



# 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

We meet at the Irvine Ranch Water District in the Community Affairs meeting room on the northeast side of the parking lot. For directions, visit: [www.ocsistersincrime.org](http://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"**

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

To join or renew your membership in our Sisters in Crime Chapter, you must also be a member of National. To renew your national membership, go to: [www.sistersincrime.org/](http://www.sistersincrime.org/). To renew for our chapter, go to: [www.ocsistersincrime.org/membership.htm](http://www.ocsistersincrime.org/membership.htm) and download the form, or fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and mail it in with your check. You can join national online or send your check to national to us, along with your check for our chapter.

**If you have not already done so, please renew your Sisters in Crime membership today!**



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The next meeting will be held on Apr. 26. Meetings for the remainder of the year will be held on May 31, June 28, July 26, Aug. 23, Oct. 25, and Nov. 22. Our holiday meeting will be held at Mystery Ink on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be no meeting in September; instead, we will host our second Ladies of Intrigue program on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please mark your calendars.

**Please note the change in date for the May meeting. It will now be held at 1:00 on May 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Snack duty will be on a rotating basis. The following people have agreed to bring the snack for these meetings:

April: Donna Lear  
May: Colleen Dempsey  
June: Jack Martin  
July: Shawn Nelson  
Aug: Jill Amadio  
Sept: NO MEETING (LOI the next weekend)  
Oct: Gita Fisher  
Nov: Theresa Schultz  
Dec: Potluck

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### **Sunday, Apr. 26 at – Featured Speaker: Anne Cleeland**

At **2:00 p.m.**, our Writer's Forum topic will be: "Research for Writers: How much is too much?" Writers frequently have to dig a little deeper into a subject matter in order to make their stories believable. But how do you know you have enough information, or when you need to look further? We'll discuss the difference between thorough research and a trip down the rabbit hole.

At **3:00 p.m.**, our meeting will feature guest speaker Anne Cleeland, author of the New Scotland Yard series, featuring Chief Inspector Acton and first year detective Kathleen Doyle. He's a British lord; she is Irish and of modest means. They're the stars of three books, including the just-out *Murder in Hindsight*. The previous titles in the series, which debuted in 2013, are *Murder in Thrall* and *Murder in Retribution*.

A native Southern California, Cleeland is a member of the California State Bar who previously worked as a research attorney. She will discuss the hows and whys of writing a British-set mystery. We'll also get her to talk about the Regency-era titles she has authored.



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**May 31, 2015 -- Featured Speaker: Colin Cotterill**

**Please Note:** The May meeting will be held one week later than originally announced, and an hour earlier. It is now scheduled for Sunday, May 31, and we will get started at 1 p.m. with our Readers' Forum.

At **1:00 p.m.**, our Readers Forum topic will be: "Armchair Travel for Readers: We'll discuss mysteries set in foreign lands and their appeal. Where do our members like to go for a good story?"

At **2:00 p.m.**, our guest speaker, **Colin Cotterill**, will discuss *Six and a Half Deadly Sins*, the ninth and latest title in his popular Dr. Siri Paiboun series. Dr. Paiboun is the retired coroner of Laos; the books are set in the 1970s. This is one of two series by Cotterill, who also writes the Jimm Juree crime novels set in southern Thailand.

Born in London, Cotterill holds dual British and Australian citizenships. He is a former teacher whose work in Southeast Asia led him to take up the cause of combating child prostitution and pornography. (He has written several books about the topic.) Also a cartoonist, he lives with his family on the Gulf of Siam.

### MEETING ROUNDUP

By Theresa Schultz

The topic for our March meeting was *What's Love Got to do with It?* as we welcomed romance writers **Lisa Kessler** and **Beth Yarnell**. Lisa writes dark paranormal fiction, including the "Night Series" and the "Moon Series," and Beth's books include *Dyed and Gone – An Azalea March Mystery*, about a hairstylist/amateur sleuth, and *A Deep and Dark December*. Both women are funny and entertaining and were happy to share their knowledge of writing in general and romance writing in particular.

Beth and Lisa discussed ways to keep a romantic series fresh, admitting it can be tricky to find the right balance between not boring longtime readers with too many background details and not confusing new readers with references to previous books. Both women participated in the writers' forum, where we talked about some of our favorite sleuths; what happens to sexual tension when the two main characters finally get together; the importance of an emotional connection; and the need for male writers to use female beta readers to "get it right." And we learned the cardinal rule of the romance genre: Your protagonist must have an HEA (Happily Ever After) ending, or, at the very least, an HFN (Happy For Now) ending.



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Lisa Kessler (left) with President Gayle Carline and Beth Yarnell

**MEMBER NEWS**

Recently, **Cynthia Weitz** was the guest speaker at a luncheon held by The Newcomers Club of Saddleback Valley. The luncheon took place on April 8 at Tijeras Creek Golf Club in Rancho Santa Margarita. Cynthia discussed her writing career and her recently published mystery, *Feisty Old Ladies*. After the luncheon, she signed copies of the book.

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SinC member, Orange County Noir/USA noir contributor, and host of Writers on Writing, **Barbara DeMarco-Barrett**, is holding summer writing retreats and getaways in Palm Springs in June. If you'd like more information, email her at [penonfire@earthlink.net](mailto:penonfire@earthlink.net). 10% discount for SinC members.

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Aileen Baron wishes to thank all the members of SinC OC who participated in her birthday celebration. It was a wonderful week, beginning in Portland on March 14 and going on to March 22 in Laguna Niguel. She hopes to repeat the celebration every ten years.

**MYSTERY INK NEWS**

Mystery Ink Bookstore, 8907 Warner Avenue, #135, Huntington Beach, (714) 960-4000  
New hours: Wed. – Fri., 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Sat., 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
[www.mysteryink.com](http://www.mysteryink.com). Coffee & Wi-Fi available.



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**Sunday, April 12th – A Double Feature!**

**Noon to 1:00 p.m. - Connie Archer & Naomi Hirahara**

In Connie Archer's *Ladle to the Grave*, 'By the Spoonful Soup Shop' is Vermont's most popular store, but owner Lucky Jamieson doesn't have any time to enjoy her success. A customer winds up dead, apparently poisoned by an herbal concoction prepared by Lucky's grandfather, Jack. But before she can clear him, her best friend, Sophie, finds a dead man floating in the creek. Now it's up to Lucky to get both Sophie and Jack out of hot water before a killer stirs up more trouble.

In Naomi Hirahara's *Grave on Grand Avenue*, LAPD bicycle and aspiring homicide detective, Ellie Rush, is back on patrol in the second installment from award-winning author of *Murder on Bamboo Lane*. When Ellis is patrolling one of LA's premier concert halls, she is shocked to discover a gardener clinging to life at the bottom of a staircase and when he dies, it's clear that she must act quickly before someone else falls silent.

**1:00 p.m. - Anne Cleeland Launch Party!**

*Murder in Hindsight* - "The latest adventures of Cleeland's characters are as thrilling as ever, as they are forced not only to deal with a complicated murder case, but their private relationship as well. Cleeland wraps several intriguing plotlines together in a successful way, mostly digging deeply into the psyches of her main characters. Consequently, the novel is more of a psychological thriller than an outright mystery." – *RT Book Reviews*

"Romantic suspense fans will welcome Cleeland's second New Scotland Yard Mystery...Distinctive characters compliment the finely wrought, highly charged plot." – *Publishers Weekly*

**Saturday, May 16th, 3:00 p.m. - Vanessa A. Ryan**

*Palette for Murder*, A Lana Davis Mystery, is framed with details of the culture of Santa Fe and the city's art scene, "...insurance claims agent (Lana) is drafted to play detective, first by her own company and later by the owner of a tony art gallery. . . good fun." *Kirkus Review*

**Outside Events:**

**Saturday & Sunday, April 18th and 19th**

Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, USC campus - Mystery Ink - Booth #376  
Author Signings! Check the website for updates!

**Saturday, May 9th, Literary Guild of Orange County**

For more information and tickets visit: <http://lgoc.org/>



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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, April 18th - 19th at USC.**

Mystery Ink has booth #376, same as last year, that OC SinC helps to sponsor. Any member authors that would like signing times, please contact Debbie at [mysteryink@hotmail.com](mailto:mysteryink@hotmail.com)

**Sisters in Crime  Orange County**

Presents

**Ladies of Intrigue**

A day-long event featuring Remarkable Women Mystery Writers

**Saturday, October 3, Hotel Huntington Beach**

*With special guest speaker Catriona McPherson, SinC national president*

And other soon to be announced authors \*

\* Interested authors are invited to contact OC SinC president Gayle Carline @ [gaylecarline@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gaylecarline@sbcglobal.net)

*Details Available Soon @ [ocsistersincrime.org](http://ocsistersincrime.org)*



**Support your local SinC chapter. Buy a mug at the next meeting, and donate novels for our Sister Share!**



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**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](mailto:ocsinc.newsletter@gmail.com). **The deadline is the 7<sup>th</sup> 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: