



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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The next meeting will be held on Mar. 22. Meetings for the remainder of the year will be held on Apr. 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, Aug. 23, Oct. 25, and Nov. 22. Our holiday meeting will be held at Mystery Ink on Dec. 13th. There will be no meeting in September; instead, we will host our second Ladies of Intrigue program on Oct. 3rd. Please mark your calendars.

Snack duty will be on a rotating basis. The following people have agreed to bring the snack for these meetings:

March: Aileen Jue
April: Donna Lear
May: Colleen Dempsey
June: Jack Martin
July: Shawn Nelson
Aug: Jill Amadio
Sept: NO MEETING (LOI the next weekend)
Oct: Gita Fisher
Nov: Theresa Schultz
Dec: Potluck

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday, Mar. 22 at – Meeting Topic: What's Love Got to Do With It?

Most mysteries and thrillers have a romantic element to them, even if it's a one-night stand for the hero (can anyone say "Bond girls?"). At what point does that element turn a suspense novel into romantic suspense?

At **2:00 p.m.**, we'll begin with our Reader's Forum on mysteries and romance - love the mix? Hate it? How much is too much?

At **3:00 p.m.**, join **Lisa Kessler** and **Beth Yarnall**, two southern California authors who are making a name for themselves in romance, with a heavy dose of danger.

Lisa Kessler is an Amazon Best Selling author of dark paranormal fiction. Her debut novel, *Night Walker*, won a San Diego Book Award for Best Published Fantasy-Sci-fi-Horror as well as the Romance Through the Ages Award for Best Paranormal and Best First Book. She currently writes the Night Series and the Moon Series for Entangled Publishing. Her short stories have been published in print anthologies and magazines, and her vampire story, *Immortal Beloved*, was a finalist for a Bram Stoker award. You can learn more about Lisa at her website – <http://www.authorlisakessler.com/>



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Award winning author, **Beth Yarnall** writes romantic suspense, mysteries and the occasional hilarious tweet. For a number of years, Beth made her living as a hairstylist and makeup artist and co-owned a salon. Somehow hairstylists and salons always seem to find their way into her stories. Beth lives in Southern California with her husband, two sons, and their rescue dog, where she is hard at work on her next novel. For more about Beth and her stories, please visit her website – www.bethyarnall.com.

MEETING ROUNDUP

By Pat H. Broeske

Our February meeting – the second of our annual Forensics Fest meetings – was marked by a pair of memorable speakers. **David Putnam** discussed his journey from law enforcement to writing. **Richard Rodriguez**, of the O.C. Sheriff-Coroner Dept., gave a vivid (and not for the squeamish) PowerPoint presentation about the agency and some of its investigations.

During his more than thirty years in law enforcement Putnam was an officer with the Sheriff's Department in Ontario, South Central Los Angeles, and San Bernardino. He also worked out of Hawaii as a special agent, working on white collar crime and smuggling.

He recounted some of his cases, which involved bank robbers (one known as “the handsome bank robber”), gang members, meth dealers and other nefarious types. It was while working surveillance – “there was quite a bit of down time” – that he read mystery and crime books, and realized that many authors weren't authoritative about their subjects. “I got to thinking that I could do better,” said Putnam. After all, he explained, “writing police reports is a lot like writing short stories.”

His earliest books were written in longhand on legal pads; he wrote numerous books before he managed to sell his 2014 title, *The Disposables* (Oceanview Publishing) about an ex-cop who is also an ex-con. *Publishers Weekly* called it “a fast-paced tale of idealism and corruption.” The recent follow-up, *The Replacements*, has also garnered strong reviews; *Publishers Weekly* noted, “Putnam steadily ratchets up the tension while memorable supporting characters ... help engage reader interest.”

Rodriguez, who is Chief Training Officer for the Coroner Division, discussed the agency's workings and their responsibility. “We're here to protect the deceased. To give them a voice,” he said. The coroner determines the mode, manner and cause of death. The different types of death are: homicide, suicide, accident, natural and undetermined. Rodriguez talked about various investigations and how determinations were made.

His talk included plenty of information for authors to consider. Did you know that a dead body can still tan? Or that it takes eight weeks for a body to decompose in the ground, compared to one week in the air and two weeks in the water? Now you do.



MEMBER NEWS

Terry Ambrose will be at the Tucson Festival of Books on March 14 and 15 to promote his McKenna Mystery series. For more information about the McKenna Mystery series, visit terryambrose.com.

Terri Nolan's *Glass Houses*, the second in the Birdie Keane series, has been nominated for The Rose for the best mystery novel set in the LLC region. The award will be voted on at Left Coast Crime in March.

SinC member, Orange County Noir/USA noir contributor, and host of Writers on Writing, **Barbara DeMarco-Barrett**, is holding summer writing retreats and getaways in Palm Springs in June. If you'd like more information, email her at penonfire@earthlink.net. 10% discount for SinC members.

D.P. Lyle has several upcoming events, including:

La Habra Public Library
March 21, 2015, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
221 E. La Habra Blvd
La Habra, CA 90631
<http://ocpl.org/libloc/habra/calendar>
Info: [562-694-0078](tel:562-694-0078)

And he will be appearing with **Jan Burke** at:

Fullerton Public Library
Sunday, **March 29, 2015, 1:30 p.m.**
“Crime and Science: How Do Scientist Solve Crimes and How Does Hollywood Get It Wrong?”
253 W. Commonwealth Ave. Fullerton, CA
[714-738-6383](tel:714-738-6383)
<http://fullertonlibrary.org>



MYSTERY INK NEWS

New hours at Mystery Ink are:
Wednesday - Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Store Events:

Saturday, March 14th, 3:00 p.m. – Ona Russell - *Rule of Capture, An Historical Mystery*

"Russell intertwines fictional and nonfictional events in an engaging manner, weaving both the peculiar charms of early Hollywood and the real-life Julian Petroleum scandal into her murder mystery; Los Angeles landmarks such as the Brown Derby and Grauman's Chinese Theatre become the settings for Sarah's (protagonist) exploits..." Kirkus Reviews

Saturday, March 21st, 10 to 11 a.m. - Cara Black & Rhys Bowen - Talk and Signing

Cara Black - *Murder on the Champ de Mars* - 15th book in her Parisian based Aimee Leduc series.
Rhys Bowen - *Edge of Dreams* - a Molly Murphy novel and *Queen of Hearts* - a Royal Spyness mystery

Outside Events:

Saturday, March 21st, Noon to 2:00 p.m. - Brea Library - Cara Black & Rhys Bowen

Afternoon Talk and Tea. Reservations Required. 1 Civic Center Circle Plaza Level, 714-671-1722

Saturday, March 21st, 2:30 p.m. - La Habra Library - D.P. Lyle - *Run to Ground*

221 E La Habra Blvd, La Habra, CA 90631 · (562) 694-0078
<http://ocpl.org/libloc/habra/calendar>

Sunday, March 22nd, 2:00 p.m. - Santa Monica Library - Cara Black & Rhys Bowen

601 Santa Monica Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90401 · (310) 458-8600

Sunday, March 29th, 11:00 a.m. - 20th Annual Mystery Authors Luncheon for the Anaheim Public Library Foundation.

Sheraton Park Hotel, 1855 S. Harbor Blvd, <http://anaheimpubliclibraryfoundation.org/>

Sunday, March 29th, 1:00 p.m. - Fullerton Library - Jan Burke & D.P. Lyle

Distinguished Speakers Series - Crime & Science, 353 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton, CA 92832 · (714) 738-6333

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



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, April 18th - 19th at USC.

Mystery Ink has booth #376, same as last year, that OC SinC helps to sponsor. Any member authors that would like signing times, please contact Debbie at mysteryink@hotmail.com

Sisters in Crime  orange County

Presents

Ladies of Intrigue

A day-long event featuring Remarkable Women Mystery Writers

Saturday, October 3, Hotel Huntington Beach

With special guest speaker Catriona McPherson, SinC national president

And other soon to be announced authors *

* Interested authors are invited to contact OC SinC president Gayle Carline @ gaylecarline@sbcglobal.net

Details Available Soon @ ocsistersincrime.org

Left Coast Crime

“Crimelandia,” this year’s annual Left Coast Crime mystery convention, will be held **March 12-15 in Portland, OR.**

Sponsored by and for mystery fans, “Crimelandia” will feature a roster of author-reader panels and other events. Guest of honor is Tim Hallinan, author of 16 published novels including the Poke Rafferty and Junior Bender series – and a former OC SinC guest speaker.

OC SinC members who will be attending include Aileen Baron, Gayle Carline, Pat H. Broeske, and Terri Nolan,



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whose book *Glass Houses* is nominated for The Rose for the best mystery novel set in the LLC region.

For information go to <http://www.leftcoastcrime.org/2015/>



Support your local SinC chapter. Buy a mug at the next meeting, and donate 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:**