



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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

*****Special Time for July Meeting*****

Date: **Sunday, July 15, 2012**

Time: **1:00 p.m.** (BUFFET LUNCH INCLUDED)

Please join us for our July meeting, which is a joint venture with the local chapter of Mystery Writers of America (MWA). Our speaker is **Jim White**, son of the legendary mystery writer, Anthony Boucher.

Leslie Klinger, past president of the SoCal MWA and noted Sherlock Holmes expert, will interview Jim on his life as Anthony Boucher's son. Following the interview, Jim will give a presentation on DNA.

Jim White received a BS in Criminalistics from UC Berkeley in 1964, where he studied under Dr. Paul Kirk. From 1964-1968 he worked for the

Laboratory of the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department where he developed an expertise in recovering bodies buried in the desert. From 1968 until his retirement, he was employed by the Forensic Science Services Laboratory of the Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department, where he specialized in Forensic Chemistry, Forensic Biology and Fiber Microscopy. He retired in 2002 as Assistant Director and Quality Manager of the laboratory. He received the department's Medal of Merit award, its highest civilian honor for gaining national Accreditation for the Laboratory and for solving a series of decade old sexual assaults (the "Flatland Basher" cases) through re-examination of evidence with DNA resulting in the county's first cold hit conviction.

While with the Sheriff's Department, he was forensic coordinator for two major serial killer investigations which led to the arrests and convictions of Bill Bonin (22 probable killings, convicted of 7) and Randy Kraft (80+ probable killings, convicted of 23). Jim is a Life Member of the California Association of Criminalists and received their Distinguished Member award.



Reminder from Gita: If you want to have a book raffle at each meeting, please bring your gently used mysteries to donate to the cause. We need to replenish our supply of books for the coming year. Thank you in advance and happy reading!





2012 MEETING CALENDAR

Due to complications related to booking our regular meeting room at the Irvine Ranch Water District, some of our meetings in 2012 will not be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Please be sure, therefore, to note the dates on your calendar. Also note that some of the meetings will be held at locations other than Irvine, including a couple in North Orange County. So be on the lookout for changes of venue!

Subsequent meetings will be held on Aug 26, Sept 23, Oct 28, Nov 11, and Dec 9 (Holiday party at Mystery Ink.)

True crime writer **Dennis McDougal** will be our speaker at the meeting on **Sunday, August 26th**.

McDougal has chronicled Hollywood, crime and the media for over 30 years. Most recently author of **THINGS HAVE CHANGED: A Biography of Music Legend Bob Dylan**, his previous books include **THE CANDLESTICKMAKER** and **FIVE EASY DECADES: How Jack Nicholson Became the Biggest Movie Star in Modern Times**.

Before he began covering movies and media for the Los Angeles Times in 1983 and, more recently, the New York Times, McDougal was a staff writer at the Riverside Press-Enterprise and the Long Beach Press-Telegram. A UCLA graduate, McDougal holds a Bachelor's in English and a Master's in Journalism. Over the years, he has won over 50 honors, including the National Headliners Award and several Associated Press awards.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi All,

Poisoned Pen Press has announced the winners of the First Annual Discover Mystery Contest. The finalists are: "Sloane's Last Dance" by Bill Butler; "In the Market for Murder" by Dawn Marie Ficherea; "Who Killed Julian Emery" by Susan Lumenello; "Mortgage to Death" by Bruce Rolfe.

The winner is "Human Pest Control" by Ronald Sharp. The prize is a thousand dollars, and publication in Poisoned Pen Press.

We had a fascinating guest at our Writer's Forum at the last meeting—Beth Black, from Toastmasters for writers. These are special interest Toastmasters groups, who help writers prepare for, hone, and practice an elevator speech (log line), and other presentations: interviews, radio, videos, presentations. To find out more, go to the web site. There are numerous meetings in Orange County. I couldn't find those specifically for writers, but if you go to a convenient meeting they will probably point you on the right direction. One of the most interesting things that she mentioned was a concept called Crowd Funding, that helps raise money for creative projects. Kick Starter is one of the web sites specifically for writers, and may be a good venue to presell your book. Check it out.

Our next meeting is the joint meeting with MWA, so we will meet at one pm for lunch, and then enjoy an hour and a half with Jim White, son of Anthony White (Boucher). Les Klinger will interview him. Jim White is a mystery author in his own right, and legendary expert retired investigator for OC sheriff's office.

See you on July 15.

Best, Aileen

AILEEN BARON



MEETING ROUNDUP

Last month, guest speaker Barry A. J. Fisher guided us through the amazing world of forensic science. The art of forensic detection first made its way onto the pages of novels with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*. Holmes was a master of observation, drawing conclusions from the most minute clues and evidence. The first American author to utilize forensic techniques in a novel was Mark Twain, who made use of fingerprint technology in *PUDD'NHEAD WILSON*. Public fascination with forensic science led to several television shows that dealt with the subject, beginning with *Dragnet* (which gave credit to actual forensic scientists by name) and *Quincy, M.E.* (based on real life medical examiner/coroner Thomas Noguchi.) More recently, shows such as *Bones* and all the incarnations of *CSI* feature the constantly evolving technology of forensic science.

The LAPD established the first crime lab in 1923. Over the years, many high profile cases have used advancements in forensic science to bring guilty parties to justice. For example, fibers found on the eyelid of one of the victims matched those from the "torture chair" in the home of one of the suspects in the Hillside Strangler case. An unusual shoe tread provided a valuable clue in the case of the Night Stalker, Richard Ramirez. Other pieces of evidence that helped convict criminals include chewing gum left at the scene that matched the killer's teeth marks, fingerprints on batteries inside a flashlight that was linked to a crime, the imprint of a watch on the hood of a car in a hit and run accident and facial hair caught in a victim's clothing.

Of course, the use of forensic evidence at trial can also backfire. In the O.J. Simpson murder trial, the jury was treated to endless hours of dry, dull testimony regarding DNA. In the end, the jury rejected that testimony in favor of defense attorney Johnny Cochran's clever quip, "If the glove doesn't fit, you must acquit."

Fisher's textbook, *TECHNIQUES OF CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION*, in its 8th edition, is a great resource for writers. He is a co-author of two other books, *FORENSICS DEMYSTIFIED* and *INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINALISTICS: THE FOUNDATION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE*.

THERESA SCHULTZ



EDITORS' COLUMN

If you stuck around for the Writer's Forum last month, you were treated to an informative presentation by OC Fictionaires member **Beth Black**. Beth Black is a novelist and freelance writer. She is a former staff writer for *Toastmasters International* and associate editor of the *Toastmaster* magazine, a monthly reaching more than a quarter million readers in 113 countries.

Beth stressed the importance of learning how to present ourselves with confidence, whether we are giving a speech, sitting on a writer's panel, reading from our work, or delivering an elevator pitch.

It has been said that most people fear public speaking more than death. While most of us may



not be that bad off, we could probably benefit from a refresher course in public speaking. There are several good programs that can help; Toastmasters is perhaps the most famous. You can visit any number of Toastmasters meeting until you find a group you like.

You will have the opportunity to give a short speech, which will be critiqued by the members. You will be given feedback on your presentation, including things like body language, eye contact, use of crutch words and those awkward pause fillers...er, um, you know. You can even choose to be videotaped (at most locations) so you can judge your performance for yourself.

You've spent a lot of time and effort in creating your book, so you'll want to present it to the world with as much confidence and poise as possible.

THERESA SCHULTZ



WORDSMITHING

CHAPTER SET-UPS

It's getting late; you have to get up early tomorrow. But you are so loving this book...just ten more minutes. There's a hiatus coming up, but—you flip the pages to see how far it is to the next chapter break.

Lucky for novelists, this scenario repeats night after night in households around the world: wee ones yawning, yet begging their parents for one more fairy tale; kids with flashlights or e-readers under their blankets devouring the adventures of Harry

Potter or the Twilight series; adults nodding off in their easy chairs, their latest favorite mystery about to slip from their lap.

The next night, readers who bookmarked at a hiatus can easily skim the preceding paragraph before plunging back into the tale. But confronted with a new chapter, the mind goes as blank as the top half of that page. That's why chapter openings need a more complete set-up than a hiatus, even if the time and place haven't changed.

Ideally, the opening of a chapter reminds how the previous one ended, clarifies character(s) and circumstances, sets the mood and foreshadows what's to come. Sometimes it reprises the character's main story goal or establishes the scene goal—or both. Unfortunately, in our hurry-up-and-cut-to-the-chase culture, too often novelists write something like: *The train was late and we were tired and dirty when we got to Rome.* Expedient, yes, but flat.

Andromeda Romano-Lax's *THE DETOUR*, is an insightful novel about a young German curator sent to Italy by the Third Reich to bring back an ancient Roman statue for Hitler. Here's how she opens Chapter 2:

The train stopped for an unexpectedly long time at Bolzano. It nearly lost heart altogether at Chiusi. It gathered for a final burst of effort before it delivered us, grimy and gritty from the trip, through the tight pelvis of girdling roads, and finally, with a squall of brakes and a sob of steam, into hectic Rome.

Though the unnamed train appears only in this 57-word paragraph, it immediately becomes a character striving to get its passengers to their destination. It must stop to rest, it nearly gives up, then fights its way through a strangling maze of traffic until, shrieking in triumph and crying with exhaustion, it



succeeds. It's "The Little Engine That Could" for adults.

But THE DETOUR is set in Fascist Italy in 1938, so Chapter 2's opening reflects the mood of Europe, the pace of Italy, the predicament of the protagonist, as well as foreshadowing the difficulties of his mission. Those active details pull us right back into the story, so we don't have to back up, but can read straightaway. And late on into the night...

LAURIE THOMAS



MEMBER NEWS

Jeri Westerson will be at the following locations:

Thursday, July 26, 1-3 pm — Author Panel, Aliso Creek Rd & Moulton at 24602 Aliso Creek Rd., Laguna Nigel, CA 92677 (949) 425-5151. You need to call to reserve your seat.

Saturday, July 28, 10 am to Noon — California Writers Club presentation. With medieval weapons! Ontario Public Library Ovitt Family Community Library 215 East "C" Street, Ontario, CA 91764 (909) 395-2004

D.P. Lyle has a new book release—**RUN TO GROUND**, a Dub Walker Thriller, coming August 7th from Oceanview.

Doug will be at the following locations in August:

RUN TO GROUND Launch Party
Mystery Ink Bookstore
Saturday, August 4, 2012, 2:00 p.m.
8907 Warner Ave. #135
Huntington Beach, CA

714-960-4000
<http://www.mysteryink.com>

Mysterious Galaxy, Redondo Beach, CA
Friday, August 17, 2012, 7:30 p.m.
2810 Artesia Blvd
Redondo Beach, CA
310-542-6000
<http://www.mystgalaxy.com>



MYSTERY INK NEWS

*****Mystery Ink Has Moved! *****

New Location:
Bridgecreek Plaza
8907 Warner Avenue, #135
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
[714 960-4000](http://714.960.4000)

Located on the NW corner of Magnolia and Warner in the back of the Plaza. www.mysteryink.com.

Saturday, July 7 - Eric Red - DON'T STAND SO CLOSE
Famed motion picture screenwriter and director Eric Red will be discussing and signing his first novel.

Wednesday, July 11, 4:00 p.m.
Jesse Kellerman, son of Faye Kellerman and Jonathan Kellerman talks about and signs his 5th novel, POTBOILER.

SATURDAY, JULY 28, MYSTERY INK NEW LOCATION PARTY!



Details of author signings forthcoming.

Saturday, August 4 - D.P. Lyle - Launch Party
Mystery Ink will be hosting OC SinC member Doug Lyle's Party for the third thriller in his Dub Walker series, RUN TO GROUND.



PUBLICATION POSSIBILITIES

Sisters in Crime/Los Angeles Announces Call for Submissions

Following the successful *Murder on Sunset Boulevard*, *LA* *marked for Murder* and *Murder in LA LA Land*, Sisters in Crime/LA announces a call for submissions for the next anthology:

LAST EXIT TO MURDER

Freeway shootings, Carmageddon, road rage, Sig alerts, drive-by shootings, driving one's car for only one block, car chases (high and low speed), death by vehicle, etc... Angelenos are known to love their cars, which makes car culture the perfect thematic proposal: "Short stories that capture with crime the essence of the car-centered culture in Los Angeles."

What we're looking for:

- 1) An original, unpublished story of 7,000 words maximum (stories cannot have been published anywhere, including personal websites).
- 2) Each story should contain a murder or crime.
- 3) The story should center on or call attention to the car-centered culture of L.A.
- 4) Stories may be contemporary or historical.
- 5) Stories may be in any subgenre (cozy, hardboiled, etc...).

- 6) To submit you must be a member in good standing of Sisters in Crime/Los Angeles (Orange County and Hawaii chapters also accepted) at the time of submission and for the 2012 calendar year.
- 7) Up to TWO story submissions per member allowed.

The Deadline for submission is **July 31, 2012**. We anticipate the publication of the anthology to be mid-year 2013, with proceeds from sales going to Sisters in Crime/Los Angeles.

Submission Guidelines: Please follow these submission guidelines when submitting your story. Failure to do so may result in your story not being considered for publication.

- 1) Submissions accepted by e-mail only.
- 2) Manuscripts should be WORD or Rich Text documents only, double-spaced and margins set to 1" on all sides. Indent the first line of each new paragraph by five spaces (one standard tab). Use a standard font like Courier or Times New Roman-12 pt. Underline words to be italicized.
- 3) Submissions are blind. Your name should appear only on the separate cover page. In the upper right corner of the cover page, single space your real name, address, phone number, e-mail, and word count. In the middle of the cover page type the title of your story in CAPS. Two lines down type "by" [your name here. Pen names okay]. DO NOT include your name on any page other than the cover page.
- 4) Begin your story on the next page one-third of the way down. Include the title in CAPS, but no author name. On each page, except title page, in the header's upper right corner, type [keyword from title] – [page #]. At the end of your story type END or ###.
- 5) Submitter understands that publication of submitted work is at the sole discretion of Sisters in Crime/Los Angeles.
- 6) E-mail your submission to: sinclasubmissions@gmail.com



UPCOMING CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, and EVENTS

The **2012 West Hollywood Book Fair** is approaching and we are looking forward to another successful and exciting festival!

If you are a published author and would like to participate in the fair, please follow the link and fill out a brief questionnaire for the 2012 West Hollywood Book Fair.

<https://docs.google.com/a/rarebirdlit.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dG5NV3ZocIE2TTZTZXhIWk2SkRVZ2c6MQ>

Please note that unfortunately we will have more limited space this year than in years past. Please submit your form no later than **July 15th**.

We look forward to hearing from you.

West Hollywood Book Fair Team



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 events coming up or announcements you want to make, let us know. Please send your contributions and suggestions to:

Ocsinc.newsletter@gmail.com.

The deadline is the 1st of each month!



ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  Orange County



SISTERS IN CRIME ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

Print and complete this form. **NOTE: YOU MUST ALSO JOIN SISTERS IN CRIME NATIONAL TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER.**

Send the completed form with both checks, \$40 payable to Sisters in Crime (National) and \$25 payable to Sisters in Crime, OC to:

Membership
Sisters in Crime, Orange County
P.O. Box 53132
Irvine, CA 92619-3132

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please print all information and list your name as you want it listed in the Membership Directory.

New Renewal Name: Address:

Day Phone:

Evening Phone:

Email: I am a (check all that apply):

Mystery Writer Published Unpublished

Writer in other fields Published Unpublished

Screenwriter
--Produced: Features TV/Cable Other

Reviewer Agent Bookseller Librarian Reader

I would like to help with (check all that apply):

Publicity Refreshments Speakers Raffle Other: