



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, I am sitting in my hotel room in downtown Los Angeles getting ready for another day at the Left Coast Crime convention. Already I have been to panels, listening to other authors I admire and, amazingly, know. I've gone to a dinner and a lunch at the famous Hollywood spot Musso & Franks (I feel like a regular) dining where the likes of Dashiell Hammett, Lillian Hellman, Raymond Chandler, and William Faulkner also knocked back a cold one. In fact, speaking of Chandler, you just can't swing a cat downtown without thinking of him and the mean streets—and believe me downtown L.A. is still pretty mean.

I'm an L.A. native, but even I never spent much time downtown. Usually my forays into the heart of the city meant I was sitting on a bus with my grandmother, heading to the May Company for shopping and then to Newberry's lunch counter for lunch. The red cars were just a memory but the rails were still there embedded in the asphalt. The iconic deco city hall was the tallest building, and at one time, no one was allowed to build anything taller. Ah. Those were the days.

But even then, no one walked in L.A. It wasn't a place to live as much as a place to work. At least, not a good place to live. Even then.

Right behind the convention hotel is Angel's Flight, a funicular railway, the shortest in the world, created in the turn of the last century for the rich folks up in Bunker Hill to reach their houses without having to walk up those steep hills. Groups have been trying to save the old railway for years and as a kid I always wanted to ride in it but never did. I finally got my chance along with Michael Connelly and several hundred Left Coast Crimers for lunch.

When a city like L.A. is in your heart, you have to make it yours, whether in the writing or in your life. I know that Los Angeles influences my medieval novels, making London my L.A. I just got reacquainted with my heart.

What is that special pep rally for you? What gets your creative juices flowing? Is it a place? A

moment? Tap into it and you've got gold.

*Your President
Jeri Westerson*



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SISTERS IN CRIME MISSION STATEMENT:

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 21ST

2PM: Reader's Forum. Why mysteries?
What is it about crime fiction that we love to read?

3PM: Paranormal Investigators - Diane Hersey and Angelena Madrid

Due to the numerous authors currently writing paranormal mysteries, we have invited two members of the research team of California Ghost Hunters, based here in Orange County, to be our speakers this month.

Diane Hersey, Lead Case Manager and she also assists with the Marketing and Communications. She is an avid fan of reading and watching everything to do with the paranormal. She has 20 years experience working in Human Services and holds a B.A. in Psychology. She also loves to investigate when she can and deeply enjoys helping people no matter the circumstances.

AND

Angelena Madrid, Co Founder and Lead Investigator and one of the Core Members. She is extremely knowledgeable of the paranormal field. She strives for continuous improvement within the group and is extremely effective at setting up investigations and breaking down evidence. She is considered the groups EVP Specialist and she keeps everyone updated on the latest techniques of that realm. She is also a logical thinker and is great at finding alternative explanations for activity before declaring it paranormal.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18TH

2PM: Writer's Forum: Marketing vs platform. What's the difference and which is more effective?

3PM: Panel of authors from the anthologies - *Orange County Noir* and *L.A. Noir*: Barbara de Marco-Barrett and Patricia McFall, (*O.C. Noir*) and Denise Hamilton and Naomi Hirahara (*L.A. Noir*)

MEMBER EVENTS:

D.P. Lyle:

***April 17, 2 pm**

Mysterious Galaxy, San Diego, CA
Stress Fracture Signing & Talk
7051 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, # 302
San Diego, CA
858-268-4747

<http://www.mystgalaxy.com/>

Terri Nolan

***April 10**

Moderating a panel, "Mysteries: Around the World" with Cara Black, David Francis, Steven M. Thomas.

Literary Orange at UCI

www.literaryorange.org

Eric Stone

*** April 17, 10 am until 2 pm**

Sisters in Crime Los Angeles is starting off 2010 with a high-powered workshop, "Building Better Characters."

Place: Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church, 73 N. Hill Avenue, Pasadena.

Jeri Westerson:

***March 20, 2010**

9 am to 3 pm

Assistance League Day of Authors at California State University Fullerton. Admission \$85. For full info contact Bobbie Cooper 714-270-4203

b_cooper@sbcglobal.net



THANKS....

...to our members Aileen Baron, Robert Northrup and Debbie Mitsch for supporting our authors, Eric Stone and Jeri Westerson, by

attending their speaking engagements that were announced in our newsletter last month. It would be great if more of our members could attend these events.

MYSTERY INK

Debbie Mitsch has over 500+ collectible paperbacks plus many hardbacks listed at 30% off at the California Greetings store at 301 Main Street, Huntington Beach now through April 30th.



2010 CALENDAR

March 21st – 2 pm Reader's Forum, Why read mysteries? 3 pm Diane Hersey and Angelena Madrid of California Ghost Hunters, a paranormal research group.

April 18th – 2 pm Writer's Forum, marketing vs. Platform. 3 pm Panel of authors from the anthologies - *Orange County Noir* and *L.A. Noir*: Barbara de Marco-Barrett and Patricia McFall, (*O.C. Noir*) and Denise Hamilton and Naomi Hirahara (*L.A. Noir*)

May 16th – 2 pm Writer's Forum, 3 pm Martin J. Smith - Senior Editor of *Orange Coast Magazine* and mystery writer (*O.C. Noir*) plus mystery novels and non-fiction books) hosted by Gary Phillips, editor of *O.C. Noir* and *L.A. Noir* plus mystery writer.

June 13th – Joint event with SoCal Mystery Writer's of America.

July 18th – 2 pm Reader's Forum, 3 pm Kristen Weber, previously the Sr. Editor at Penguin, now a free-lance editor here in California

August 15th – 2 pm Writer's Forum

September 19th – 2 pm Reader's Forum

October 17th – 2 pm Reader's Forum

November 21st – 2 pm Writer's Forum

December 12th – Holiday Party



YOUR INPUT INVITED

This is every "Sister's" newsletter. Let us hear from you if you have events coming up or news that we'd all like to share. If you have any suggestions for the Orange Herring, let us know that, too.

Send your contributions and suggestions to:

Linda Smith:
softpoet@yahoo.com

Deadline for April newsletter is April 7th.

Sisters in Crime Orange County – March 2010 News



UPCOMING MEETING:

**March 21st, 2010, 2pm: Reader's Forum, Why we read mysteries
3pm: Diane Hersey and Angelena Madrid of California Ghost Hunters, a
paranormal research group.**

**April 18th, 2010, 2pm: Writer's Forum, Marketing vs. Platform.
3pm: Panel of authors from the anthologies - *Orange County Noir* and *L.A. Noir*:
Barbara de Marco-Barrett and Patricia McFall, (*O.C. Noir*) and Denise Hamilton
and Naomi Hirahara (*L.A. Noir*)**



Look inside to find out more... or visit www.ocsistersincrime.org

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