



## ***PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE***

It’s October, the fall. My favorite time of year. It’s also getting mighty close to our chapter elections and I’m here to beg you again to put forth your name to participate in our chapter. We are still in need of secretary and treasurer candidates. This chapter is only as viable as the people in it. If you wish to continue enjoying the speakers we gather, the presentations we offer, the new exciting events like our Forensics Fest returning this January and February, then we truly need YOU to help us make this happen. The benefits to having our own chapter are enormous.

Plans for next year include as I said above, our second annual Forensics Fest, but we’ve also planned a few future chapter meetings of author and expert panels to be held in Orange County libraries to foster more interest in our chapter; exciting speakers; and a few surprises.

Sisters in Crime (SinC) is an international organization founded in 1986 to promote the professional development and advancement of women writing crime fiction.

Today, SinC is made up of more than 3,000 members in 48 chapters worldwide — authors, readers, publishers, agents, booksellers, librarians, and others who love mysteries. Our mission is to promote the professional development and the advancement of women crime writers to achieve equality in the industry! But as you know, our “Misters in Crime” benefit as well. National enumerates all kinds of helpful information and resources (that are being presented bit by bit in our newsletters) and our chapter alone offers the chance for writers to come face to face to discuss whatever challenges they are facing getting published in this new book publishing world paradigm. And even if you are not a writer and just enjoy mysteries and the camaraderie of our meetings, surely you realize that these events don’t just happen. They are put

together behind the scenes by our chapter volunteers.

Please consider stepping forward into these roles. No one will let you founder by yourself. And believe me, none of it is that hard to do. Please email [secretary@ocsistersincrime.org](mailto:secretary@ocsistersincrime.org) to put your name into the hat or ask one of our board members at the next meeting.

I would poke you and prod you personally but I won’t be at the October meeting. I’ll be on my book tour. I hope to see you all at my book launch on Oct 15. If I don’t see you then, I will certainly see you at November’s meeting.



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](http://www.ocsistersincrime.org)



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### October 16, 2011

**2:00 PM:** Writer's Forum: Historical Detectives and Historical Detecting - Real and Imagined.

**3:00 PM:** OC SinC member and newsletter co-editor **Gayle Brunelle** has offered to pinch hit this month for Dennis McDougal, who had to cancel due to illness. Gayle K. Brunelle, Ph.D. is a Professor of History at California State University, Fullerton. Gayle and co-author Annette Finley-Croswhite recently traveled to France to research the sequel to their mystery, *MURDER IN THE METRO*. She will be speaking about the following topic: "On the Trail of a Very Cold Case - Researching Historical True Crime."

### November 20, 2011

#### \*\* Special Time \*\*

**2:30 PM:** We'll celebrate the 25th anniversary of Sisters in Crime with cake, followed by the election of board members for next year. Sisters in Crime members **Patricia Wynn, Gayle Brunelle, Jack Martin, Jeri Westerson, and D. P. Lyle** will read from their new releases, followed by a panel discussion.

### December 11, 2011

#### \*\* Special Time and Location \*\*

Holiday Party: at Mystery Ink bookstore



## EDITORS' COLUMN

I've always been intrigued by the romantic image of the reclusive writer, locked away in her library, content to stay at home and churn out book after book, dreaming up clever plots for her heroine, never venturing out to mingle with everyday folk.

But getting out of the house and making connections with people in the writing world has never been so important. Not only do you gain support from fellow writers, but you make important connections with agents and editors too.

There are many ways to get out there: attend a writer's conference or retreat, join a critique group, find an open mike night at a local coffee house, come to a Sisters in Crime meeting.

This summer I attended two conferences: the Crime Writer's Conference in Pasadena (for my adult mystery) and the annual west coast conference for SCBWI, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (for my middle grade novels.) At each conference, I met wonderful writers and attended helpful workshops on both craft and the business of writing.

At the SCBWI conference, I learned the meaning of serendipity, when I happened to sit next to a woman who acquires books for the Getty Villa bookshop. While I had nothing to offer her in the realm of antiquities, I told her about my book and got a thumbs up on my pitch. The next day, I sat next to the author of an award-winning picture book series. When I asked about her journey to publication, she told me that, frustrated with the reception her work was getting, she and her husband had started their own publishing company. I gave her my pitch and was asked to query her when I had finished the book.

At lunch, I overheard the woman in front of me



talking about my home town. It turns out we live within half a mile of each other, and she clued me into a monthly meeting of children’s writers right here in my own back yard. That led to membership in a wonderful new critique group dedicated to writing for children.

This weekend, I will attend Editor’s Day at Cal State Fullerton. I know I will have a wonderful time, simply by virtue of being in the same auditorium with so many writers. And, who knows? I may just meet my future agent or editor.

It pays to get out of the house once in awhile.



Theresa Schultz



### MEETING ROUNDUP

Sex and dating were the hot topics at September’s meeting. Our guest speaker was OC SinC Member at Large Aileen Baron, who taught for twenty years in the Department of Anthropology at California State University, Fullerton. The subject was *Archaeology for Writers*, and Aileen talked about radiocarbon-dating and methods for determining the sex of skeletal remains, both of which proved to be fascinating topics.

Radiocarbon dating is the best technique for dating organic material of any type, but calibration is key. Sex can be determined by the configuration of the pelvis and the pelvic basin, using a ‘rule of thumb’

measurement of the sciatic notch. A broader curvature indicates a female. The skull cannot be used to determine sex, unless the skull contains a very prominent supra-orbital ridge—think Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Age can be determined by studying bone development, tooth decay and osteoarthritis. Tooth enamel is influenced by the type of drinking water and foods consumed and can help archeologists identify the region in which a person grew up.

Aileen also discussed trickery and deceit in the antiquities trade. Many methods are employed by archeologists for detecting forgeries. The lost wax method is used effectively for gold and bronze sculpture. Thermoluminescence is used for dating the manufacture of bronze and pottery. X-ray fluorescence is a non-destructive technique for analyzing the elemental composition of glass, obsidian, pottery, pigments and metals; it is often used to identify forged paintings and counterfeit coins. Finally, neutron activation analysis can ‘fingerprint’ the source of a sample by comparing concentrations of trace elements. It is used on pottery, glasses and metals.

Of course, if you want a quick, easy and far less scientific method for determining whether something is old or new...lick it. That’s right. If it’s old, your tongue will stick to it. If it’s new, it will be slick and your tongue will slide right off!

Aileen Baron is the author of *A FLY HAS A HUNDRED EYES*, *THE TORCH OF TANGIERS*, *THE GOLD OF THRACE* and, most recently, *THE SCORPION’S BITE*. To learn more about Aileen Baron and her mysteries, visit her website, <http://www.aileengbaron.com/>.



Theresa Schultz



## ***THE WRITER'S BOOKSHELF***

My thanks to writer JoAnne Mansell for sending me the August, 2011 online WRITER'S DIGEST article, "How to Raise Your Characters above the Status Quo," by novelist Steven James. In it he writes: "In daily life *all of us* are constantly adjusting and negotiating the amount of status we portray as we face different situations and interact with different people." (Italics mine.) He then lists various actions he believes indicate status, such as, "Submissive people apologize and agree more than dominant ones." He maintains that showing shifting status is the key to character depth and complexity. I submit it's the key to producing trite female protagonists emulating formulaic macho males--like plopping antlers on women's heads and having them butt bonnets.

Instead, to create true-to-life characters, study the classic, **YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND: WOMEN AND MEN IN CONVERSATION**, by Deborah Tannen, Ph.D. ISBN: 0-345-37205-0. A linguist, Dr. Tannen explains why and how gender affects language and perception. Though she agrees that most meaning is supplied by the listener--what we novelists call subtext--she also illustrates how males and females grow up in two different worlds where the same words can have dissimilar, even opposite, meanings. This phenomenon, known as "genderlect," results because boys are raised as

"individuals in a hierarchical social order in which they are either one-up or one-down." Conversely, girls are taught to be "individuals in a network of connections." So for men, "conversations are negotiations . . . to achieve the upper hand," whereas for women, "conversations are negotiations for closeness in which people try to seek and give confirmation and support." Of course both sexes seek a mix of independence and intimacy, but men tend to focus on winning and women tend to focus on cooperation. When writing, especially dialogue, authors need to decide which objective each character—regardless of gender—is concerned with at any given moment, how misconceptions might occur, then use that knowledge to escalate or mitigate story conflict.

As James's article inadvertently reveals, men concentrating on their own status and image frequently misinterpret a woman who agrees with them: what she feels is an attempt at closeness, he sees as insecurity or indecision and is likely to ignore or criticize her. Though the medieval stocks, gags, and dunking stools once used to punish women for talking are gone from American society, the ingrained belief that women talk and interrupt more than men remains, though both ideas have been repeatedly disproven. Women, too, may misconstrue what men say, and the conversational styles of both sexes have been unfairly stereotyped.

Dr. Tannen writes for scholars and lay readers alike; in clear, vivid prose, she debunks numerous clichés, offering a wealth of wit and insight for novelists to devise distinctive genderlect: dialogue, subtext and enlightening interior monologues, in turn, creating original characters, some of whom know that polite people unafraid to admit their mistakes and focused on the person they're talking to, apologize and agree more frequently than status-seeking people focused on themselves.

Laurie Thomas



## MEMBER NEWS

HUNTING THE WOLFPACK is a new novel by member **Michael McQuade**. It is an ebook and available on Amazon's Kindle, Barnes & Noble's Nook, all Apple devices, Smashwords, and other ebook readers, as well as an Iphone. The story begins at the close of World War II and tracks the escape of top Nazi war criminals, who flee to South America. Mark Shelden is the protagonist that attempts to bring them to justice.

**Jack Martin** is pleased to announce that Fireship Press has just published the third of his Alphonso Clay Civil War mysteries, MARCHING THROUGH GEORGIA. This tale continues the adventures of the Union sleuth that began in JOHN BROWN'S BODY and continued in BATTLE CRY OF FREEDOM. MARCHING THROUGH GEORGIA can be obtained through Amazon.com at [http://www.amazon.com/Marching-Through-Georgia-Alphonso-Mystery/dp/1611791731/ref=pd\\_rhf\\_p\\_t\\_3](http://www.amazon.com/Marching-Through-Georgia-Alphonso-Mystery/dp/1611791731/ref=pd_rhf_p_t_3) either in paperback or kindle.



## 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>



## 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](mailto:jamesscottbell@gmail.com). For more information about the seminars, go to: [http://web.mac.com/jamesscottbell/Site/The\\_Seminar.html](http://web.mac.com/jamesscottbell/Site/The_Seminar.html).

## MEMBER EVENTS

Our President **Jeri Westerson** will be promoting her new book TROUBLED BONES at the following locations:

**Sat., October 15, 2011 at Noon** – Mysteries to Die For Bookstore, 2940 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks, CA

**5:00 p.m.** – Launch Party at Vroman's bookstore, 695 E Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, CA

**Sun., October 16, 2011 at 1 p.m.**, Book Carnival



Bookstore, 348 South Tustin Street, Orange, CA

**Thurs., Oct 20, 7 p.m.**, Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA

**Sat., Oct 22, 2 p.m.** – Well Red Coyote 3190 W State Route 89A # 400 Sedona, AZ. Jeri will be giving a How to Research seminar.

**Sun., Oct 23, 2 p.m.**– Poisoned Pen Bookstore, 4014 N Goldwater Blvd # 101, Scottsdale, AZ

**Mon., Oct 24, 2 p.m.** – Velma Teague Library, talk and signing with...wait for it...medieval weapons.

**Sat., Oct 29, 4:30 p.m.** – Murder by the Book Bookstore, 2342 Bissonnet Street, Houston, TX

**Sun., Oct 30, 7 p.m.** – BookPeople, 603 North Lamar Boulevard, Austin, TX

Member and Newsletter Co-Editor **Gayle K. Brunelle** will be speaking at the California State University Emeriti Luncheon on **Thurs., November 4<sup>th</sup> at noon**, location to be announced.



## ***MYSTERY INK EVENTS***

### **Outside Events:**

**Wed., October 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.** – Rancho Santa Margarita Library  
O.C. SinC Board Member, **D. P. Lyle**, M.D., award-winning author and forensics expert, will read from his new medical thriller, **HOT LIGHTS, COLD STEEL**.

**Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 11:00-2:00 p.m.** – Luncheon Most Deadly

AAUW fundraiser for Fellowships, Research and Project Grants – with speakers: O.C. SinC Board Member, **Aileen Baron** along with **Dorothy Howell** and **Bob Hamer**. RSVP: 562-493-4749, [www.aauw-longbeach.org](http://www.aauw-longbeach.org).

### **In-Store Events:**

**Saturday, October 29, 2:00 p.m.** – **Marcos Villatoro** discusses and signs **BLOOD DAUGHTERS**. Emmy Award winner and author of the Romilia Chacon thrillers, Villartoro’s latest thriller has FBI Agent Romilia Chacón, a Salvadoran American, investigating a child’s death on the border between California and Mexico. Following this case leads her into a world that swallows her in with its horror and leads her deeper into her own troubles.

### **Now in stock for a limited time:**

**Sue Grafton** 1st edition signed books – personally inscribed to her friend Kate – B is for Burgler, C is for Corpse, D is for Deadbeat, H is for Homicide, I is for Innocent, J is for Judgment.

Plus 1st edition signed only – J is for Judgment, L is for Lawless, M is for Malice.

Please call the store for pricing.

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

## ***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](http://www.iacw.org).

[Please pass on any links you think that might be of special interest to our members to: [Ocsinc.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Ocsinc.newsletter@gmail.com)]

## ***PUBLICATION POSSIBILITIES***

**Joseph Pittman** was editor at Penguin and then Alyson Books and is now the editorial director at **VANTAGE POINT BOOKS**, a brand new advance and royalty paying imprint of the vanity press Vantage Press.

Here's what he says:

"Vantage Press is now a hybrid house—part self-publishing, part small press. Books published under the Vantage Press imprint are the self-published title, where authors pay to have their books published. Vantage Point Books is a brand new commercial imprint, where authors are paid advances and royalties, just like any other publisher. A new owner bought Vantage two years ago and he immediately started making changes, one of them the launch of Point. He hired me a year ago to run the new line as its Editorial Director. The major difference is that the Vantage Point titles have sales support, via Ingram Publisher Services. We have nationwide distribution, professionally done covers, interiors; we have a full-time publicist on staff to assist authors in the promotion of their titles. Vantage Press continues to actively promote the self-publishing side of the business; they can publish as many books as they can sign up.

The Vantage Point Books website is going through an overhaul. But we are on Facebook, where we

promote our titles. We publish 30 titles a year, a mix of nonfiction and fiction in all categories."

You can query him at [jpittman@vantagepress.com](mailto:jpittman@vantagepress.com).

**BOOK COUNTRY** is a website dedicated to genre fiction readers and writers. Here is how the site's creators describe their service:

"Focused on romance, fantasy, sci-fi and crime fiction, Book Country is designed to help new authors hone their craft and obtain useful feedback on works in progress from readers and fellow writers. The site offers agents and editors a place to discover new talent.

For more information, visit their website at [www.BookCountry.com](http://www.BookCountry.com).

**KINGS RIVER LIFE MAGAZINE** offers another publication possibility. Its owners describe it thusly: "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." For more information, Visit: <http://KingsRiverLife.com> or Contact Lorie Ham, publisher, at: [life@kingsriverlife.com](mailto:life@kingsriverlife.com).

## ***FROM NATIONAL***

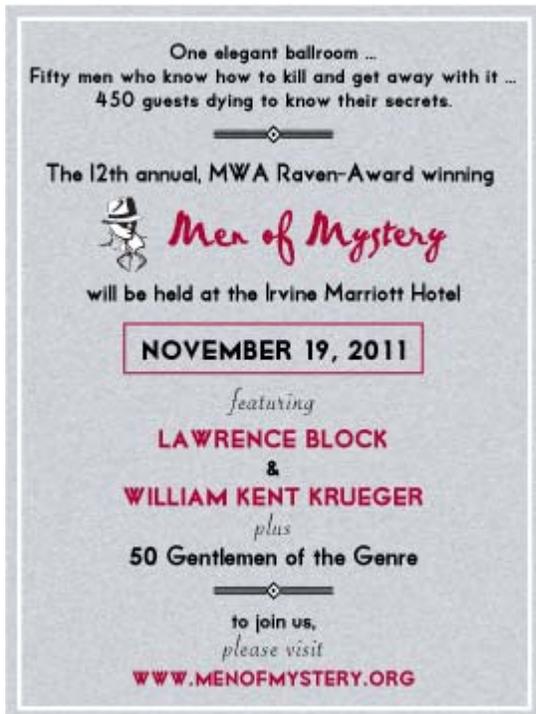
**Recent News – Find out more about all these happenings at the Sisters in Crime website:**  
<http://www.sistersincrime.org/>



- 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



### September 15th through November 15<sup>th</sup> – Malice Domestic

Greetings from Malice!  
 Every year, Malice Domestic awards two grants to unpublished writers to help support their writing careers. The winners are awarded \$1500 as well as a paid registration for the following year's

convention and two nights lodging. Submissions will be accepted from **September 15th through November 15th only!**

For more information about the William F Deek-Malice Domestic Grant Program including submission instructions and guidelines, click here: <http://malicedomestic.org/grants.html>

Thanks to everyone who has registered for Malice Domestic 24 so far. If you haven't yet, registration is open on our website as well.

**November 4-6, 2011**, the La Jolla Writers Conference will be kicking off its second decade at Paradise Point Resort & Spa on the water in San Diego. Visit [www.lajollawritersconference.com](http://www.lajollawritersconference.com).

Keynotes – who will also teach classes:

Jan Burke

Andrew Gross

Raymond Feist

Since its beginning, this has been a pay-it-forward conference. Everyone, from organizers (us) to keynotes to faculty donates their time so we can keep the cost to a minimum (early-birds sign up at \$295 for three days with three keynote meals included).

We choose our faculty for their knowledge, their ability to share that knowledge effectively, and their generosity in doing so. And from Michael Connelly to Stephen J. Cannell, from Lisa Jackson to Lisa Gardner to Tess Gerritsen (returning in 2012) to James Rollins, and all the rest, they have done so.

Covering the art, craft, and business of writing, it is a great conference, and we would love your members and individual chapters to know about it. Please check out [www.lajollawritersconference.com](http://www.lajollawritersconference.com) and contact me at [858-467-1978](tel:858-467-1978) or by email with any questions you might have.



# ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  Orange County

---



**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](mailto:Ocsinc.newsletter@gmail.com).

**The deadline is the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month!**