



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. ([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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Our next meeting will be held on **Nov. 15th at 2:00 p.m.** at Mystery Ink Bookstore, located at 8907 Warner Avenue, #135 in Huntington Beach. Please note the change of date, time and location. The changes were necessary to accommodate our speaker's schedule.

Our final meeting of the year will be held on **Dec. 13th** at Mystery Ink. This will be a potluck and will begin at 1:00 p.m. Please sign up for the potluck at the November meeting or email Debbie @ mysterink@hotmail.com and let her know what you would like to bring.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Nov. 15 at 2:00 p.m. – This month our meeting will be held at Mystery Ink Bookstore.

At **2:00 p.m.**, our Writers forum will feature readings from our member-authors who have had a book published this year.

At **3:00 p.m.**, our speaker will be **Michael Sears**, who co-writes the Detective Kobo series with Stanley Trollip under the name Michael Stanley. Both are South Africans by birth, and both are retired professors who have worked in academia and business – Sears in South Africa and Trollip in the U.S.

Sears is a mathematician, specializing in geological remote sensing. Trollip is an educational psychologist, specializing in the application of computers to teaching and learning, and a pilot. Their love of watching the wildlife of the African subcontinent has taken them on numerous flying safaris to Botswana and Zimbabwe. On one such trip they came up with the idea for their first novel, *A Carrion Death*, which introduced Botswanas Detective Kubu Bengu. Since his 2008 debut, Kubu has been featured in five novels and a short story collection. The books have garnered critical acclaim and award nominations. The latest title is *A Death in the Family*.

Sears lives with his family in Johannesburg, South Africa with his wife, Annette and step-daughter, Jacky. The family also includes two corgis, who, although intelligent, are not avid readers of crime fiction.



MEETING ROUNDUP

By Pat H. Broeske



The October SinC O.C. meeting had a definite Halloween vibe. Paranormal mysteries were the topic of the Readers/Writers forum, and the guest speaker was Jeff Michaels, an author, channel and intuitive. There was even trick or treat candy at the snack table.

President Gayle Carline conducted the forum, which explored the elements that make for a paranormal mystery. Attendees mentioned a number of genre authors, books and TV shows/movies, including:

--“The Yellow Wallpaper,” a short story by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Written in 1892, it is the subject of contemporary studies because of its feminist views. The central character is a woman suffering from what her physician-husband calls “temporary nervous depression – a slight hysterical tendency.” Is she slipping into madness? Or is there a paranormal element to the story?

--Thomas Carnacki, a supernatural detective created by William Hope Hodgson. Carnacki debuted in a 1910 short story. He was Sherlock Holmes-ish, complete with a Watson, named Dodgson, who narrates his adventures.

--Arthur Conan Doyle, famed creator of Sherlock, was in real life a devoted spiritualist. But his legendary detective adhered to a scientific method of observation and deduction. However, there are references to the paranormal (eventually debunked) in the Holmes novel, “The Hound of the Baskervilles” and the Holmes short story, “The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire.” Doyle’s non-Sherlock story, “Captain of the Polestar,” does have ghostly elements.

--“Kolchak: The Night Stalker,” the iconic 1970s TV series about a newspaperman (played by Darren McGavin) who tries to convince his editor about the existence of vampires and other supernatural creatures. Based on the



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unpublished writings of Jeff Rice, who subsequently wrote and published a string of Night Stalker books.

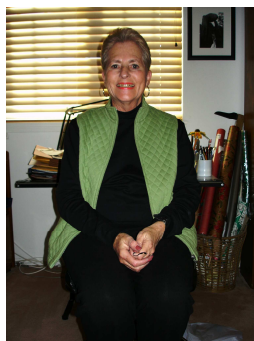
--The Scully-Mulder team of TV's "The X-Files." That would be Dana Scully (portrayed by Gillian Anderson), and Fox William Mulder (David Duchovny). He believes in extraterrestrials; she is a skeptic whose beliefs are founded in science. They offset one another.

Paranormal mysteries often find logical characters dealing with things they can't explain. That kind of thing doesn't rattle Jeff Michaels. After all, Michaels – the guest speaker – is an instructor of metaphysics, which he defined as "the study of things we can't quantify." He does past life regression consultations and Tarot card readings, but does not identify himself as a psychic. "There's a lot of weight to that word," said Michaels. "Kind of makes you think the bunco squad is going to show up, right?" As he pointed out, there is sometimes a predator-prey relationship that goes on in the world of psychics. "I don't want to be viewed as a woo woo guy," he explained.

The author of a number of book collections of inspirational articles and metaphysical short stories, Michaels, who is based in Huntington Beach, has taught at the Southern California Writers' Conference. (His 2015 topic: "Write from the Heart"). Stressing that "perception can be reality," he pointed out that writers by their nature are intuitive, and "part of creative energy." He suggested that writers ask themselves the following about their next project: "Is there a consequence that can be raised, to make the world better?"

Orders of business included the presentation of a \$1,000 check to representatives of the Placentia Library District, as part of the National Sisters in Crime's "We Love Libraries" grants program.

MEET THE MEMBERS



Cynthia Weitz, author of *Feisty Old Ladies*, is currently writing the sequel, *Going Gangbusters*. Born and educated in New England at the University of Vermont and Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts, she was employed as researcher in New York and California. Cynthia loves classical music, opera and theatre, and *An Art Museum Guide*. She has traveled to 92 countries, and is a life-long learner.



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Weapons of Choice: My wits and a hatpin

Favorite Head covering: A Fascinator

Favorite Reading Genre: Mysteries; Literature

Would like to share a meal with: Margaret Atwood or Zadie Smith to discuss her gorgeous language in *On Beauty*.

MEMBER NEWS

Terri Nolan's Birdie Keane is back. *Blue Bird* is the third novel in the critically acclaimed and award nominated series that began with *Burden of Truth* and continued with *Glass Houses*. “Birdie Keane is blue. Bruised, battered, damaged. Physically, emotionally, spiritually. As she struggles to recover, her past and her future collide in a series of events that push her to the breaking point. Another great story in this excellent psychological thriller series.” ~ DP Lyle, award-winning author of the Dub Walker and Samantha Cody thriller series.

Join **Jan Burke** and **DP Lyle** on Crime and Science Radio for these fun upcoming shows:

11-7-15: Crime and Science Radio: Lie Catchers: Paul Bishop Returns

11-21-15: Crime and Science Radio: Identifying The Dead, Finding The Missing: An Interview With Todd Matthews of NamUs

12-5-15: Crime and Science Radio: Bones Tell the Tale: An Interview With Forensic Anthropologist and Best-selling Author Kathy Reichs

12-19-15: Men of Valor: An Interview with Author and Weapons Expert John F. Mullins, Major U.S. Army Special Forces (Ret.)

For details, go to: <http://www.dplylemd.com/crime--science-radio.html>



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. Coffee & Wi-Fi available.

In-Store Events:

Sunday, November 15, 2:00 p.m. - OC Sisters in Crime meeting at Mystery Ink - Michael Sears will be the speaker at the November meeting being held at Mystery Ink. He co-writes the Detective Kobo series based in modern Botswana with Stanley Trollip under the name Michael Stanley. Both are retired professors who have worked in academia and business. Sears is a mathematician, specializing in geological remote sensing. They were both born in South Africa. *A Carrion Death* is their first novel. Sears lives with his family in Johannesburg, South Africa with his wife and step-daughter. They have two corgis who, although intelligent, are not avid readers of crime fiction.

Saturday, November 21, 3:00 p.m. - Mike Befeler, author of *Murder on the Switzerland Trail*.

On Sunday morning, June 29, 1919, off-duty police officer Harry McBride is among a group of people at the Boulder depot taking a trip into the mountains on the Switzerland Trail of America railroad. After a lunch stop, though, one of the passengers staggers back onto the train and collapses in the aisle, dead from a knife wound. Harry McBride is determined to solve the murder before the train returns to the station. This historical mystery novel provides a snapshot of the city of Boulder, Colorado and its narrow-gauge railroad in the early years of the twentieth century.

Saturday, November 28, 3:00 p.m. – Gary Mraz – Motorcycle Mystery

Outside Events:

Sunday, November 8 – 2:00 p.m. - LA Sisters in Crime meeting - Book Publicity Demystified with Liz Donatelli, Reader- Sybil Johnson (Fatal Brushstroke)

Saturday, November 14 – Men of Mystery event at the Marriott Hotel – For more information, go to:
<http://menofmystery.org/>.



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Support your local SinC chapter. Buy a mug at the next meeting, and donate books for our raffle!

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: