMUELS YOUNG** is a practicing attorney and award-winning author of seven fast-paced thrillers. The lack of women and people of color depicted as hotshot attorneys in the legal thrillers she read prompted Pamela to create her own characters. Her novels are known for their unexpected twists and strong female characters. Pamela's sixth novel, *ANYBODY'S DAUGHTER*, won the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Fiction and was a top ten pick by *In the Margins*, the best books for at-risk teens. A former journalist, Pamela currently works as Managing Counsel for Labor and Employment Law for Toyota in Torrance, CA. She is a graduate of USC, Northwestern University, and UC Berkeley's School of Law. Pamela speaks frequently on the topics of child sex trafficking, writing, and pursuing your passion. Visit her website at [www.pamelasamuelsyoung.com](http://www.pamelasamuelsyoung.com).