



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"



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/. To renew for our chapter, go to: 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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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Here are the remaining meeting dates for 2014: Nov. 23, and Dec. 14.

November 23 – At **2:00 p.m.**, Our Readers/Writers Forum will feature our member-authors who have released a new book this year. They will be giving you the scoop on what their book is about and taking questions. (Copies will also be with Debbie for sale.) Our participants are:

Terry Ambrose - *Big Island Blues*
Gayle Carline - *Murder on the Hoof*
Michael McQuade - *Sinking Wall Street*
Cynthia Weitz - *Feisty Old Ladies*
Patricia Wynn - *Acts of Faith*

At **3:00 p.m.**, our speaker will be **Linda O. Johnston**. Linda can't remember a time when she didn't write. She has written two different series for Berkley/Penguin, the Pet Rescue series and a series starring protagonist Kendra Ballantyne. She is currently writing two new series for Midnight Ink and two different series for Harlequin. Though her background is in law, she is currently writing full time – no kidding!

We will also take nominations for next year's officers. We are in need of a Treasurer and a person to arrange snacks for the meeting.



MEETING ROUNDUP

By Pat Broeske

The always engaging T. Jefferson Parker spoke to a SRO crowd at the October 12 meeting, held at Mystery Ink Bookstore. He was there to launch his latest book, "Full Measure" (St. Martin's), which marks a genre departure for the three-time Edgar winner: it is literary fiction – not crime fiction.

It was, said Parker, "hugely inspired" by his adopted hometown of Fallbrook – in the same way that his first book, the mystery novel "Laguna Heat" (1985) was triggered by his feelings about Laguna Beach and all that it



represents. “Both books show how location impacts story,” explained Parker.

“Full Measure” deals with a returning veteran of the war in Afghanistan. “I tried to make it as much a page-turner as the thrillers, but in a different way,” said Parker, who focused on familial relationships and conflicts.

He spent three years working on the novel. For the prolific (more than 20 novels) Parker, venturing into new writing territory was like “opening a window and taking in a breath of fresh air.”

But he hasn’t given up on crime fiction. As he tells SinC board member Pat H. Broeske, in an interview about crime fiction that appears in the current issue (November) of *Orange Coast* magazine, “I’m only saying adios for now.”



MEMBER NEWS

Jill Amadio has won an Irwin Award from the Book Publicists of LA for her debut mystery, "Digging Too Deep"...she's also a panelist at Bouchercon on Friday, November 14, at 8.30 a.m. on How Music is Used as an Element in authors' books. The major clue in Jill's book is a scrap of the score from an Arnold Schoenberg composition...she has just completed writing the biography of an athlete, as co-author.

In the latest issue (November) of *Orange Coast* magazine, Pat H. Broeske takes a look at the shadows amid the sunshine in “O.C. Confidential,” a 12-page compendium about crime in the O.C. She talks to leading crime solvers (including cold case investigator Larry Montgomery of the D.A.’s office and O.C. Crime Lab forensic scientist Mary Hong), examines famous and not so well known cases, spotlights the body dump sites of Ortega Highway – and checks in on O.C.’s true crime writing and fiction scenes. (Did you know that the files of mystery maestro Ross Macdonald are at U.C. Irvine?) The issue is currently on the newsstands.

Cynthia Weitz was gratified to receive a highly positive Kirkus review of her mystery, *Feisty Old Ladies*.

“Weitz has admirably created a senior sleuth who is not a Miss Marple type but instead a fun-loving fashionista who likes to flirt and (gasp!) have sex. Through her nursing-home setting and conservator subplot, the author effectively exposes the vulnerabilities and insecurities that older people, particularly women, face in today’s society. Weitz never lets this occasionally meandering narrative stay downbeat for long, however, and leaves readers looking forward to the next adventures featuring this lively, life-affirming protagonist. An affecting, amusing whodunit that defies ageist stereotypes.”—Kirkus Reviews



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You can visit her website at www.feistyoldladies.com, or contact her at Cynthia@feistyoldladies.com.

Patricia Wynn's 5th Blue Satan mystery, *Acts of Faith*, was released November 1. *Acts of Faith* deals with the laws against Roman Catholics in early Georgian England and the secrets with which they were forced to live. Advance comments from authors:

“Good thing I didn't have anything planned for last weekend because once I started reading *Acts of Faith* I didn't want to do anything else! Loved it! *Acts of Faith* is a keeper, combining just the right amount of period detail with interesting characters, a twisty plot, and a compelling subplot. I couldn't put it down.”

— **Kathy Lynn Emerson, Guest of Honor, Malice Domestic 2014 and Author of *Murder in the Queen's Wardrobe* (spring 2015)**

“Patricia Wynn's sure talent has found the perfect story in *Acts of Faith*. Hester Kean is nobody's fool, and though 1716 England is a time when women aren't free to be individuals, Hester finds herself and her path. With a few opening sentences, Wynn sweeps the reader into her imagined world. This is a big, deliciously nuanced story that never falters. Hester's courage carries her through, and the reader will cheer her every step of the way.”

— **Carolyn Haines, Award-winning Author of the Sarah Booth Delaney Mississippi Delta mysteries.**

Dmitri Ragano's short story "The Guardians" was a finalist in the Little Tokyo Short Story contest, run by the Little Tokyo Historical Society in Downtown LA.

His novel *The Fugitive Grandma* has gained over 800,000 "reads", 9,000 votes and 7,300 followers on Wattpad, the world's largest social reading network.

Michael McQuade has a new book out title *Sinking Wall Street*. Will the world's economy collapse? As oil supertankers sank in the Middle East and off the coast of Venezuela, the stock markets of the world headed in the same direction. Only days before a major depression strikes, Nathen Foster, troubleshooter for the SEC, climbs aboard a jet and heads to São Paulo, Brazil. He joins forces with Interpol agent Armando Schmidt to track down those responsible.



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MYSTERY INK NEWS

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

Sunday, November 16th, 3:00 p.m. – D.E. Ireland

Eliza Doolittle and Henry Higgins make an incomparable pair of sleuths in the debut of this new series. *Wouldn't It Be Deadly* transports readers to Edwardian London, from the aristocratic environs of Mayfair to the dangerous back alleys of the East End. D.E. Ireland is a team of award-winning authors, Meg Mims and Sharon Pisacreta. Long time friends, they decided to collaborate on this unique series based on George Bernard Shaw's wonderfully witty play, *Pygmalion*.

Saturday, November 22nd, 3:00 p.m. – Diane Vallere and Sybil Johnson

Diane is the president of LA SinC and Sybil Johnson is a past VP of LA SinC. Diane will be signing her new book from Berkley, *Suede to Rest*, and Sybil will be signing her new book, *Fatal Brushstroke*.

Friday, December 12th, 4:30 p.m. - E.J. Copperman

Previously known (aka Jeff Cohen) for his Double Feature Mysteries and his Aaron Tucker series, Copperman will be signing the sixth book in his Haunted Ghosthouse series, *Inspector Spector*.



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UPCOMING CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, and EVENTS

Bouchercon 2014: Murder at the Beach. November 13-16 in Long Beach, CA. For more information, go to: <http://www.bouchercon2014.com/>.



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: