

ORANGE HERRING



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.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”

NEXT MEETING

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The next meeting will be at 2:00 on Sunday, 25 February. Our guest speaker will be Shannon Laren. Sgt. Laren of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Homicide Bureau focuses on the details of an investigation, and believes nothing spoils a story quicker than when a writer describes an unrealistic situation and tries to pass it off as real. It's only believable if it's possible. Laren has spent the past 14 years in Homicide finding the evidence to prove the truth by focusing on the details of the crime. Now after 32 years in law enforcement working for the LASD, he's scheduled to retire at midnight on Feb. 27, 2018.

He has a long history in law enforcement and even longer history with firearms. He was introduced to firearms at the age of 12, began hunting at 16, and entered law enforcement at 18 working as an undercover security officer at Kmart, Target and Ralphs, arresting shoplifters and employees who stole from the companies.

At 21, Laren joined LASD and spent the first three years as a Custody Deputy at Men's Central Jail in downtown Los Angeles. He served the next eight years as a Patrol Deputy, Special Projects Deputy and Field Training Officer, and then four years as Station Detective. Laren spent the majority of his patrol time in South Central Los Angeles. After 15 years as a Deputy, he was promoted to Sergeant. He worked for three years in East Los Angeles as a Patrol and Detective Supervisor, and then reassigned to Homicide in 2003 as Investigator. In the Homicide Bureau, Laren has investigated hundreds of murders, officer involved shootings, suicides, accidental deaths, industrial accidents which led to death, child deaths, natural deaths and suspicious deaths. He has authored hundreds of search warrants, arrest warrants and court orders, as well as testified as an arresting and investigating officer, and expert in the fields of narcotics and firearms in the Los Angeles Superior and Juvenile Courts.

During his years as an Investigator, Laren has convicted many killers who are now serving a variety of sentences in state prison, including life, life without the

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possibility of parole and death. He's been trained to investigate homicides, officer involved shootings, gang behaviors, assaults, firearms, thefts, frauds, sexual assaults, possessions, transportations, sales and manufacturing of narcotics, arson, explosives and domestic and international terrorism. He has been involved in riots in jail and on the street, involved in multiple vehicle and foot pursuits, fights, vehicle accidents and several shootings. He has witnessed people being shot, stabbed, beaten and run over, and watched several of them take their last breaths. He has been stabbed, shot at and beaten on a few occasions.

Laren also served five years in an Infantry Battalion in the United States Marine Corps Reserves from 1986 to 1991. During his last year, he was activated and deployed to South East Asia during the First Gulf War as a squad leader in a rifle company. He received an honorable discharge at the rank of Sergeant.

His wife Laurie Sullivan is a member. She says, "I think he would like to talk about how to make sure the details of an investigation are accurate, but he's open to just about anything. He can get pretty specific about the evidence investigators must find to prove cases from blood spatters, bullet wounds, knife wounds, and more."

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2018 SinC BOARD MEETING

By Teresa Schultz

We are encouraging meeting attendees to join OC SinC and asking current members to renew both their local and national memberships. Proof of national membership is required.

Gita and Dianne will be our official greeters at meetings, and they will ask guests to provide an email address so that we can notify them of future meetings and events. The treasurer will forward these emails to the rest of the board so that we may update our lists.

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In regards to speakers for 2018, we have Shannon Laren booked for February and Marcia Tally for September. We will try to put together a paranormal panel for October. Other potential speakers mentioned were Rebecca Forrester and Matt Coyle.

Theresa will contact her friend who runs the mystery escape room and Gayle will try to set up a tour of the crime lab.

The Ladies of Intrigue committee will meet to discuss LOI business.

MEETING ROUNDUP

By Gayle Carline

OC Sisters in Crime kicked off the new year with a fantastic Forensics Fest guest speaker, Wes Albers. A 28-year veteran with the San Diego Police Department, Wes has covered almost every inch of San Diego, as a uniformed officer, a detective, and a liaison with various agencies. For our meeting, he was happy to share his experience at crisis negotiations.

Crisis negotiations cover several kinds of crisis: a suicidal person, a family member with hostages, and a public situation (ie, bank robbery). Each case must be handled differently, and negotiators have a difficult job, assessing and delivering what is needed to end things peacefully.

Wes kept the audience enrapt during his talk, as we all took furious notes about how negotiations work. Although most of us realized that it's not the way most movies portray it, with a single hero working alone, there were still plenty of surprises.

We learned that:

Although San Diego is the second largest city in California (L.A. is first), SDPD staffing is half the size of Dallas.

Integration of different agencies is important. A negotiations team includes mental and physical health professionals, as well as local law enforcement and federal agents. There are typically over 50 people on most emergency negotiations teams, all of whom have many hours of training.

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The most important thing in negotiating is to get the person talking. If they do not have a cell phone, the team has an encased phone on a line to throw through the window. If that isn't possible, they have a bullhorn. The negotiations team would rather talk the person out peacefully, even if it takes hours.

Individual officers can make decisions without awaiting orders if they see the situation escalate. If an officer witnesses the person pointing a gun at one of the hostages and the officer is able to stop them, they do not have to be told to "take the shot."

SWAT is often deployed with the negotiations team; however, they typically do not get involved in the decision-making unless someone has been killed.

Friends and family members can be brought in to help, but they are not allowed to speak directly to the person. The team will have them record a message that they can control.

A meticulous record of events is kept, both by a scribe recording the timeline of calls, names, threats, etc. and a whiteboard person who keeps track of all the notes during the event.

Every mission is debriefed immediately upon completion. If a death occurred during a mission, a psychologist is brought in.

The entire group was thrilled to have this information, delivered by a dynamic speaker like Wes. Whether you're a writer or a reader, it was a fascinating look into how things really happen during a crisis. We can't thank Wes Albers enough for spending his Sunday with us!

MEMBER NEWS

D. P. Lyle will be on Thorne and Cross: Haunted Nights LIVE!

Authors on the Air Network

Thursday, February 22, 2018, 5:00 p.m. PST

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<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/authorsonthairradio2>

MYSTERY INK NEWS

Check our website for upcoming mystery conferences! mysteryink.com
Mystery Ink, 8907 Warner Avenue, #135, Huntington Beach, CA (714) 960-4000

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, February 24th San Clemente Friends of the Library

Annual Author Luncheon with Naomi Hirahara, Matt Coyle, and Liska Jacobs

Saturday, March 3rd, Placentia Library Friends of the Library Luncheon

Annual Author Luncheon featuring David Putnam, for more information and reservations visit: <http://placentialibraryfriends.com/index.html>

Wednesday, March 14th Literary Guild of Orange County Literary Salon

5:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. Annual author dinner at the Mile Square Park Banquet Center with authors: Michelle Gable, Nicole Mones, and Dawn Anahid MacKeen. For more information or to register visit: www.lgoc.com.

Saturday, March 17th AAUW - Huntington Beach

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Annual author lunch with Anne Perry, Aline Ohanesian and Abbi Waxman. For additional information and registration visit: <https://wfh-ca.aauw.net/files/2017/12/Jnauary-2018-Newsletter-pdf.pdf>



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Saturday, April 7th AAUW - Newport Beach

With poet Selma Mann.

Sunday, April 15th Anaheim Library Annual Mystery Authors Luncheon

D.P. Lyle, Patricia Smiley, and Matt Coyle with moderator Robin Burcell

<http://www.anaheimpubliclibraryfoundation.com/>

MYSTERY CONFERENCES 2018:

Left Coast Crime, March 22nd-25th, Reno, NV

Guests of Honor: Naomi Hirahara and William Kent Krueger, Toastmaster: Todd Borg

Malice Domestic, April 27th-29th, Bethesda, MD

Guest of Honor: Louise Penny, Toastmaster: Catriona McPherson

CrimeFest May 17th-20th, Bristol, United Kingdom

Featured Authors: Lee Child and Jeffery Deaver

ThrillerFest XIII, July 10th -14th, New York City, NY

Thriller Master: George R.R. Martin and Lee Child

Bouchercon, September 6th-9th, St. Petersburg, FL

Guests of Honor include: Karin Slaughter, Ian Rankin, Lisa Unger and more!

Mystery Ink, www.mysteryink.com, 8907 Warner Avenue#135, Huntington Beach, CA

For additional information and location: ocsistersincrime.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

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.

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:

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.