



ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  Orange County



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

Sunday, September 23, 2012

Writer's Forum at **2:00 p.m.** Topic - Reviews: Who does them, are they reliable, and what is a sock-puppet?

Speaker's Presentation at **3:00 p.m.** - Terri Nolan

Please join us for our September meeting, when past president, **Terri Nolan**, will present a program that will appeal to both writers and readers: "Backstory: Big Bang to Publication." She'll share what's she's learned on the journey from story seedling to full-grown novel. She'll also share an insider's view of the publishing industry.

Terri Nolan is California born and raised. She earned a B.A. in Radio/Television from the University of Texas at Arlington. She is a freelance crime reporter and her short fiction has appeared in the anthology Murder in La La Land. Terri's first novel, BURDEN OF TRUTH, will debut in January, 2012. Visit her at www.terrinnolan.com.



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!



MANY THANKS

After nearly two years as co-editor of the Orange Herring, Gayle Brunelle is stepping down. Her demanding schedule of teaching, writing, and publishing does not allow her the time needed to work on the newsletter. Thank you Gayle for all your hard work. I'll miss you!

THERESA SCHULTZ

2012 MEETING CALENDAR

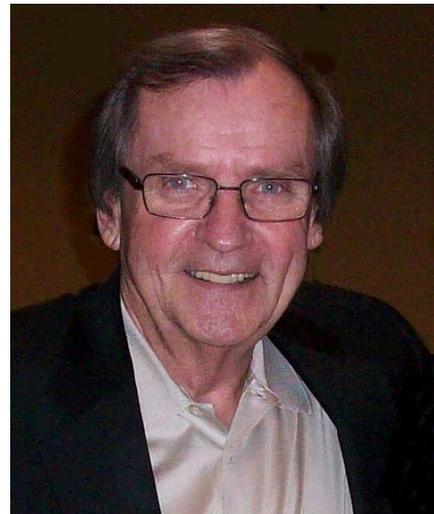
Due to complications related to booking our regular meeting room at the Irvine Ranch Water District, some of our meetings in 2012 will not be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Please be sure, therefore, to note the dates on your calendar. Also note that some of the meetings will be held at locations 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 Oct 28, Nov 11, and Dec 16 (Holiday party at Mystery Ink.)

***** Dec. 16th is a new date. *****

Please mark it on your calendars.

IN MEMORIUM



OC Sisters in Crime is saddened to report the death of mystery author Jeff Sherratt on August 19th. Jeff wrote the Jimmy O'Brien Mystery Series, set in southern California and featuring a criminal defense lawyer. He began writing after a career as an entrepreneur in the food industry, and approached writing and marketing with the same enthusiasm, often hand-selling his books at bookstores and author events. When his health began to decline, he marketed his books through Amazon, making their bestseller list for mysteries and thrillers, selling over 100,000 books. He left many friends at Sisters in Crime and will be missed.



MEETING ROUNDUP

At August’s meeting, we listened with rapt attention as award-winning author **Dennis McDougal** shared his thoughts on such diverse topics as serial killers, research and the internet, the decline of the newspaper industry, and the Roman Polanski affair. He spoke about the challenge of writing biographies about famously private people, people who are determined to control their public images and unwilling to cooperate with biographers.

A “recovering journalist,” Dennis worked for the Los Angeles Times for fifteen years as an investigative reporter focusing on movies, television, and pop music. His books include *THE CANDLESTICKMAKER* and *FIVE EASY DECADES: How Jack Nicholson Became the Biggest Movie Star in Modern Times*. His most recent project is *THINGS HAVE CHANGED: A Biography of Music Legend Bob Dylan*.

While working on the Dylan biography, Dennis became aware of a man claiming to be Dylan’s son. Getting nowhere with Bob Dylan’s representatives, McDougal feared the young man had hit a dead end—until a woman surfaced, claiming to be Bob Dylan’s daughter. The reason Dennis got into journalism in the first place was to get to the bottom of stories like this one. He figures if he is intrigued by something, other people will be too.

It’s that sense of discovery that drives him every day. That, and the desire to find out what makes a person embark on a certain path. What triggered Randy Kraft (*ANGEL OF DARKNESS*) to become one of the most prolific serial killers in our nation’s history? What caused Theresa Cross Knorr to enlist

the help of her sons in killing two of her daughters? How did Jack Nicholson and Bob Dylan rise from humble beginnings to international fame and fortune?

While he thinks the internet is a fine place to begin one’s research, he cautions against pulling too much information from other writers. “Retelling a story is not reporting; it’s one step above plagiarism.” Whenever possible, he believes a writer should visit the place his story is set, take in the sights, the sounds, and smells of the place. And talking to a source is so much better than just copying quotes from the internet. Often, when conversing with a source, a writer will get a factoid or lead he wouldn’t have gotten otherwise.

Like Bob Dylan, Dennis works in “splendid isolation” in his home in Tennessee. His next project is a biography about Tom Girardi, the well-known attorney (played by Peter Coyote in the movie *Eric Brockovich*) who argued and won a landmark case against PG&E. Unlike his previous projects, this time his subject is cooperating. 😊

THERESA SCHULTZ



WORDSMITHING

BORROWING TROUBLE

The study of poetry—even for those who don't wish to write it—invariably improves prose. Merely reading good poetry sharpens all the senses and heightens awareness of connections that can



manipulate time. Poet Regina O'Melveny repeatedly shows just how much mileage a few words of prose can cover, in her debut novel, *THE BOOK OF MADNESS AND CURES*.

In sixteenth-century Venice, Gabriella Mondini's father teaches her his trade: medical doctor. With his mentorship she's been accepted into the physician's guild, but when he doesn't return from a long trip to research his book on diseases, the guild bars Gabriella from practicing medicine. Here's the outset of her journey across Europe in search of her father:

The fields on the road to Padua shimmered with ripening millet, and an army of cicadas steadily drilled the air. As a curious little girl I'd once brought my father a handful of perfectly split cicada husks and asked what happened to their bodies. Did they turn into small scorched spirits? Did the spirits then chafe the air in heaven? My father had smiled at these questions. *Gabriella*, he teased, *they sing until they burst!*

We approached Margera in the gondola after little more than an hour, just as the midday bells began to ring out.

The memory reveals both characters. Gabriella's father doesn't tell her the truth—that the husks are the result of molting—but instead paints a picture of deliriously happy insects. This glimpse of her cheerful, loving father creates empathy for Gabriella's quest to find him. And when the cicadas' song first triggers the recollection, we see her own early penchant for scientific enquiry. It's imbued with her religious upbringing, which is echoed in the pealing of the church bells that reestablish the present journey and time of day. No hiatus, no "Her thoughts wandered back to...." Just two seamless transitions signaled by sound.

The cicadas function as symbols, as well. Used for both food and medicine, the insects connect with

Gabriella's profession as physician and herbalist. They connect, too, with the story. Cicadas spend most of their lives underground eating roots, molting several times before emerging into the light, then singing until they mate and die. Historically, they've represented many things, including cleverness—eluding danger by molting—and the numerous stages of transformation needed to attain knowledge. These foreshadow several disguises Gabriella will use to escape danger, the insight she'll gain during her journey, and what she will find at the end of it.

I'd say that's wringing an anthology's worth of meaning out of 96 words. As former U.S. poet laureate Billy Collins observed, "Poets are people who have trouble saying one thing at a time." Exactly the kind of trouble a novelist ought to borrow.

LAURIE THOMAS



MYSTERY INK NEWS

Now Located at:

Bridgescreek Plaza
8907 Warner Avenue, #135
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
[714 960-4000](tel:7149604000)

In Store Events:



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Sunday, September 16th, 2:00 p.m. – Wendy Hornsby

Wendy Hornsby will be discussing and signing her latest crime novel, *THE HANGING*.

Hornsby is the Edgar Award-winning creator of the Maggie MacGowen series. A native of Southern California, she first found professional success in fourth grade when an essay about summer camp won a local contest. Her first novel, *NO HARM*, was published in 1987, but it wasn't until 1992 that Hornsby introduced her most famous character: Maggie MacGowen, documentarian and amateur sleuth.

In Edgar Award winning author **Hornsby's** new novel, *THE HANGING*, "Hornsby's well constructed eighth Maggie MacGowen mystery...offers a nuanced glimpse of campus life in the budget-crisis era, a plot with a nicely topical twist, and a cast of smart, appealing characters. Readers will cheer Maggie on as both new romance and fresh career opportunities beckon." – Publishers Weekly

Contact us to order your Personalized Signed Copies of Michael Connelly's new novel, *THE BLACK BOX*. (714) 960-4000
www.events@mysteryink.com

Outside Events:

Friday & Saturday, September 21st – 22nd – Big Orange Book Festival

Chapman University will be holding its First Annual Book Festival on their campus in Orange. Mystery Ink with O.C. Sisters in Crime will be holding their author's signings at their booth at the Festival. Check this out! Free to the public!
www.bigorangebookfestival.com.

Sunday, September 23rd, 2:00 p.m. – Fullerton Library presents Luis J. Rodriguez
Rodriguez has emerged as one of the leading Chicano writers in the country with fifteen published books of memoir, fiction, nonfiction, children's literature, and poetry.
www.fullertonlibrary.org.

Sunday, September 30th, West Hollywood Book Fair – www.westhollywoodbookfair.org
L.A. Sisters in Crime Author Signing Booth - Books to be sold by Mystery Ink.

Mystery Ink Bookstore - Bridgecreek Plaza

8907 Warner Avenue, #135
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
714 960-4000
www.mysteryink@hotmail.com



UPCOMING CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, and EVENTS

Big Orange Book Festival SEPT. 21-22, 2012

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY- ORANGE, CA
Hundreds of great books, discussion panels with accomplished writers, live entertainment, delicious food and welcoming neighbors under a perfect California sky sounds like a book lover's dream. In



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the case of the Big Orange Book Festival, it's a dream come true. This two-day fest will celebrate every facet of the written word whether it makes you cry, think or laugh out loud. The Big Orange Book Festival is held in the heart of Orange County on Chapman University's beautiful campus right next to the historic Circle of Orange.

So come join your fellow book lovers as we celebrate literature and the impact it has had on pop culture in television, movies and comics. We have bestselling authors, steampunk legends, film icons and mystery and horror connoisseurs to name a few, but please browse around yourself to see all the exciting events and genres represented at this year's festival.

Stop by the Mystery Ink/OC SinC booth and see some of your favorite O.C. SinC writers. More information at: www.bigorangebookfestival.com.



Sisters in Crime/Los Angeles and SoCal Mystery Writers of America welcome both members and non-members to the 2013 California Crime Writers Conference for a weekend of workshops geared to the needs of both emerging and established mystery writers.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Sue Grafton and Elizabeth George

AGENDA

- Two days of workshops and breakout sessions
- Four tracks for writers: Business, Craft, Crime, Nuts & Bolts
- Agent & Editor cocktail party
- First Five Pages-manuscript critiques
- Live Auction and Raffle
- Noir Movie Night

WHEN **June 22-23, 2013**

WHERE **Hilton Pasadena**

168 S. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Established in 2009, CCWC is a biennial writers conference dedicated to education and support.

For more information, visit

www.cwconference.org

ABOUT SINC/ LOS ANGELES

Sisters in Crime (SinC) is an international organization dedicated to supporting writers in the mystery genre. The Los Angeles Chapter (SinC/LA) was founded in 1989 and is a non-profit organization. For more information, visit

<http://sistersinrimela.com/>

ABOUT MWA/SO CAL

Mystery Writers of America, Inc. (MWA) was established in 1945 for the purpose of promoting and protecting the interests and welfare of mystery writers and to increase the esteem and literary recognition given to the genre. The Southern California (SoCal) Chapter of MWA covers members in California and Nevada below the 36th parallel, as well as all of Arizona and Hawaii.

For more information on MWA/SoCal, visit

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



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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!



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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: