



# ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  Orange County



## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

As cheesy as this sounds, I watched 2010 dawn out my window and wondered what this new year would bring. There's a lot going on in publishing today. There are e-books and e-piracy. Authors, as always, must scrutinize their contracts to make certain they are covered for all the incarnations their books may take. Websites, blogs, Twitter, Facebook, Crimespace. We must get some writing done in there somewhere.

But I digress. I'm supposed to be introducing myself as the new president. Around 1991 or so, this L.A. native decided to turn a long time hobby of writing into a career. I researched the industry and worked on a path to find an agent. Back then, I was writing historical fiction, a very tight market and prone to very little diversity in style and storytelling. Publisher's Weekly at the time proclaimed that historical fiction was dead! Good time to get into the market, eh? As it was, about twelve years went by with three agents, many, many manuscripts, and no offers. My first agent, Kimberely Cameron, with whom I was still friends, suggested I switch to historical mystery as this was a better market. So I changed gears, researched how to write and market mysteries, and got to it. One of the first things I did after discovering its existence was join Sisters in Crime.

I'm not sure I remember who first directed me to the OC chapter, as I was a longtime member of Sisters in Crime L.A. Perhaps it was Debbie Mitsch or maybe Pat Wynn. Whoever is to blame, what I found here is what I was looking for in Sisters in Crime; a community of people interested in reading and writing mysteries. So interested, that they gathered once a month to sit down and talk about it; talk about the fabulous and perhaps not so fabulous books they read; worked on improving their own work by discussing different areas of their writing; brought in amazing speakers to inspire; and

just came together if for nothing else than a support network.

To this group I was brought and welcomed. And now humbled that you should choose me as your president. And, oh my. What shoes to fill! Pat, Terri. This is a tough act to follow. I'm hoping to bring to the position my own pitfalls and triumphs of writing, researching, and promoting. I think that is the greatest strength of the SinC organization, this sharing so that we learn from one another and prevent others from making our mistakes. We'll get to work on that at our next meeting. I'll see you there!

*Your President*  
*Jeri Westerson*



## *SISTERS IN CRIME* *MISSION STATEMENT:*

To promote the professional development and advancement of women crime writers to achieve equality in the industry.