



# ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  orange County



## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

The LA Times Festival of Books is behind us, but I am always filled with a sense of elation before, during, and after. To see that many people—people of all stripes—enjoying the written word is heartening in a time of such competition for one's attention. When video games, mp3 players, television, and 3D movies are now on the plate. When consumers are still reeling from a near depression and jobless numbers have barely moved. People are still reading. And how are they reading? In so many different ways these days. Paper is still dominant, but there are e-readers like the Kindle, the Sony Reader, and the Nook from Barnes & Noble; the new iPad that's supposed to give Kindle a run for its money with its deal with publishers; aps for your phone. I'm anticipating that chip to be directly inserted into the brain.

But that can wait.

Ironically, with all that new technology, I was the most excited about one particular purchase I made at the Festival: A full sized bound monochromatic copy (the book is 17 x 12 inches, not exactly light reading) of the Ellesmere Manuscript. Now, I know that most of you are saying "Wha--?" The Ellesmere Manuscript housed in the Huntington Library in San Moreno, California, is, for all intents and purposes, the very first novel written in English. Middle English, that is, by your friend and mine, Geoffrey Chaucer. It's THE CANTERBURY TALES penned on parchment by talented monks or clerks for a very rich patron not long after Chaucer's death in 1400 AD. The calligraphy is exquisite. The illustrations of the twenty-three pilgrims are a fantastic snapshot of life in fourteenth century England. And even though the hand is difficult to read (along with deciphering the Middle English) it's that tangible something that reaches across Time to speak to readers today. Not only are the stories

still touching, eloquent, and full of humor, we can see that this was perhaps the transition—at last—from the spoken story to the written word. True, there were still many at the time who could not read, but as a people we were now on the inevitable journey to literacy.

I, for one, am pretty happy about that!

*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.

## **SUNDAY, MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**2PM: Reader's Forum:** Who's your favorite sidekick? Why?

**3PM: Martin J. Smith**, Senior Editor of *Orange Coast Magazine* and mystery writer (*O.C. Noir*) plus mystery novels and non-fiction books and **Gary Phillips**, editor of *O.C. Noir* and *L.A. Noir* plus many other books. They'll be talking about editing and what they are looking for when an article or short story is presented to them.

Martin J. Smith is a veteran journalist and magazine editor who has won more than 40 newspaper and magazine writing awards. A former senior editor of the Los Angeles Times Magazine, he currently is editor-in-chief of Orange Coast, the market-leading monthly magazine of Orange County, CA.

Hard-boiled Los Angeles writer Gary Phillips' books include his gritty series about Ivan Monk, one of the detective genre's first black private eyes.

## **SUNDAY, JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>**

Joint event with SoCal Mystery Writers of America. Special guests are Gregg Hurwitz and Christopher Rice. At no cost to members or guest, lunch will be served, and a chance to buy tickets for gift baskets. Don't miss our second annual event; bring guests.



### **MEMBER EVENTS:**

#### **Eric Stone**

\*May 1, 2 - 4pm

Murder Abroad

with Kwei Quartey, Edward Arno, Aileen G. Barron and Moderator Eric Stone

Burbank Public Library, Buena Vista Branch  
300 N. Buena Vista Street  
Burbank, CA

#### **Jeri Westerson:**

\*May 12

Crown City TV interview. Local programming out of Pasadena. For online feed info, see website [www.JeriWesterson.com](http://www.JeriWesterson.com)

\*May 15, 2010, 10 am to 1 pm

American Association of University Women of Escondido.

The Escondido Country Club

1800 Country Club Lane, Escondido, California 92026.

\*May 23, 2010, 1 pm to 3 pm

Signing. Stop in and say hello!

Borders Bookstore

3615 Riverside Plaza Dr., Riverside, CA 92560  
(951) 222-0313.

\*June 2, 2010, 7 pm

Talk and signing. Orange Public Library.

407 East Chapman Avenue, Orange, CA 92866-1509 (714) 288-2400

\*June 19, 2010, 11 am to 2 pm

Brunch with a Bunch of Authors

Lompoc Library Grossman Gallery

501 E. North Ave. Lompoc, CA 93436.

805-875-8775. Several mystery authors including me to speak and sign.



## **BOUCHERCON 2010**

It's not too early to plan for this must-do event. Anyone for a carpool?

October 14-17, 2010

San Francisco, CA

For further information:

[HTTP://WWW.BCON2010.COM/](http://WWW.BCON2010.COM/)

## MEMBER BOOK RELEASES

Gayle K. Brunelle's book, *Murder in the Metro: Laetitia Toureaux and the Cagoule in 1930s France* (Louisiana State University Press, May, 2010) is now out. Canadian Reviews of Scholarly Books named it their best bet for Summer, 2010 in the area of Crime and Media, and Publishers Weekly reviewed it and called it "consistently compelling."

Aileen Baron's New Book:  
*Scorpion's Bite*--Coming from Poison Pen Press, July 2010

Jeri Westerton's New Book:  
*The Demon's Parchment*--Coming from St. Martin's, October 2010

## NEW LOCATION!

Mystery Ink's new location will be opening this month in Huntington Beach.  
7176 Edinger Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA  
Check out all our collectible signed first editions as well as the new releases.  
e-mail: [mysteryink@hotmail.com](mailto:mysteryink@hotmail.com)



## OUR LATEST SISTER

Ellie Northrop born April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:55pm,  
daughter of Rob & Xuan Northrop.

## 2010 CALENDAR

June 13<sup>th</sup> – Joint event with SoCal Mystery Writer's of America. Buffet lunch and talks by authors Gregg Hurwitz and Christopher Rice.

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

August 15<sup>th</sup> – 2 pm Reader's Forum  
September 19<sup>th</sup> – 2 pm Writer's Forum

October 17<sup>th</sup> – 2 pm Reader's Forum

November 21<sup>st</sup> – 2 pm Writer's Forum

December 12<sup>th</sup> – 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](mailto:softpoet@yahoo.com)

*Deadline for June newsletter is June 1<sup>st</sup>.*



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