



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. For directions, visit: www.ocsistersincrime.org. ([IRWD map](#))

**“IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT
NEITHER SUPPORTS NOR ENDORSES THE CAUSE
NOR ACTIVITIES OF ORGANIZATIONS
WHICH USE THE DISTRICT’S MEETING
ROOMS THAT ARE MADE AVAILABLE
AS A PUBLIC SERVICE”**

Following are the dates for the remaining OC SinC meetings in 2013.

Oct. 27th – **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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Halloween.

October is the month of Halloween, our annual holiday of delicious, bloodcurdling fun. Television is rife with horror films and scary stories and stores are awash with Halloween paraphernalia, pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns, costumes and candy treats, pumpkins to carve and plastic skeletons and candy corn. And that's not all. There is trick or treat to come.

When I was a child on Long Island in New York, it was all trick and no treat—soaping windows, tugging the neighbor's lawn furniture all the way to their the roofs, mixing up street signs. No costumes. On Halloween, we wore our clothes inside- out to school, and whacked each other with socks filled with flour until we were white as ghosts. On Thanksgiving, not Halloween, we dressed as rag-a-muffins and went door to door asking for a penny for the poor man, while our parents prepared the feast.

I first heard of Trick or Treat when my husband went to graduate school in Syracuse after the war (that's WWII, if you must know). Some parents and costumed children knocked on the door, shouting "Trick or treat." We didn't know what they were talking about, but we packed raisins and nuts in wax paper and handed the packages out.

Halloween is a Scottish contraction of All Hallow's Eve, the night before All Hallow's Day, the medieval mass day for all saints. It is no longer connected to religion and the American version is now celebrated throughout the world. The holiday seems to have originated in Scotland and Ireland. The customs are derived from the Celtic festival of Samhain, which is Old Irish for the end of summer, the end of the harvest season and the beginning of the darker and forbidding season of winter. The costumes and masks (known as guising) were part of the ancient tradition, when costumed people went from house to house in disguise reciting songs in exchange for food, granting the householders good fortune for the year. Bonfires were lit, and the mummers carried lanterns made from hollowed out turnips to frighten away the evil spirits of the supernatural beings who wandered abroad this dangerous night.

Halloween came late to America. The holiday is not found in the almanacs of the 18th and early 19th century. The Puritans were against it, although the Headless Horseman rode in the Hudson Valley, and tossed his pumpkin head at Ichabod Crane. Halloween didn't become part of American tradition until the Irish and Scotsmen arrived en masse in the 19th century, substituted the pumpkin for the turnip in the jack-o-lantern, and added apple bobbing and other furbelows.

And now look.

Best,
Aileen



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UPCOMING MEETING

Sunday, October 27: The meeting will begin at **2 p.m.** with the Readers' Forum. Our topic—paranormal mysteries. Just in time for Halloween.

At **3 p.m.**, our guest speaker will be **George Fong**, former FBI agent, and current ESPN Director of Security, L.A. Productions Center. Fong spent 27 years as a Special Agent with the FBI, working white collar, gangs, bank robberies, drug trafficking, kidnappings, serial killers, and other violent crimes. He'll discuss the compelling case of serial killer Cary Stayner—now on Death Row for the brutal murders of four women in the Yosemite area.



MEETING ROUNDUP



Lisa Brackmann and **Timothy Hallinan**, guest speakers at the Sisters in Crime (OC chapter) meeting in September, began by introducing each other's books and writing styles.

Brackmann views Hallinan's Poke Rafferty books as character-driven suspense novels. They are stories about a travel writer and two other lost souls looking for a place they can call home. She was especially impressed by a section in *THE FEAR ARTIST* where he, as a male, wrote "a credible version of a Thai village woman's inner thoughts."

Hallinan touted Brackmann's protagonist, Ellie McEnroe, as a very convincing, tough and capable woman. He says Brackmann writes "the actual landscape of China today as no other author can do."

"I have a 'Yellow Heart'," Hallinan confessed. "I live half of my time here and half in Thailand."



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Brackmann admits her novels (ROCK PAPER TIGER and HOUR OF THE RAT) are more Suspense than Mystery. The format "gives me a framework to deal with issues. They have staggering environmental problems." She glances quickly at Hallinan, "That's why I don't want to live there!"

Brackmann visits China every year. "I spend a couple months 'skimming around' talking with people. I don't want to make China an exotic location in my books," she says. "I want it to be about people doing ordinary things in a 'sometimes' interesting place."

Both authors' works are published by Soho and Soho Crime. Timothy Hallinan also writes two other character series; LA Private Eye, Simeon Grist, and San Fernando Valley PI (and ex-burglar), Junior Bender.

A special thank you to *Jackie Houchin* for providing this summary. For the complete article, go to <http://bit.ly/1bm4KrgHope>.



MEMBER NEWS

Terry Ambrose's next mystery, *Kauai Temptations*, will be released on October 15 in both e-book and soft cover formats. This is the second novel in the McKenna Mysteries. In "Kauai Temptations" McKenna's identity is stolen by someone on Kauai. When his bank tells him he's written \$4,000 in bad checks on an island he's never been to, he's one unhappy *haole*. Things get worse when he's nearly arrested for impersonating himself, the woman who trashed his credit turns up dead, and he realizes he's up to his 'umi 'umi in hot lava. More information about the book is available at <http://terryambrose.com>.

Donna Kolling Lear has just self-published her first book, *Crimson Gold*. It is a fictionalized account of a true family murder mystery that takes place in 1939 in Alaska, available on Amazon.com.

DP Lyle and **Jan Burke** have launched a new twice-monthly internet radio show called Crime and Science Radio on Suspense Radio/Blog Talk Radio with John Raab. Join them every other Saturday at 10 a.m., or catch the archived shows at a later date. Topics will include all things crime and science, both current and historical, as well as interviews with crime science professionals and writers of crime fiction. For more info, visit: <http://www.suspensemagazine.com/CrimeandScienceRadio.html>.

Terri Nolan will be on an industry panel at Big Orange Book Festival on 10/13, at the San Gabriel Library on



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10/19, and at the San Juan Capistrano Library on 10/24. All appearances are free and open to the public. Please visit www.terrिनolan.com for further details.

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 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.



MYSTERY INK NEWS

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

STORE EVENTS:

Saturday, October 19th, 11 a.m. – Jeri Westerson – SHADOW OF THE ALCHEMIST

Orange County Launch Party! Cake! Mead!

“Creative and enthralling . . . If you enjoy authentic Medieval history combined with modern suspense, this one's for you.” – John Lescroart

Once a Knight of the Realm, Crispin Guest was stripped of his title and his lands and must now earn his meager living through his wits. It is for that reason that Guest is sought out by Nicholas Flamel, an absent-minded alchemist. Both Flamel's wife and his apprentice are missing, and he wants Guest to find them. Then Flamel's apprentice turns up with a ransom note stating the wife will be returned in exchange for the Philosopher's Stone. Guest must rescue the missing wife and find the stone before it falls into unworthy hands.

Signed Copies Now in Stock!

James Lee Burke – LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Janet Evanovich/Lee Goldberg – THE HEIST



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Timothy Hallinan – CRASHED, LITTLE ELVISES, THE FEAR ARTIST

Lisa Brackmann – HOUR OF THE RAT

Dean Koontz – DEEPLY ODD

Ellen Crosby – MULTIPLE EXPOSURE

Anne Cleeland – MURDER IN THRALL

Rhys Bowen – HEIRS AND GRACES



UPCOMING CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, and EVENTS

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

On Saturday, Oct. 12 and Sunday, Oct. 13, OC SinC and Mystery Ink will share a booth at the Big Orange Book Festival at Chapman University in Old Towne Orange. Some of our members will be signing. Come and do some browsing, meet some authors, check out the panels (there's one called *Who Dunit?* slated for Saturday at 12:30) and buy a book or two. For further info go to: <http://bigorangebookfestival.com/schedule/> .

Authors signing their books at the OC Sisters in Crime/Mystery Ink booth include:

SATURDAY

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Donna Lear | 10:00 to 11:30 |
| Theresa Schwegel | 11:30 to 1:00 |
| Lisa Brackmann | 11:30 to 1:00 |
| Dmitri Ragano | 1:30 to 3:00 |
| Jack Martin | 3:00 to 4:30 |
| Dianne Emley | 3:00 to 4:30 |
| Patricia Wynn | 4:30 to 6:00 |

SUNDAY

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Terri Nolan | 11:00 to 12:00 |
| Andrew Kaplan | 11:30 to 12:00 |
| Terry Ambrose | 12:00 to 1:00 |
| Aileen Baron | 1:00 to 2:00 |
| Gayle Carline | 2:00 to 3:00 |

Jack Martin is also on the *Who Dunit?* Mystery panel at 12:30 on Saturday, and Terri Nolan is on a panel called *Making a Career in Writing* at 12:30 on Sunday.



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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!



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!**



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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:**