



President's Message

I will be absent this month. Pesky promotion is getting in the way. I will be teaching a workshop on “Researching Historicals” at the California Crime Writers Conference held at the Pasadena Hilton. This is a conference for would-be and established writers sponsored by SinC LA and the Southern California chapter of Mystery Writers of America. I’ll also be critiquing a couple of partial manuscripts, so it will be an interesting weekend of interactions.

I’ve also been asked to be a monthly contributor to the well established blog for mystery writers called Poe’s Deadly Daughters (<http://poesdeadlydaughters.blogspot.com/>). They have always offered pertinent writing advice, info on the publishing world, and great interviews with authors, and I hope to be able to contribute something worthwhile.

I’ll also go strictly historical when I head over to San Diego this month for my first Historical Novel Society conference. Should I bring my garb to wear for the costume banquet? The bigger question is, can I still fit into it? I’ll be on a panel with historical novelists, with moderator Priscilla Royal, historical mystery author. That’s two against two. Let’s see how I do.

All of this is to stress that authors do more than write. We do a lot of promotion. Some of it is set up by my publisher’s publicist and some—the majority—I do on my own. So it was a very happy thing that publicist Diana James stopped by last month to host our writer’s forum and talked about what authors can and should do to promote themselves. She talked about a blog tour—which is like a book tour only on blogs—and how to choose the best ones, blogs that get a lot of traffic. One way to tell that is do they get comments? Can you link to an RSS feed (and are you aware of what that is)? She emphasized that authors should have a presence

on Facebook and Twitter and that they should learn how to utilize them. Publishers won’t do these things for you. Indeed, they have barely kept up with all this new technology. So you shouldn’t be left behind.

There’s a lot more good stuff ahead. Next month on Sunday, July 17, instead of meeting at Irvine, we are going on a field trip to downtown Los Angeles in a joint event with the Southern California chapter of Mystery Writers of America. It’s our Raymond Chandler Bus Tour. This is, admittedly, something different we are doing and I urge you all to support it and come on the tour. We want to be a chapter that *does* things for both reader and writer. That means sneaking out of our comfort zones and doing what might be challenging but worthwhile. I certainly don’t think you will regret it.

Some of us are going to carpool and we’ll meet at Debbie Mitsch’s store, Mystery Ink in Huntington Beach (7176 Edinger Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92647) at 9:15 a.m. If interested, drop our secretary Terri Nolan an e-mail at tjnolan@cox.net. Let her know if you can drive and how many seats you have or let her know if you need a seat. She’ll hook up seats with people. We’ll meet up at Clifton’s Cafeteria (648 South Broadway, Downtown L.A., 90014) at 10:30 and have brunch.

We meet right in front of Clifton’s at 11:30 to check in for our tour: The tour will begin at noon with an elevator ride to the top floor. Then we go by bus to 7th and Olive; we will walk from 7th to 6th and take in the Bank of Italy, the L.A. Athletic Club, and the Oviatt. We’ll go into the Barclay Hotel lobby for a reading from Chandler’s *THE LITTLE SISTER*. Time permitting, we’ll go into the lobby of the Mayfair Hotel for another reading. Then it’s a Gelato stop! After Gelato we’ll head to Musso & Franks in Hollywood. We’ll go into the back alley where the famous Writer’s Room used to be, and the “back door” to Stanley Roses’ book shop (the model for Gieger’s shop in *THE BIG SLEEP*). Back



ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  Orange County



to downtown to Joe Brody's apartment (THE BIG SLEEP) in Los Feliz. It sounds like we'll be stepping into the pages of Chandler's books!

Here are the pertinent details:

When: Sunday, July 17th

Time: 11:30 check in (tour begins promptly at noon) to 4pm

Where: Clifton's Cafeteria, 648 South Broadway, Downtown L.A., 90014

Cost: \$40 per person (for SinC/OC & MWA members and guests)

\$75 for non-members (what a great time to be a SinC/OC or MWA member!!!)

Go to www.socalmwa.com to pay via Pay Pal or check- Hurry! Space is limited!

For those going on the tour, I'll see you there!



Your Prez,
Jeri Westerson

SISTERS IN CRIME MISSION STATEMENT

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

MEETING PLACE:

Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, CA 92618

For more information: www.ocsistersincrime.org

JUNE

Don't miss our next meeting on Sunday, June 12. It will begin at 2:00 P.M. with a Reader's Forum, led by **Jill Amadio** on the topic of CSI. At 3:00, our guest will be **Bob Hamer**.

Best-selling San Diego author Bob Hamer has experienced it all first-hand. Going undercover and posing as a vicious drug dealer, contract killer, terrorist, weapons middleman, Mafia mobster, gang member, and even a pedophile, ex-FBI Agent Hamer brings the sordid streets to life in his books, drawing on his own cases. Retired after 26 years with the Bureau, receiving numerous national awards for his work, including the coveted FBI Director's Award for Distinguished Service, he now writes crime novels featuring tough all-American hero Matt Hogan.

In undercover assignments lasting anywhere from days to more than three years, Hamer has pulled in criminals from such diverse groups as La Cosa Nostra, the Sicilian Mafia, Mexican Mafia, Russian Mafia, Asian organized crime groups and Los-Angeles-based street gangs. His most successful infiltration, of the North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), resulted in the arrest of eight members of the "inner circle." That case inspired him to write the non-fiction book, "The Last Undercover: The True Story of an FBI Agent's Dangerous Dance with Evil." He served as case agent on the notorious Eddie Nash/Laurel Canyon murders), and the shooting of the EL AL airline ticket counter personnel at LAX.

Bob Hamer's background brought him to the attention of Hollywood, and he acts as a consultant and technical advisor on various television shows including "Law and Order" and "Sleeper Cell." He has also appeared as a guest on "Oprah," and is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran.



Should be a great meeting!

Our **July** meeting will be something different - a field trip to downtown Los Angeles in a joint event with the Southern California chapter of Mystery Writers of America. It's our **Raymond Chandler Bus Tour**. Here's what SincOC member Jill Amadio has to say about it:

If the name "Orange County Sisters in Crime" evokes fears of gangs of rampant female killers stalking the streets, you're way off. These ladies are harmless, unless disturbed while writing. The group is a local chapter of a national organization of mystery writers and fans. Although not limited to women crime novelists, with several international best-selling male authors enjoying the monthly meetings in Irvine, the majority are ladies who spend their days and nights concocting dark deeds and creating devilish murderers.

The OCSinC meetings, open to the public, are filled with guest authors and speakers devoted to crime detection of all kinds: forensics, arson, even paranormal investigators. Mysterious adventures, too, are on the agenda, and on Sunday, July 17, mystery writers, readers and fans are invited to join Sisters in Crime along with the Southern California chapter of Mystery Writers of America on a bus tour of Raymond Chandler's Los Angeles. This fascinating ride features expert tour guides taking guests into L.A.'s noir past to explore Chandler's hardboiled detective tales and the places that inspired them.

The tour begins outside Clifton's Cafeteria in downtown Los Angeles (648 South Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90014). Boarding is at 11:30 a.m. and the tour begins at 12 noon sharp, returning at 4 p.m. with a snack stop en route.

Member cost is \$40 per person, and non-members, \$75 per person. Seating is limited. Ticket reservations: www.socalmwa.com. For more details

log on to: www.ocsistersincrime.org.

Don't miss it!



EDITORS' COLUMN

I'm always amazed at how generous writers are when it comes to sharing their time, insight and experience with their fellow writers. I can't think of another industry where people exchange information so freely, including lessons learned after years of hard work and the accumulation of rejection letters. The following writers have kindly agreed to share some words of wisdom.

Carolyn Hart writes several popular mystery series, including the Henrie O. series, the Bailey Ruth Raeburn series and the Death on Demand series.

Dorothy Howell wrote romance novels under the name Judith Stacy for years before beginning her "handbag" mystery series.

Harley Jane Kozak is known for her Wollie Shelley dating series and has contributed to several anthologies as well.

Maggie Sefton is the author of the very successful knitting mysteries and also has a series starring a real estate agent as amateur sleuth.

Here is what they have to say.

What piece of advice would you give to aspiring mystery writers?

Carolyn Hart: Write about something that matters



enormously to you. If you care about the subject, whether it is missing Spanish treasure or women who try to do too much for those they love or the destructive effects of jealousy, you can make a reader care. If your heart and soul are in a book, somewhere there is an editor who will be touched.

Dorothy Howell: My advice is to keep learning and keep trying. Don't give up! Seven long, miserable years passed between the sales of my first and second books. I spent that time attending workshops, panel discussions and conferences and, of course, writing. Seven years is a long time. I certainly could have quit, but I'm glad I kept at it. This year my 27th and 28th novels will be released.

Harley Jane Kozak: My advice to aspiring writers of any kind is to rewrite and revise until your manuscript is as good as it can possibly get, in your humble opinion. When you've exhausted all sources of feedback -- extension classes, writing contests, trusted friends (those who actually enjoy the genre in which you write *and* know how to give criticism), critique groups, etc. -- that's the time to send it out to agents and editors. Rejection is part of the game, of course, but why open yourself up to rejection that was avoidable? Generally, you get one chance with an agent or editor, so save it for your best shot. The same is true if you're self-publishing, because once it's out there, it's out there. And don't be afraid to put your work on the shelf for a week or a month, because the magic that happens when you take it off the shelf and read it again and see clearly what's good and what's not so good -- that's worth its weight in gold.

Maggie Sefton: Take the craft of writing seriously and join a professional writers' organization that offers monthly discussions/presentations on the craft, informative monthly newsletters, CRITIQUE GROUPS, and yearly conferences in addition to all the valuable networking with other writers. It's better if the group has writers in ALL genres, not just mystery. Apprentice yourself to your craft and

learn. And write, write, write, then write even more. I was first published in historical fiction in 1995 and had written over a million words of fiction before I ever wrote the first mystery, which was DYING TO SELL in 2002. Kelly Flynn walked onstage in 2003.

What, if anything, would you do differently if you were just starting your writing career today?

Carolyn Hart: I started writing so long ago that I don't think I know how to respond. It is a different world. Instead, may I advise caution before succumbing to the allure of self-publishing. Yes, there are occasional huge successes but achieving success that way is as likely as catching the gold ring on the merry-go-round. I would say that anyone who belongs to Sisters in Crime has started on the right path to long term writing success. Be active, be involved, make friends, listen, learn and try to connect with established publishing in some format.

Dorothy Howell: If I were starting my writing career now, I'd put more effort into promoting my work. It's easier today -- when my first book came out in 1988 the Internet didn't exist -- because so many promo opportunities are available online. Also, I'd try to enjoy the process more and not be so stressed out by the fear that I wouldn't continue to publish.

Maggie Sefton: You know, I think every writer does the very best he/she can with the resources available. By resources, I mean more than money. I mean time and opportunity. Everyone's situation is different. We're working jobs that pay the bills, have family demands. There's never enough time or money. So. . .we make choices. I don't regret the choices I made for the resources I had available. But then, I've never been one who spends time looking back and second-guessing myself. I like to focus on the present and the future. I've found that's a much better usage of my energies.



There you have it. Words of wisdom from four extremely successful mystery writers. Do you have some insight into the writing life that you would like to share? If so, please drop us a line or two at Ocsinc.newsletter@gmail.com.



THERESA SCHULTZ

MEETING ROUNDUP

Our May Writer's Forum featured publicist Diana James of P.R.Me! She discussed self-promotion for authors and stressed the importance of having a presence on Facebook and Twitter. She shared ideas about participating in a blog tour and how to select blog tours that get your book in front of as many people as possible.



Diana James of [P.R.Me!](#) giving the talk at the writer's forum in May.

At 3:00, our featured speaker was retired fire captain and Arson Investigator, Larry **Bender**, who told fascinating stories about the inner workings of the Orange County Fire Department. During his 40-

year tenure, he and his fellow firemen experienced earthquakes, infernos and brush conflagrations, as well as fires in lumber yards, in high rises, on tankers, and in plane crashes. Still, ninety percent of fires occur in residential homes.

Fire fighters pride themselves on serving the public. They are first responders to calls for help, handling traffic accidents, rescuing cats in trees, even extracting people stuck in bath tubs. Every fire fighter has a specific job on the truck. The driver must calculate the height of the building and the water pressure needed, based on the fifty formulas he carries in his head.



Firemen work ten days a month in 24-hour shifts, plus overtime; this adds up to an average work week of 56-80 hours, and 45-50% of that time is spent at the firehouse, where the day begins at 7:30 with an information exchange, after which all equipment is checked thoroughly. Lunch is prepared and served by the firemen. In the afternoon, firefighters train for all eventualities, including back drafts and flash-overs, to experience these phenomena under safe conditions, rather than encountering them only in the midst of a fire. To help protect against flash-overs, firemen now wear fire hoods innovated by race car drivers.

Living in close quarters and with time on their hands, between calls, firemen are given to practical jokes, involving everything from short-sheeting beds to inserting deflated tires, under mattresses, along with a slow air-pumping device. One can imagine the results. Captain Bender shrugged, emphatically, as he said that last year Mayor



Villaraigossa, banned pranks in the LAFD.



Firemen create colorful names for fellow workers: Mr. Mom, (a particularly careful Captain), Cobra, Pumpkin Head, Bullet, The Flounder. The Seal Beach Station is called 'The Beach House;' The Westminster Station is known as 'The Embassy.' Half of all arson fires are caused by someone seeking revenge, while 42% are set by delinquent minors, mostly out of curiosity. Terrorism is another major factor. Arson, particularly mailbox fires, have increased with the arrival of Vietnamese gangs. Kitchen fires occur due to the use of excessive grease or when food is left on a lit cook top. Even firehouses have burned to the ground, when fire fighters left on a call, forgetting to turn off the stove.

Fires can be started by broken glass in the forest; they also can occur when cabinetmakers light 'smokes' during the application of urethane finishes to cabinets. At times, fires are set deliberately to reclaim businesses and collect insurance. Cigarettes can put themselves out, but if encapsulated between cushions, they will smolder and burn.

Fires need oxygen; they can flash quickly, but generally they are confined to one room. Synthetic carpet fibers can liquefy into dangerous fuel. As a result, fibers are tested and assigned flammability ratings. Most deaths result from smoke inhalation, as soot enters the nasal passages. Those found alive, are treated immediately with oxygen and hospitalized; even then they may succumb later.

People have burned to death in a chair, while nothing else around them burns; only ashes and a skeleton remain. The fumes act like a narcotic, especially if the victim is asleep.

Special Investigators are called to investigate causes and origins, by studying burn patterns and gasoline odors, but after high explosions, evidence is generally obliterated. Fortunately for investigators, most arsonists aren't smart and a good number of them torch themselves. Interestingly, it's not the gasoline that is flammable, but the FUMES. Not knowing this, amateur arsonists will pour gas all over the place, then flick their *bics*, and they're toast. Fingerprints are often found on gasoline containers left behind. The gas, itself, may be traced back to a particular gas station, to help identify the purchaser. Gas may also be found on a suspect's clothing. Firemen are warned not to touch suspicious objects or bodies, for fear of compromising evidence for Investigators. Arson is difficult to prove; only 19% of those arrested, ever go to court. Of those, only 2% go to jail. However, investigations bring changes, which benefit the public.

More and more women are being accepted into firefighting on their own merits; they don't have the same requirements, which irks some, but not Captain Bender, who feels that women can do things men can't. Still, it's difficult for women in fire service; they don't have separate sleeping quarters or separate bathrooms.

Firefighting is among the top ten most stressful occupations. Although firefighters now wear personal fire alarms, in the smoke and haze, injured firemen and victims can be difficult to locate. Unlike fires depicted in films, in a burning building, firefighters can't see their hands in front of their faces. These days, infrared cameras enable firemen to 'see' by detecting body heat and aid greatly in finding both victims and missing firemen. One of the grimmest aspects of firefighting is encountering



injured or dead children. Having to countermand an order from a Superior, can also bring stress; the law says a fireman may do so, but only for good reason. The Captain cited an instance of refusing to use water on chlorine, which would have created a dangerous gas.

Captain Bender enjoys telling stories on the light side, such as the time he encountered a woman who had just stepped out of her shower and been knocked down by a fellow from the apartment above. The man had exited his own shower and fallen half-way through the ceiling; now he was stuck between floors in his birthday suit.

A grimmer incident involved dragging a 200-pound woman and a 250-pound man, both unconscious, from their bedroom. In the act of saving them, the Captain suffered a herniated disc, but both victims died from lung damage two weeks later.

He brought photographs and newspaper clippings from various fires, and passed around boots and fire pants, as well as an old classic leather helmet, which had caught fire while a well-known female newscaster shadowed him on a call. Currently helmets are made of plastic. The equipment is extremely heavy, forcing a fireman to move slowly. His well-worn fire jacket would normally contain heavy tools, which would weigh it down even more. Captain Bender demonstrated how you could wake up to an alarm, swing your legs over the bed, stuff your feet in the boots at your bedside and in seconds pull up the fire pants which are always tucked into the boots.

Once a rescuer, always a rescuer: recently, while negotiating a traffic-filled street, he saw a car door swing open and a bicyclist run smack into the door, which knocked the cyclist to the ground. He quickly made a U-turn and parked his vintage red Corvette crosswise on the street, thus blocking traffic to keep the victim from being run over.

To the general public, a fireman is a brave and dauntless hero. But who knew that they are also chick magnets? Guess the job has some unexpected perks.

Cynthia Weitz



THE WRITER'S BOOKSHELF

THE CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE is as thorough as they come--and as dull. Mind you, I couldn't do without it, but when I want a refresher on a point of punctuation--plus a laugh--I reach for Karen Elizabeth **Gordon's** THE NEW WELL-TEMPERED SENTENCE (ISBN: 0-618-38201-1), or Lynne **Truss's** EATS, SHOOTS & LEAVES (ISBN: I-592-40087-6).

Traditionally, punctuation handbooks have no indexes because chapters are brief and the titles reflect their subjects: The Exclamation Point!, The Comma, etc. Gordon follows this format, dividing her book into fifteen chapters. Truss uses just six, grouping some marks together. "Airs and Graces" explains the subtleties of semi-colons and colons, "Cutting a Dash" discusses six different marks. In "The Tractable Apostrophe," and "That'll Do, Comma," Truss explains only those marks. But suppose you wanted to look up whether the commas following the chapter titles in the above sentence should go inside or outside the quotation marks? Should you consult Gordon's chapter on commas--or on quotation marks? In Truss's book you'd have to skim a fairly long chapter on commas, so it might be faster to use CHICAGO, which has a detailed index.

So why consider punctuation handbooks at all? Because despite over 900 pages of eyeball-



punishing text, CHICAGO and other comprehensive style manuals reflect a didactic consensus of what a group of editors consider *correct*. Handbooks of 150-200 pages not only feature a readable typeface, they explain what the marks mean and why they are important, making it easier to recall the information.

Gordon writes: “Virtuoso use of this motley collection [of punctuation marks] is as enhancing to your writing as a full-spectrum vocabulary and a snazzy grammar In writing, punctuation fills in for the clues we receive face to face.” She opens each chapter with a brief definition of one of those clues: “A comma is a delicate kink in time, a pause within a sentence, a chance to catch your breath. A curvaceous acrobat, it capers over the page.” Who knew punctuation could be sexy? Black and white line drawings swoon among the pages, too--damsels in togas, lace, bustles, or the buff. Examples are often risqué as well, such as this one illustrating the joining of two independent clauses (and their lovers): “He told her he belonged to another, yet his pajamas clung to her tights.”

Gordon further spices THE NEW WELL-TEMPERED SENTENCE with French, Greek and German words. Though usually familiar from literature and drama--dénouement, deus ex machina, wunderkind, etc., Gordon sometimes sacrifices clarity with over-long, if witty, erudition. Truss also employs racy examples, and uses British slang, usually deducible from the context. But whereas Gordon focuses on use, Truss emphasizes misuse as indicated by her subtitle: THE ZERO TOLERANCE APPROACH TO PUNCTUATION. She says the impetus for her book was “despair to see punctuation chucked out as worthless by people who don’t know the difference between *who*’s and *whose* and whose bloody automatic “grammar checker” can’t tell the difference either I saw a sign for “Book’s” with an apostrophe in it, and something deep inside me snapped.”

It is that passion that makes EATS, SHOOTS, & LEAVES a must-read. Both handbooks are excellent, but Lynne Truss offers not only a lesson in punctuation and its fascinating history, she illustrates what makes any book successful. Hers didn’t spend 25 weeks on the bestseller list and sell over three million copies (so far) because it’s the best punctuation manual ever written. No, this publishing phenomenon is due to the author’s zealous crusade to stop punctuation abuse. So to improve your current project, no matter the subject, add this powerful ingredient: UMBRAGE.

Laurie Thomas



Mystery Writers of America

The publishing business is experiencing massive changes and if MWA is to remain relevant, we have to change, too. That’s why we’ve revised our Approved Publisher criteria to make books published solely in e-book format or using print-on-demand eligible under certain conditions for MWA membership (and, perhaps later, for Edgar eligibility as well). Self-published books, whether they are published in print or as e-books, still do not qualify for MWA active membership.

To see the new MWA Publisher Guidelines, follow the link below:

<http://www.mysterywriters.org/?q=PublisherGuidelines>

AMAZON.COM E-BOOK CHARITABLE FUND RAISER

Early in June, Amazon will feature a new Kindle book that may be the first major e-book charitable fund-raiser.



Prompted by the disaster in northern Japan, **SHAKEN: STORIES FOR JAPAN**, is a collection of original, exclusive, Japan-themed short stories by some remarkable writers: Gar Anthony Haywood, Naomi Hirahara, Ken Kuhlken, Cara Black, Dianne Emley, Dale Furutani, Jeri Westerson, Gary Phillips, Kelli Stanley, Brett Battles, Robert Gregory Brown, Jeffrey Siger, IJ Parker, Wendy Hornsby, Vicki Doudera, Adrian McKinty, Debbi Mack, Meredith Cole, Rosemary Harris, CJ West, Hank Phillippi Ryan, Hong Kong film historian Stefan Hammond, and Edgar-nominated author Tim Hallinan, who is editing the collection.

One hundred percent of all writer royalties for this book will be paid directly into the bank account of Japan America Society of Southern California, which has already raised more than \$1 million for the relief effort.

This may well be the first time anyone has taken advantage of the rapid turnaround time possible on the Kindle and the monthly direct-deposit of royalty payments to raise money for a major charitable enterprise. This probably would not have been possible before the advent of the e-book. (It's exclusive to Amazon only because of their payment policies, which are prompt and automatic, freeing up money as it's needed, not at the end of various bookkeeping quarters.)

**WRITING SEMINAR
OPPORTUNITY –
Another SinOC Member Benefit!**

James Bell, organizer of **So What Does It Really Take to Sell Your Novel or Screenplay?** will be offering discounts to some select writing groups, like SinC chapters. For any three or more people from a group who sign up,

he'll knock \$50 off the price...for EACH person.

For more information, email him directly at:

jamesscottbell@gmail.com.

For more information about the seminars, go to:

http://web.mac.com/jamesscottbell/Site/The_Seminar.html.



MEMBER EVENTS

Please join **Patricia Wynn** at a launch party for her fourth Blue Satan mystery, **A KILLING FROST**, on Sat., July 9 at 2:00 p.m., at Mystery Ink Bookstore in Huntington Beach. If you have not been to Debbie's store yet, this is a chance to peruse her stock. The address is 7176 Edinger.

From the 405, exit Beach Blvd in Huntington Beach. Go west and turn right almost immediately onto Edinger Avenue. Pass the shopping mall on the right, pass the light at Gothard St. The very next light is GW College. Turn left on GW College into the strip mall that contains Toys R Us. Drive straight in to the back and Mystery Ink will be directly in front of you.

The Publisher's Weekly reviewer said, "Through close attention to authentic period detail, Wynn brings early 18th-century England to life."

D.P. LYLE has two events coming up as well:

Mysterious Galaxy Books, San Diego
Saturday, June 11, 2011, 2 p.m.
Signing of **HOT LIGHTS**, **COLD STEEL** and **ROYAL PAINS: FIRST, DO NO HARM**
7051 Claremont Mesa Blvd. Suite #302
San Diego, CA
[858-268-4747](tel:858-268-4747)



<http://www.mystgalaxy.com>

FURTHER ADVENTURES: Writing Novelizations and Media Tie-ins Panel with **William Rabkin, Lee Goldberg, Nathan Long, and Christa Faust**

(Moderator) An MWA sponsored event

Saturday June 18, 2011, 11:00 am

Sportsmen's Lodge

12833 Ventura Boulevard

Studio City 91604

[818-755-5000](tel:818-755-5000)

[http://www.sportsmenslodge.com/](http://www.sportsmenslodge.com)



MYSTERY INK EVENTS

Saturday, June 18, 3:00 p.m. - **Michael Robertson**

Author of THE BAKER STREET LETTERS ,

Michael Robertson will be discussing and signing his new novel, THE BROTHERS OF BAKER STREET.

Saturday, July 2. 1:00 p.m. - **Jan Burke**

Jan Burke will be discussing and signing her new novel, DISTURBANCE.

Saturday, July 9, 2:00 p.m. - Launch Party

Mystery Ink will be hosting **Patricia Wynn** for the debut of the fourth book in her Blue Satan Mystery Series, THE KILLING FROST.

Saturday, July 30, 11:15 - noon - **Gregg Hurwitz**

Gregg Hurwitz will be discussing and signing his latest novel, YOU'RE NEXT.

Mystery Ink Bookstore (across from Goldenwest College): 7176 Edinger Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92647, (714) 960-4000, www.mysteryink.com.

MEMBER NEWS

Patricia Wynn has been invited to appear at the Poisoned Pen Conference at the Biltmore Resort and Spa in Phoenix on June 24 and 25. On Friday at 3:00 p.m., she will be on the Historicon Panel hosted by Laurie R. King, and including authors Peter Lovesey, CS Harris and Laura Willig. On Saturday, she will have some kind of solo performance, TBA.

Also, in June, she will appear on the book page of Orange Coast Magazine in a feature story and book review of her July release, A KILLING FROST.

LINKS OF INTEREST

A social network of crime readers and writers:

<http://crimespace.ning.com/>

North American branch of the International Association of Crime Writers (IACW):

<http://www.crimewritersna.org/>. The IACW is based in England, and can be found at:

www.iacw.org.

[Please pass on any links you think that might be of special interest to our members to:

Ocsinc.newsletter@gmail.com]

PUBLICATION POSSIBILITIES

Kings River Life Magazine is a California online magazine. Due to our expanding mystery readership, we have created a special mystery section, Mysteryrat's Maze, and we are now accepting submissions of mystery short stories. Stories need to either be written by a California



author or set in California, and can be up to 2000 words in length.

This is a non-paying market, but every author will have the chance to include promo information with each story for whatever project/website they are currently promoting. A new issue goes up every Saturday. Visit: <http://KingsRiverLife.com>

Contact Lorie Ham, publisher, at: life@kingsriverlife.com

FROM NATIONAL

Recent News – Find out more about all these happenings at the Sisters in Crime website: <http://www.sistersincrime.org/>

- [The American Library Association Annual Conference](#) - June 23 - 28, 2011 - New Orleans: Sisters in Crime will host a booth, in the exhibit hall at ALA. Authors and Librarian SinC members are welcome to spend some time at the SinC booth. Reservations need to be made with Library Liaison, [Mary Boone](#). If you are attending ALA please stop by the SinC Booth and say hello. The booth number will be posted soon.
- Congratulations! You've just sold your first book. Then you get the big question: How do you plan to promote it? [Shameless Promotion for Brazen Hussies](#)

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS

June 11-12
California Crime Writer's Conference,
Pasadena, CA

For more information, go to:

<http://www.sistersinrimela.com/ccwc.htm>

September 15 - 18

Bouchercon 2011 - World Mystery Conference,
St. Louis, Mo

For more information, go to:

<http://www.bouchercon.info/>



Support your local SinC chapter. Buy a lovely mug at the next meeting, and bring your novels for our Sister Share!

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

If you have ideas about how this newsletter could be better, let us know. Also, if you have events coming up or announcements you want to make, or ideas for columns you'd like to share, let us know that too. We want to support our members in their literary endeavors and publicize their signings and achievements far and wide. Please send your contributions and suggestions to:

Ocsinc.newsletter@gmail.com.

The deadline for the newsletter is the 1st of each month!