



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

Our final meeting for 2014 will be held on Dec. 14 at 1:00 p.m. at Mystery Ink Bookstore, 8907 Warner Avenue, #135, Huntington Beach, (714) 960-4000.

Bring your friends and join us for a free buffet luncheon. Great food will be provided by our members. Come meet our authors, fellow readers and librarians. Open to the public.



MEETING ROUNDUP

By Theresa Schultz

At November's meeting we celebrated the fact that five of our members published books this year. Unfortunately, Pat Wynn was ill and Terry Ambrose got caught in a serious traffic jam on the freeway. The remaining three authors read from their books and answered our questions.

The authors and their books are:

Cynthia Weitz – *Feisty Old Ladies*

Michael McQuade – *Sinking Wall Street*

Gayle Carline – *Murder on the Hoof*

Pat Wynn – *Acts of Faith*

Terry Ambrose – *Big Island Blues*

Cynthia Weitz contrasts her hero Margo Manning with Agatha Christie's Miss Marple. Unlike that well-known sleuth, Margo is a stylish woman of a certain age who still wears stiletto heels and has sex with her dashing Danish boyfriend. When an accident lands her at Shady Palms, Margo and her fellow *Feisty Old Ladies* must unmask a mysterious killer while battling her greedy relatives for control of her estate.

Michael McQuade has written two other ebooks, *Hunting the Wolf Pack* and *The Manipulator*. His latest work, *Sinking Wall Street*, employs many of the characters from *The Manipulator* and takes readers on a world tour while his hero tries to save the day.



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Gayle Carline had written six other books before, including the Peri Minneopa series. Set at a horse show, *Murder on the Hoof* gave Gayle the opportunity to set a novel in a world she knows well. The inspiration for this book came during one of those “What if?” moments, when she imagined a pair of boots sticking out from a pile of shavings at the end of the horses’ stalls. Of course, there were feet in those boots.

At 3:00, our guest speaker was **Linda O. Johnston**. Linda has written nearly forty novels, including the Pet Sitter and Pet Rescue series. She currently writes four series and has eight deadlines to meet over the next two years. Despite her busy schedule, she took time out to talk to us about writing mysteries and romantic suspense, including paranormal suspense, the pros and cons of writing a series, and a little bit about her writing process.

Linda began her publishing career with an award-winning short story. She started writing romantic suspense then shifted to mysteries, which always involve pets of one kind or another. And speaking of shifting, she writes a shape-shifter series for Harlequin, and has begun a Superstition series for Midnight Ink, the first of which is *Lost Under the Ladder*.

She discussed the pros and cons of writing a series. Mostly they are pros, because she enjoys it so much, but you must be prepared to stick with those characters for a long time. She writes all her mysteries in first person, but her romances in multiple points of view. Her mysteries are cozies, and while she likes to understand proper police procedure, she doesn’t always get it right, because her heroines are amateur sleuths, and they don’t always get it right, either.

To find out more about Linda’s amazing writing career, go to: <http://www.lindaojohnston.com/>.



MEMBER NEWS

Dmitri Ragano was hired by USA Network to write an original short story in connection to the new TV series "DIG" set to air in March 2015. Ragano's short story *Tomorrow Girl*, a thriller set in a toy factory in Shanghai, China, will be published on Wattpad, the world's largest social fiction network, as part of the DIG promotional campaign. His novels *The Fugitive Grandma* and *Employee of the Year* have both been listed as Featured Stories on Wattpad with over 1 million reads.

Jill Amadio won an Irwin Award from the Book Publicists of LA for her debut mystery, *Digging Too Deep*.

In the November issue 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



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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.

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.**



MYSTERY INK NEWS

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

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*.

OC SinC Holiday Potluck, December 14th, 1:00 p.m.



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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:**