



ORANGE HERRING



Sisters in Crime  Orange County

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you are refreshed from our little vacation in October because it's that time again to think about elections. No, not those elections. Those are over, thank goodness. Our Orange County Sisters in Crime chapter elections. Elsewhere in this newsletter will be further information on that, but we will be taking nominations at the next meeting this month. And what are we doing at this month's meeting? Some of our published authors will be reading from their latest releases. Why is this an important thing to do? Authors work in a vacuum most of the time. Cloistered in small home offices, we toil away at our computer keyboards, perhaps with an occasional note to a virtual companion somewhere in the ether, but usually talking to no one but the cat. We sweat blood. We chortle at our brilliant ideas and amazing prose. And then the manuscript goes away until it's got the fingerprints of proofreaders and editors all over it. When it's published, we hope it pleases our readers and would-be readers. So to read the book aloud to new ears can be a daunting prospect. After all, didn't this incubate very nicely in a room with just the author? Now it's in the wide world, garnering praise or...we don't want to think about what else.

Listening to the spoken word is a different experience from reading it yourself. Anyone who regularly listens to audio books can tell you that. I usually drive or take walks when listening to an audio book, but something happens when I do that. I end up multi-tasking. I'm driving, I'm thinking, I'm moving or doing something else while listening, and so that quality brain time is divided. I lose a lot of information, miss a lot of plot, a lot of the nuance of the prose. Have you ever noticed that? But reading is a singular activity. You really can't be doing anything else other than read (okay, there are those out there who can walk on a treadmill while reading, but that's really about it). You are captured by the prose, by the movie playing in your head,

and you just disappear. A strange sensation. But when you are enraptured by a book, your brain takes you to a new location where all you are aware of is the story before you.

I don't think it's tool-building that divides us from the other terrestrial creatures, but this symbolic language of writing that separates us, the creation of stories and then the immersion into them. It's truly divine.

So try to give your undivided attention to our authors this month. The readings will be short and they promise to be varied.

*Your President,
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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST

2 pm: WRITER'S FORUM, "Breathing Life onto the Page: How to Create a Real Character"

3 pm: Member Authors Panel—Aileen Baron, Gayle Brunelle, Jeff Sherratt, Jeri Westerson and Patricia Wynn—who have books out in 2010 or contracted for release in 2011.

Aileen Baron taught for twenty years in the Department of Anthropology at California State University, Fullerton. Her first book, *A Fly Has A Hundred Eyes* released in Spring 2006, recounts the adventures of archaeologist, Lily Sampson, who plunges into a labyrinth of intrigue and danger after the murder of the director of her excavation. Her second novel in the Lily Sampson series, *The Torch of Tangiers* was published by Poisoned Pen Press and her third mystery, *The Gold of Thrace*, came out in August 2007. Her latest book in the series is *Scorpion's Bite*, released in August, 2010.

Gayle Brunelle is a professor of history at California State University at Fullerton and the author of *The New World Merchants of Rouen, 1559–1630*.

With Annette Finley-Croswhite, she authored *Murder in the Métro: Laetitia Toureaux and the Cagoule in 1930s France*, a fascinating look at the dark and dangerous streets of pre-World War II Paris. This first-ever murder in the Paris Métro dominated the headlines for weeks during the summer of 1937.

Jeff Sherratt is the author of two novels featuring the Southern California criminal lawyer Jimmy O'Brien. His first novel, *The Brimstone Murders* (2008), became the bestselling book of all times at his independent publishing house, Echelon Press. The second, *Guilty or Else* (2009), was nominated for the Left Coast Crime Panik Award. Jeff's third crime novel, *Detour to Murder* is the first in his Film Noir Mystery Series. Jeff lives with his wife, Judy in Newport Beach.

Jeri Westerson worked as a newspaper reporter, would-be actress and graphic artist before becoming an author of mystery novels.

Jeri's debut, *Veil of Lies* garnered nominations from the Mystery Reader's Journal Macavity Award for Best Historical Mystery and the Private Eye Writers of America Shamus Award for Best First PI Novel, the first medieval mystery to be so honored.

The second in the series, *Serpent in the Thorns* was a finalist for the Bruce Alexander Historical Mystery Award and [the 2010 Macavity.] The third in the series, *The Demon's Parchment*, was released on October 12, 2010.

Patricia Wynn is the author of 10 romance novels from Harlequin, Fawcett, and Dorchester, which have earned her critical acclaim and made her a two-time finalist for an Award of Excellence from Colorado Romance Writers.

The first novel in her Blue Satan Mystery Series, *The Birth of Blue Satan*, won an Honorable Mention from Writers Digest, a Silver Medal from PMA, and was a finalist for a Herodotus Award for Best First Historical Mystery. The second, *The Spider's Touch*, won the Benjamin Franklin Award for Best Genre Novel in 2003. The third, *The Motive from the Deed*, received a starred review from Library Journal.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

Holiday Party at Mystery Ink Bookstore: potluck and election of officers.

Goldenwest Plaza

7176 Edinger Ave.

Huntington Beach, CA 92647

RSVP: secretary@ocsistersincrime.org.



MEMBER EVENTS:

Jeff Sherratt:

(*Detour to Murder* tour)

*20 November 11am–8pm

Meet & Greet Book Signing

@ Borders Books at the Pike

101 S. Pine Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802

*1 December 11am–8pm

Meet & Greet Book Signing

@ Barnes & Noble Booksellers - Redlands

27460 Lugonia Ave, Redlands, CA 92374

*2 December 11–8pm

Meet & Greet Book Signing

@ Barnes & Noble Booksellers - Redlands
27460 Lugonia Ave, Redlands, CA 92374

*3 December 11am-8pm

Meet & Greet Book Signing

@ Barnes & Noble Booksellers - Redlands
27460 Lugonia Ave, Redlands, CA 92374

*4 December 11am-8pm

Meet & Greet Book Signing

@ Barnes & Noble Booksellers - Montclair Plaza
5183 Montclair Plaza Lane, Montclair, CA 91763

*5 December 11am-8pm

Meet & Greet Book Signing

@ Barnes & Noble Booksellers
21500 Hawthorne Blvd, Torrance, CA 90503

*6 December 11am-8pm

Meet & Greet Book Signing

@ Barnes & Noble Booksellers
21500 Hawthorne Blvd, Torrance, CA 90503

*7 December 11am-8pm

Meet & Greet Book Signing

@ Barnes & Noble Booksellers
21500 Hawthorne Blvd, Torrance, CA 90503

*8 December

11am-8pm

Meet & Greet Book Signing

@ Barnes & Noble Booksellers
21500 Hawthorne Blvd, Torrance, CA 90503

*9 December

11am-8pm

Meet & Greet Book Signing

@ Barnes & Noble Booksellers
21500 Hawthorne Blvd, Torrance, CA 90503

*10 December

11am-8pm

Meet & Greet Book Signing

@ Barnes & Noble
1800 Rosecrans , Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Jeri Westerson:

*Saturday, November 20, 10 am-3 pm American

Association of University Women
Ventura Four Points Sheraton
1050 Schooner Dr., Ventura, CA 93001,
(805) 658-1212. Tickets are \$45 and can be
obtained by calling Diana Dingler at (805)
987-8013 or Jane Akune (805) 482-2602



MYSTERY INK EVENTS

*Saturday, November 20 - Debut Novels

10:30 am - Miles Corwin signs his debut novel,
Kind of Blue

*1:00 pm - Lenny Kleinfeld signs his debut novel,
Shooters & Chasers

*Saturday, November 27, 1:00 pm

Sandra Brennan signs *In the Belly of Jonah*

*Saturday, December 4, 1:00 pm

Michael Harris signs *The Chieu Hoi Saloon*

Mystery Ink

Goldenwest Plaza

7176 Edinger Ave.

Huntington Beach, CA 92647

(714) 960-4000

contact Debbie at mysteryink@hotmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**March 24 -27, 2011*

LEFT COAST CRIME

Santa Fe Springs, New Mexico

leftcoastcrime.org



MEMBER NEWS:

Jeri Westerson's The Demon's Parchment was
nominated for the RT Reviewer's Choice Award for
Historical Mysteries. Good luck, Jeri.

OC SINC ELECTIONS

Nominations are now open for the elected positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and 3 Members at Large. Have you been happy with this year's board? They are eligible for re-election. Want a new perspective or direction? Nominate someone. And yes, you can nominate yourself.



CALENDAR

2010

December 12th – Holiday Party at Mystery Ink Bookstore

2011

TWO-MONTH ForensicsFest

January 16th – 2 pm Reader's Forum, 3 pm, Jan
Burke talks about the state of forensics in America.

February 20th – 2:30 pm (no forum) Forensic Panel including D.P. Lyle, Dr. Judy Myers Suchey, forensic anthropologist, and Michael Streed, police sketch artist.



FROM NATIONAL

Marcia Talley, SinC National Past President, offers a list of reasons to join and stay in SinC: Sisters in Crime website [including database of members and hot links to author member websites and websites of regional chapters]

- SinC Regional Chapters including Online and Guppies
- SinC Listserve, our Online discussion group--Includes Mentor Monday
- SinC Blog
- SinC Links – Monthly e-blast, hot links to publishing news you can use
- *InSinc*, our quarterly Journal
- Chapter event grants, \$250-1000
- ALA, BEA booths / author events
- Library Lottery
- SinC Into Great Writing Workshops –

- Annual, prominent presenters, subsidized
- Publisher Summit Reports
- Annual comprehensive reports on the publishing industry:
- 2010 – Ebooks – Amazon, Google, Apple and Smashwords
- 2009 - Distributors and Wholesalers – Follett, Ingram, IPG, etc.
- 2008 - NY Publishers, Editors and Agents
- 2007 – NY Publishers, Editors and Agents
- Bowker Mystery Readers Survey--The Who, what, where, when and why of mystery readers' buying habits, commissioned by Sisters in Crime from Bowker PubTrack, the world leader in book publishing data.
- SinC Monitoring project
- PubAlley deep discount
- Press Kit Preparation Guide
- Book Publishing Glossary
- Bookstore and Bookclub databases
- "A Sisters in Crime author" book stickers / pins
- Publications including:
Breaking and Entering
Shameless Promotion for Brazen Hussies
Chapter Guidebook
Chapter Short Story Anthologies

Plus, the opportunity to network with fabulous and generous authors!



TELL US WHAT YOU REALLY THINK

Very little in this life cannot be improved upon. And, since we are writers and avid readers, we must have some ideas about how this newsletter could be better. Let us know. Also, if you have events coming up, let us know that, too. We want to support our members in their literary endeavors, attend signings and other events.

Send your contributions and suggestions to:

Linda Smith: softpoet@yahoo.com

Deadline for December newsletter is December 1st.

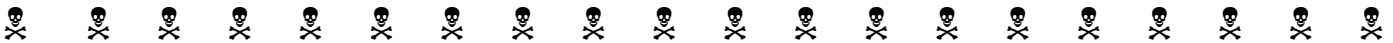


ForensicsFest 2011

One of the reasons we join Sisters in Crime is to improve our knowledge about mysteries and crime fiction. With that in mind, the executive board of OC SinC has recruited several forensics experts to talk about their specialties. At our January meeting, Jan Burke, author of the Irene series, wants to tell us about the appalling state of death investigations in the US, why what we don't know may be killing us, and how writers can make use of these facts. In February, we have assembled a panel, including our member D.P. Lyle and, Dr. Judy Myers Suchey, a forensic anthropologist. Tentatively scheduled are Michael Streed, a police sketch artist, and, perhaps, a crime scene clean-up specialist.

Join us. January's meeting will begin at our usual time, with a Writer's Forum at 2pm, and the regular meeting and presentation beginning at 3pm. For February's panel discussion, our meeting will begin at 2:30 pm. (We will dispense with our usual 2pm forum.) There will be lots of information and time for question and answers.

As always, there will be refreshments served. There is no charge for these events.



Sisters in Crime Orange County – November 2010 News



UPCOMING MEETING:

November 21st at the Irvine Ranch Water District

2 pm: Writer's Forum: creating memorable characters

3 pm: Member Authors Panel—Aileen Baron, Gayle Brunelle, Jeff Sherratt, Jeri Westerson and Patricia Wynn

December 12th at Mystery Ink Bookstore

Goldenwest Plaza

7176 Edinger Ave.

Huntington Beach, CA 92647

For more info: Mysteryink@hotmail.com



Look inside to find out more... or visit www.ocsistersincrime.org

Sisters In Crime

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