



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

November’s is a busy meeting. First, it’s the kick-off to the year-long celebration of the Sisters in Crime 25th anniversary, and we do, indeed, have a party planned, including cake! (and if cake won’t bring you in...) We also have our new board elections. Looks like we still need a treasurer. Let’s hope one of our members will step forward at the ninth hour and help to keep our chapter moving forward. And finally we have readings from some of our members who have new titles out this year, including me, followed by a panel discussion.

We accomplished a lot this last year. We began at the dawn of 2011 with our brand new two-month Forensics Fest with bestselling author Jan Burke as our guest in January, and a panel of forensic experts in February. We also had a joint “field trip” with the Southern California chapter of Mystery Writers of America, a Raymond Chandler bus tour of Los Angeles. We added two new editors to our newsletter, and we had great guest speakers throughout the year.

We’ll see more of that next year as well, including a 2012 Forensics Fest in January with a whole new set of panelists. We’ll all have to work hard to promote these events to bring in more guests and encourage more people to join our membership. There will be more activities during the year to that end and I hope that you will encourage these activities by attending more meetings, whether they be held at our Irvine location, or at local libraries where we plan to set a few of our meetings. Yes, it’s something different but we have to try new directions to build membership and at the same time meet the needs of our current members.

During the new year, we will, no doubt, have more discussion on the ever-changing world of publishing. Ebooks and print, bookstores and online venues, social networking and other forms of promotion. You’ve got to stay on your toes to stay

relevant.

Let’s all meet at the November 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





UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 20, 2011

Note: Because of our anniversary celebration this month, we will start earlier, at 2:30 p.m., with no forum. Instead, Sisters in Crime members will read from their newest releases.

The following authors will be reading:

- Aileen Baron** - THE RETURN OF THE SWALLOWS (debuts June, 2012)
- Gayle K. Brunelle** – MURDER IN THE METRO
- Tammy Kaehler** - DEAD MAN'S SWITCH
- Jack Martin** – JOHN BROWN'S BODY
- Jeri Westerson** - TROUBLED BONES
- Patricia Wynn** - A KILLING FROST

Please join us. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know fellow members and become familiar with their works.

December 11, 2011

Holiday Party and Potluck - Please sign up at the November meeting to bring a dish of your choice.

**** Note: Special Time, Date and Location ****

1:00 p.m. at Mystery Ink Bookstore

RSVP: secretary@ocsistersincrime.org.



ELECTION INFORMATION

Nominees for positions for 2012 include:

- President - Aileen Baron
- Vice President - Jack Martin
- Corresponding Secretary -
- Recording Secretary and PR - Jill Amadio
- Treasurer - OPEN
- Members at Large - Jeri Westerson, Terri Nolan, Debbie Mitsch
- Newsletter Editors - Gayle Brunelle, Theresa Schultz
- Refreshments - Diane Hemme
- Website - Diane Hemme
- Events Coordinator - Debbie Mitsch
- Hosting/Raffle - Gita Fisher



EDITORS' COLUMN

Reading and writing. They seem like a natural pair, but in real life, not always. As a writer, and especially as one with a day job, it is often easy to forget to read. Wait (you're thinking) . . . you're a writer. Don't all writers love to read, and read all the time? Isn't that what they have in common with Sisters in Crime reader-members – that they all love to read mysteries?

Absolutely. But it is still all-too-easy for a writer to have trouble finding time to read. And that can pose a serious problem. Like everyone else, we're juggling our jobs – unless we're among the fortunate few who can make our living from writing, or have an independent source of income – a well-paid significant other or a generous maiden aunt who died, preferably under mysterious circumstances . . . but there I go, off making up a mystery again. Most of us have jobs, maybe even more than one, not counting our writing, which is



itself a job, of course, even though one that we love, most of the time (except when we're proofing). We have families, friends, a social life, and our membership in Sisters in Crime. So we have lots to do.

Still, it is essential for writers to find the time to read, as hard as that can be, because good reading is at the heart of good writing. That's how we stay in touch with what other writers are doing, get new ideas for our novels, and get a sense of what our readers like, or don't like. Along with organizations like Sisters in Crime, reading can be an important way to connect with our readers, and share with them our enjoyment of mysteries. Reading widely, perhaps even trying mystery sub-genres that are not our preferred type of story, or reading in other genres, can also be an excellent way to nurture creativity, to get a sense of what kinds of plot devices, voices, and characters one can "try out" in one's own writing. It can help writers, and readers for that matter, avoid becoming "stale."

Good reading is at the heart of good writing for another reason. Writing well is an art. Painters and sculptors go to museums and exhibitions to see how other artists "pull it off" – the techniques they use to achieve new effects that enrich and enliven the art they produce. Storytelling is also an art that requires technique, and although classes and workshops can teach an aspiring writer "the basics," the real key to learning to master voice, point-of-view, scene construction and dialogue, is to read, a lot, to see how other writers you admire "do it." In art, imitation is not only the sincerest form of flattery, but is also the sincerest form of training. And in writing, reading is where it all starts, and ends, with readers who, one hopes, come to really love what you write. So writers need to be readers, and that means taking the time to read, which is why I'm going to end now. I have a book to read!



GAYLE K. BRUNELLE



MEETING ROUNDUP

If you missed the October meeting, you missed out on a wonderful presentation by **Gayle K. Brunelle**, who agreed to pinch hit when our scheduled speaker was unable to attend. Gayle led the Writer's Forum, where the topic was "Historical Detectives and Historical Detecting—Real and Imagined." She noted that the most difficult part of writing about historical characters is that they are from a different time and a different world. The author must get in the mindset of the people that lived at that time. As Gayle put it, "What drove people in the past is not what drives them now."

Gayle pointed out the fact that non fiction carries the same degree of opinion or interpretation of the author as fiction does. Often, research materials are unavailable, and the author has to fill in the blanks. "Plausibility is as close as it gets in history."

After the forum, Gayle addressed the following topic: "On the Trail of a Very Cold Case—Researching Historical True Crime." Gayle's book, *Murder in the Metro*, concerns the mysterious death of a beautiful woman named Laetitia Toureaux. Much like the case of the Black Dahlia here in America, Laetitia's death in 1937 fascinated Parisian society. At first glance, she appeared to be a respected widow and devoted daughter who worked in a factory, a sympathetic character all around. Further research revealed that Laetitia was



many things, including a private detective, a secret agent for the French and Italian police, and a “trop bavard” or chatty woman, a fact that may have gotten her killed.

As Gayle and co-author Annette Finley-Croswhite dug deeper, they discovered Laetitia had ties to the Comité Secret d’Action Révolutionnaire, a secret right-wing political organization popularly known as the Cagoule, or “hooded ones.” Many powerful and influential men belonged to this society, and it took years for Gayle and Annette to track down the files they needed and piece together all the clues to complete the story.

Gayle provided us with a fascinating look at the process of discovery and the many paths that an inquiry can take. Talk about your tangled webs! We gained insight into how a writer goes about researching history, pulling together the facts that are available and interpreting the remaining bits to write a compelling story.

Gayle and co-author Annette are currently working on the sequel to **Murder in the Metro**. Gayle will be one of the OC SinC members reading at the November meeting.



Theresa Schultz



THE WRITER’S BOOKSHELF

Laurie Thomas is taking the month off.

MEMBER NEWS

D. P. Lyle's ROYAL PAINS: SICK RICH, the second in the media tie-in series based on the popular TV series, will be released January, 2012. Hank, Evan, Divya, and Jill are working to make the July 4th Fitness and Health Fair at a local high school a rousing success, but the appearance of a new and dangerous designer drug aimed at teenagers casts a shadow over the entire community. Congratulations, Doug!

Gayle K. Brunelle has finished proofing her newest book, a historical work on Samuel de Champlain, due out in January, 2012. MURDER IN THE METRO is coming out in paperback early in 2012 as well.



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. For more information about the seminars, go to: http://web.mac.com/jamesscottbell/Site/The_Seminar.html.



MEMBER EVENTS

Jeri Westerson continues her *Troubled Bones* tour at the following locations:

Tuesday, Nov. 8, 6:30 pm - Agoura Hills Library
29901 Ladyface Court Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Friday, Nov. 11-Saturday, Nov. 12 - Murder and Mayhem in Muskego, Muskego Public Library, S73 W 16663 Janesville Road, Muskego, WI 53150

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2:00 p.m. - Britta's Book Club At Britta's Cafe. Call (949) 509-1211 to sign up; seating is limited. 4237 Campus Drive B-165, Irvine, CA 92612

Friday, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m. - Mysterious Galaxy Redondo Beach. The last hurrah of the tour in a brand new store in the south bay, my old stomping grounds. 2810 Artesia Blvd. Redondo Beach, CA 90278

TROUBLED BONES: A Crispin Guest Medieval Noir-- From St. Martin's in print and ebook

"A creative and enthralling retelling of the Canterbury Tales...authentic Medieval history combined with modern suspense..." –John Lescroart



MYSTERY INK EVENTS

Mystery Ink in-store Signings

Saturday, November 12th, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Craig MacDonald

Historian and Pulitzer Prize nominee Craig MacDonald will be signing his new Holiday book written for the El Dorado County Historical Society, **OLD WEST CHRISTMAS – TALES WITH A TWIST**. These true stories are filled with mystery and suspense.

Sunday, November 13th, 10 a.m. – Noon - Linda O. Johnston

Rescue dogs from *No Stray Left Behind* will be available for adoption at Linda's signing of the 2nd book in her new Pet Rescue Mystery series.

In **THE MORE THE TERRIER**, shelter manager Lauren Vancouver has a chance to hone her new sleuthing skills as animal hoarding leads to murder.



Now Available for Pre-Orders – Signed 1st editions:

Michael Connelly – THE DROP, Janet Evanovich – EXPLOSIVE EIGHTEEN

Signed 1st Edition Now Available (limited quantities)

A DISCOVERY OF WITCHES by Deborah Harkness, DEAD RECKONING by Charlaine Harris, PIRATE KING by Laurie R. King, THE INFORMANT by Thomas Perry, TROUBLED BONES by Jeri Westerson, THE GENTLEMEN'S HOUR by Don Winslow and YA novels: WONDERSTRUCK by Brian Selznick, THE EMERALD ATLAS by John Stephens, and THE SCORPIO RACES by Maggie Stiefvater.

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.

***** New Store Hours: ***** Wednesday - Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, Noon to 4:00 p.m. Closed Monday and Tuesday.



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.

[Please pass on any links you think that might be of special interest to our members to:

Ocsinc.newsletter@gmail.com]



PUBLICATION POSSIBILITIES

Joseph Pittman, formally an editor at Penguin and then Alyson Books, is now the editorial director at **Vantage Point Books**, a brand new advance and royalty paying imprint of the vanity press Vantage Press. Vantage Point Books is a brand new commercial imprint, where authors are paid advances and royalties, just like any other publisher. The Vantage Point Books website is going through an overhaul, but they are on Facebook, where they promote their titles. They publish 30 titles a year, a mix of nonfiction and fiction in all categories."

You can query him at 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.

KINGS RIVER LIFE MAGAZINE offers another publication possibility. They have created a special mystery section, Mysteryrat's Maze, and are 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 may 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 their website at <http://KingsRiverLife.com> or contact Lorie Ham, publisher, at 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](#)
- The [Summer 2011 Summit Report: How Readers Find Books](#) is now available! Find out how your fellow mystery lovers, and fans, if you're a writer, find the books they want to read.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS

Left Coast Crime: March 29-April 1, 2012

Sheraton Grand Hotel, Sacramento, CA.
leftcoastcrime.org/2012/

Malice Domestic 24: April 27-29, 2012
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Bethesda, MD.
malicedomestic.org.



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.

The deadline is the 1st of each month!



ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime Orange County



The Southern California Chapter of
Mystery Writers of America
& the City of Temecula
Present

Erle Stanley Gardner: Temecula's Man of Mystery

The Author of the Perry Mason Novels

November 19, 5-8pm

Gardner, a practicing attorney and author of 151 books, 82 of which starred Perry Mason his most famous protagonist, owned a ranch in Temecula in Riverside County long before wineries sprang up to fill the local valleys and hills with vineyards.

Docent Steve Williamson will present "Perry Mason: The Case of the Murdered Miner," a look at the 1943 murder of Sir Harry Oakes, one of the wealthiest men in the world, who was found beaten to death and set afire in his Bahamian mansion. This trial was comparable to the O.J. Simpson and Michael Jackson trials and full of scandalous gossip. It is easy to understand the hype surrounding this trial of Count Alfred de Marigny, who was acquitted of murdering his father-in-law, a wealthy gold miner and British knight. The botched investigation, trial and popular theories about the crime involved money, a lush tropical setting, family dysfunction and colorful characters ranging from the Duke of Windsor (the ex-British king) to the mafia. One player in this wartime media circus was Temecula resident, Erle Stanley Gardner.

Also: Temecula Valley Players will perform, there will be refreshments, and it's all FREE!

The Temecula Museum is located at 28314 Mercedes Street, Temecula, CA 92590. For more information, please email at contact@socalmwa.com.

www.socalmwa.com





ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  **Orange County**

