



ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  Orange County



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
15500 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, CA 92618

The meeting location is still at the Irvine Ranch Water District, but it's now in the Community Affairs meeting room on the northeast side of the parking lot. Here is a map of the location: [IRWD map](#).

For more information and directions, visit: www.ocsistersincrime.org

Following are the dates for the remaining OC SinC meetings in 2013. Please mark your calendars.

Aug. 25th – “Orange County Confidential” – See below for more information.

Sept. 15th – Come hear our speakers **Lisa Brackmann** and **Timothy Hallinan** and learn about the Asian locales featured in their mysteries.

Oct. 27th – Our speaker this month is **George Fong**, former FBI agent and currently ESPN Director of Security, Los Angeles Production Center

Nov. 24th – TBA

Dec. 15th – Holiday Party at Mystery Ink Bookstore



ORANGE HERRING
Sisters in Crime  Orange County



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month's joint meeting with MWA features famous crimes in Orange County, and I remember one of them vividly.

On the morning of July 12, 1976, Charles Allaway, a custodian at Cal State Fullerton, walked into the basement of the library armed with a .22 caliber automatic rifle and began shooting. He shot people in the library basement, in the Instructional Media Center, and then went upstairs and shot others waiting at the library checkout line.

I was teaching at Cal State Fullerton then, and had a nine o'clock appointment for that morning with a graphic artist in the basement of the library. The day before, my telephone line had been accidentally cut by a carpenter worker doing some kind of improvement in my house. AT and T promised to come out at seven o'clock on July 12 to repair it, and be finished by eight, so that I could make my appointment on time. I waited and waited. They finally showed up at ten and were finished by eleven. When I tried calling Cal State to apologize for missing the appointment, I couldn't get through. Before I could leave to apologize in person, my son came rushing into the house, said, "Thank God," and turned on the television. Seven people were killed that morning, and two wounded. One of the dead was the person standing next to the graphic artist that I had an appointment with. Allaway was declared insane and was committed to the state mental hospital system.

That should have been the end of it, but it wasn't. The person in charge at the Instructional Media Center was a strange man, probably suffering from Asperger's syndrome. He seemed timid, mumbled, never spoke to you directly, always turned his head when he spoke. On July 12, 1977, on the anniversary of the library massacre, he committed suicide by diving from the sixth story balcony of the Humanities building onto the quad. And every year, for the next five years, someone jumped on July 12.

I think there should be ghosts that haunt the campus. There have been suicides and murders, but no one talks about them now. There used to be a grove of trees on the quad in front of the library in memory of the July 12th massacre. I think it's gone now.

Best,

Aileen



UPCOMING MEETING

August 25th at 1:00 p.m. – **Orange County Confidential**, a joint meeting of OC Sisters in Crime and SoCal Mystery Writers of America, takes a look at the dark side of the county famed for its sunny tourism and theme parks. The meeting will include a buffet luncheon at 1:00 p.m., followed by our speakers at 1:30 p.m. The public is invited so spread the word.

Please R.S.V.P. for this event by contacting Debbie Mitsch – mysteryink@hotmail.com.

The topic is True Crimes of Orange County, and our guest speakers definitely know their way around crime blotters...

Larry Welborn, longtime court reporter for the Orange County Register, is an award winning investigative journalist. Along with giving us a drive-by of some of the O.C.'s most famous crimes, he'll take us through a cold case that led to his award-winning series, "Murder by Suicide?," about the mysterious death of a young Santa Ana woman. Her story so obsessed Welborn that he became one of the key players—an investigator—in this compelling whodunit.

Larry has been honored with two watchdog awards for investigative reporting from the Orange County Press Club. He is a past recipient of that organization's "Sky Dunlap Award" for career achievement. And he is the author of *Notorious OC*, an ebook published by the Register that chronicles the top 60 crimes in Orange County history.

Larry Montgomery is an investigator for the Orange County District Attorney's Office. Known for meticulous work, he's helped to close the book on cases like that of a missing Fullerton College co-ed—whose killer eluded arrest for nearly a decade—and the strange shooting death of a Newport Beach millionaire. No wonder *O.C. Weekly* says he is "arguably Orange County's most skilled law enforcement detective."

The meeting will be hosted by **Harley Jane Kozak**, Agatha, Macavity, and Anthony award winner for her debut novel, *Dating Dead Men*. A prolific author of short prose, she is an International Thriller Award nominee whose latest novel is the paranormal *Keeper of the Moon*. An actress, too, her credits include *Parenthood* and the creepy, crawly *Arachnophobia*.



ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  Orange County



MEETING ROUNDUP

To celebrate his 125th birthday, our forum was devoted to the life of the great Raymond Chandler. Aileen Baron, who led the discussion, commented on and passed around material she had printed from the internet. She also read the extraordinary first paragraph of his story, “The Red Wind.”

At age forty-four, after losing a job as a vice-president with an oil syndicate, Chandler began writing detective novels. He and Dashiell Hammett were the original founders of hard-boiled detective or “noir” stories which had an immense stylistic influence on American popular literature.

Chandler wrote eight novels, featuring his detective Phillip Marlow. Seven were published and most became movies. Along with short stories, magazines articles, screenplays, and letters, he wrote the famous essay, “The Simple Art of Writing.”

OC SinC members took turns remembering some favorite Chandlerisms, such as: “I hit myself in the head with the back of the floor,” and “She's dark and lovely and passionate, and very, very kind. And exclusive as a mailbox.”

Cynthia Weitz.

At 3:00, Jan Burke gave us an insider’s look at what goes into creating an anthology and her experience writing a story for *The Mystery Box*. The process begins with the selection of an editor, in this case best-selling author Brad Meltzer. He chose several authors to contribute to the anthology, the others were selected by blind submissions from Mystery Writers of America authors. Jan’s contribution, *The Amiable Miss Edith Montague*, was inspired in part by her research into the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848.

If you are interested in writing for an anthology, be sure to ask questions before you agree to contribute. Where will it be sold? Is it a local endeavor or will it have a broader audience? What are the guidelines?

According to Jan, short stories are making a big comeback. E-format readers are especially willing to give them a try. Now is a good time to consider submitting to one of the mystery magazines like Ellery Queen or Alfred Hitchcock. Both are open to submissions from unpublished and established writers.

Jan also shared some insight regarding story ideas. If you’re in a room with other people and something causes them all to react with an “ooh” or an “ah,” then there’s a story there, a shared interest. For longer works, always ask yourself, “Will this idea sustain a novel?” Also, avoid the “big story” of the day. Write your story.

Jan and D.P. Lyle are developing a forensics radio show aimed at writers and readers of crime fiction. It will begin sometime in September.



Theresa Schultz



MEMBER NEWS

From a Cop's Viewpoint: Investigations 101. A Writer's Guide to Creating Realistic Investigations, by member **M.A. Taylor** was recently released in e-book format through all major outlets. Visit M.A. Taylor's blog for writers with law enforcement questions at: <http://www.MATaylor1010.com>

Jill Amadio's article *The Sophomore Slump* appeared in the July 9th edition of Kings River Life. She interviewed series authors who struggled with their second book after their first one was a smash hit. SinC member Terri Nolan was among those she talked to, as was Dennis Palumbo. Jill's debut mystery, *Digging Too Deep*, featuring Cornish-cussing Tosca Trevant, will be published by Mainly Murder Press in paperback with a release date of December 1, 2013.

D. P. Lyle's third Dub Walker thriller, *Run To Ground*, has won the Benjamin Franklin Silver Award in the Best Mystery/Suspense Category. Also, Doug will be a Guest of Honor (along with Anne Perry) at Killer Nashville in August. Congratulations, Doug!

Hey sports fans. **Dmitri Ragano's** latest novel, *The Fugitive Grandma*, is now out in paperback. A crime thriller/black comedy/family drama about a boy and his grandma who rob big box retail stores for cash and medicine. Available on Amazon.

The Manipulator, a new ebook thriller by OC SinC member **Michael McQuade**, is now available on Amazon's Kindle, Apple devices, and other ebook readers. In *The Manipulator*, Nathan Foster uses a Congressman, a Mafia connection, and an Interpol agent to track down a terrorist group and a money laundering operation in an attempt to influence the Presidential election.



ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  Orange County



MYSTERY INK NEWS

Mystery Ink Bookstore, 8907 Warner Avenue, #135, Huntington Beach, (714) 960-4000
www.mysteryink.com. Coffee & Wi-Fi available.

Sunday, August 18, 5:00 p.m. - Ellen Crosby – *Multiple Exposure*

Best-selling author of the Virginia wine country mystery series, MULTIPLE EXPOSURE, is the first book in a new series that features photojournalist Sophie Medina who returns to Washington after living and working in London for many years. Ellen weaves together political intrigue, art history and international espionage in this fast-paced exciting new thriller.

Saturday, August 24th, 2:00 p.m. - Anne Cleeland - *Murder in Thrall*

A captivating new British mystery series following the perilous exploits of Scotland Yard detectives, Kathleen Doyle and Chief Inspector Acton.

Friday, August 30, 5:00 p.m. – Rhys Bowen – *Heirs and Graces*

New York Times bestseller and Agatha and Anthony award-winning author Rhys Bowen, creator of the atmospheric Molly Murphy mysteries, set in turn-of-the-century New York City and the Royal Spyness mysteries, sparkling British comedies featuring penniless minor royal Lady Georgiana in the 1930s will be talking about and signing her new Royal Spyness mystery, HEIRS AND GRACES.

Saturday, September 7, 11:00 a.m. - Gregg Hurwitz - *Tell No Lies*

Saturday, September 14, 2:00 p.m. - Brian Ritt

Signed Copies Now in Stock!

James Lee Burke – LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Janet Evanovich/Lee Goldberg – THE HEIST

Timothy Hallinan – CRASHED, LITTLE ELVISES, THE FEAR ARTIST

Lisa Brackmann – HOUR OF THE RAT

Dean Koontz – DEEPLY ODD



ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  Orange County



UPCOMING CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, and EVENTS

August 22-25, 2013 – Killer Nashville

8th Annual Killer Nashville Conference. For more information, visit www.KillerNashville.com

September 19-22, 2013 – Bouchercon 2013

Albany, NY, at the Empire State Plaza. For more information, follow this link: [Bouchercon 2013 | A New York State of Crime](#)

October 11-13, 2013 – The Big Orange Book Festival

Chapman University, Orange, CA. For more information, visit www.bigorangebookfestival.com



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



PLEASE CONTRIBUTE!

If you have events coming up or announcements you want to make, let me know. Please send your contributions and suggestions to: ocsinc.newsletter@gmail.com. **The deadline is the 7th 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:**