



# 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 in the Community Affairs meeting room on the northeast side of the parking lot. For directions, visit:

[www.ocsistersincrimel.org](http://www.ocsistersincrimel.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"

## OC SinC OPENINGS

Looking for a chance to get involved with a great organization? Look no further. The Orange County chapter of Sisters in Crime has several openings on the board for next year. Please consider signing up for position and a chance to make a difference in planning our meetings and deciding what direction our chapter will take.

Also, after editing this newsletter for the past six years, I am stepping down. It has been a rewarding experience, but due to personal reasons I am making some changes. It's not difficult, and I would be happy to answer any questions about the newsletter you might have.

The meeting schedule for 2016 is as follows: Oct. 23, Nov. 27, and Dec. 11.

Snack signups: Oct. - Jill Amadio, Nov. - Gita Fisher, Dec. - potluck



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Sunday, October 23rd --**

At 2:00 p.m., during our Writer's Forum, we will be discussing mysteries that utilize unconventional crime-solving tools.

At 3:00 p.m., **Connie di Marco** (aka **Connie Archer**) will discuss her new series, *The Zodiac Mysteries*. Her first book, *The Madness of Mercury*, just came out.



Connie was born and grew up in New England, ice skating on neighborhood ponds, clamming on the beach at Cape Cod and skiing in Vermont. As a schoolgirl, she spent several years wading through Caesar's Gallic War journals and the twelve books of the Aeneid. During her summers she performed in a children's theater troupe that traveled the suburbs of Boston, mounting productions in parks and children's hospitals. After majoring in biology in college, she did an about face and earned a degree in English literature. Since then she's worked at many different jobs — laboratory technician, cocktail waitress, medical secretary, and dinner theatre actress, to name just a few. Connie lives in Los Angeles with her family and a constantly talking cat named Basil.

## MEETING ROUNDUP

By Theresa Schultz



Our September meeting focused on writing. At 2:00 p.m., the Writerpalooza began with some of our published writers sharing their paths to publication. We heard from president Gayle Carline, who has had success with both traditional publishing and self-publishing. Vice-president Jack Martin talked about the value of having an agent. Donna Lear discussed her decision to self-publish, and Pat Broeske, who has a couple of best sellers under her wing, talked about the difference between pitching fiction and nonfiction. Yours truly talked about rejection and perseverance and my experience as a finalist in the James Patterson co-author contest.

We talked in length about the elements of a good query. The first paragraph should introduce the protagonist, his goal and who or what is keeping him from reaching that goal. The second paragraph should explain why you chose this particular agent or editor to query. The last paragraph should contain any relevant biographical information. Of course, most agents/editors have an online presence, which is very helpful. Three things to



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remember before you query: make sure they are accepting queries, verify that they represent your genre, and be sure you follow their submission guidelines exactly.

At 3:00 p.m., our guest speaker was **Jennifer Silva Redmond**, former editor-in-chief/acquisitions editor at Sunbelt Press. Since we had covered queries in our first hour, she focused primarily on pitches.

The quick story summaries in TV Guide are good examples of distilling your story down to a one or two sentence pitch. Like in the query, you want to introduce your protagonist, followed by the antagonist/obstacles, and the protagonist's resistance to that goal. Jennifer reminded us that the main obstacle to a character reaching his goal may not be an outside force at all. For example, if his goal is to proclaim his feelings for another, his own shyness may keep him from achieving that goal.

Comparing your work to others can be tricky. If you say your book is a modern version of *Oliver Twist*, that's a lot to live up to. Instead, say your character is a modern artful dodger. Also, mentioning another book by title can be bad if the agent/editor you are pitching didn't like that book. Jennifer recommends we give them something they can take to Hollywood. Never say, "It's like nothing you've ever seen before. Say, "It's just like 'this successful thing' only different."

And, if you haven't already heard of it, Jennifer brought up the manuscript wish list, where agents and editors post the projects they would most like to acquire. It's on Twitter (Log in and search for MSWL) and on the website [www.manuscriptwishlist.com](http://www.manuscriptwishlist.com).

Jennifer is currently a consulting editor. You can learn more about her at [www.jennyredbug.com](http://www.jennyredbug.com).

## MEMBER NEWS

In the November issue of *Orange Coast*, **Pat H. Broeske** cases out Dashiell Hammett's literary legacy – by checking in with his Orange County granddaughter, Julie Rivett, who works to preserve and present his writings, and to humanize his iconic image. Hammett's the guy who forever changed the crime writing genre. Sam Spade, anyone?

## MYSTERY INK NEWS

Mystery Ink Bookstore, 8907 Warner Avenue, #135, Huntington Beach, (714) 960-4000  
NEW HOURS – Wednesday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
[www.mysteryink.com](http://www.mysteryink.com). Coffee & Wi-Fi available.



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2016 LADIES OF INTRIGUE REPORT

by

Diana Dallape, Co-Chair



Great Boris, Robin Burcell, Carolyn Hart, Rhys Bowen, and LOI co-chairs Debbie Mitsch and Diana Dallape

THE 2016 LADIES OF INTRIGUE EVENT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS.

Eighteen authors and ninety women gathered together to honor Carolyn Hart's final public event. National Sisters in Crime presented Carolyn with an arrangement of orchids and white roses along with a stuffed "white" seal wearing a silver chain necklace with a Sisters in Crime charm. Featured speaker Rhys Bowen's touching interview of Carolyn was heartwarming, making everyone in the room hoping Carolyn keeps writing.

M.C. Greta Boris kept the event smooth and sailing along. And our closing featured speaker Robin Burcell was a hit with the inside scoop of co-writing with Clive Cussler and her law enforcement experiences.

Panels: Wine, Dine & Die featured authors Kathy Aarons; Linda O. Johnston; Carlene O'Neil; Kate Dyer Seeley with Moderator, Earlene Fowler. Panel: Lean, Mean & In Between featured authors' Lisa Brackmann; Jane Haseldine; Naomi Hirahara; Laurie Stevens; Pamela Samuels Young with moderator, Daryl Wood Gerber. Panel: Dangerous Locales featured authors' Ellen Byron; Donis Casey; Hannah Dennison; Earlene Fowler with moderator, Kate Carlisle.

Authors signed their books, which sold at a fast pace. The raffle baskets were a big hit, and many attendees were ready to sign up for next years' LOI. Attendees expressed their gratitude to the authors for sharing their stories; being able to sit with their favorite author at the round tables for lunch was an added bonus.

Professional photographer Bob Webber took pictures to document the day, which will be posted on line. A great big thank you to the organizing committee and volunteers who made this event such a success: Jill Amadio, MC



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Greta Boris, greeter Nancy Churchill, raffle organizer Gita Fisher, Valerie Hansen, Jack Martin, Evelyn Moore, and Linda Nakamura. We could not have done it without you. Co-chairs, Diana Dallape and Debbie Mitsch appreciated all of your hard work.



National Sisters in Crime presented Carolyn Hart with a stuffed baby seal, a replica of the seal that is passed on to each new president on their inauguration.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**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](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

**Print and complete this form.** NOTE: YOU MUST ALSO JOIN SISTERS IN CRIME NATIONAL TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER.

To become a member of SinC National (\$40 **ACTIVE\***, or \$50 **PROFESSIONAL\*\***) go to: <http://www.sistersincrime.org>; See "Become a Member" at the top of the opening page.

To join SinC O.C., send the completed form, below, with a \$25 check, payable to Sisters in Crime, to: Membership, Sisters in Crime O.C., P.O. Box 53132, Irvine, CA 92619-3132.

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### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Pls. 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:**

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**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:**

\*An **ACTIVE** member is a paid-up Sisters in Crime, Inc. member who does not have a business interest in promoting the purposes of Sisters in Crime, Inc. This includes, but is not limited to, fans and readers.

\*\* A **PROFESSIONAL** member is a paid-up Sisters in Crime, Inc. member who is one of the following: an author pursuing a career in mystery writing, a bookseller, a publisher, a librarian, an editor or one who has a business interest in promoting the purposes of Sisters in Crime, Inc.