



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.ocsistersincrimelocal.com ([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"

The final two meetings for 2016 will take place on Nov. 27 and Dec. 11. Gita Fisher will bring the snack in November, and December's meeting will be a potluck at Mystery Ink Bookstore.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday, November 27th, 2:00 p.m. --

Please note that our November meeting will begin at **2:00 p.m.** We'll have an opportunity to learn about our OC members and the books they've written. A moderator will ask our panel of authors questions about their publishing journey and their books.



Authors: If you are a member of OC Sisters in Crime and would like to be on the panel, please contact Gayle Carline, gaylecarline@sbcglobal.net before NOVEMBER 11th, so she can include your name on the schedule. (Be sure to let Gayle know the title of your book!)

Also, if your books are not in Debbie's bookstore, please contact her about bringing them for consignment sale at the meeting. And feel free to bring bookmarks, or any kind of SWAG you'd like to give away, including copies of your books. We can raffle off books, baskets, etc.

Should be fun!

MEETING ROUNDUP

By Pat H. Broeske



For her latest book, our October guest speaker looked to the stars. "I'd been reading about astrology for a number of years," says **Connie di Marco**, who launched her new Zodiac Series with the summer title, "The Madness of Mercury." Featuring a San Francisco astrologer-amateur sleuth, the book got a nice review from *Kirkus* (which dubbed it "smartly written") – but, when it was first shopped, there was some resistance to the plotline, because it focuses on a Jim Jones-Peoples Temple-like cult. And then there was the astrology. "Too complicated," was one editor's response.

Fittingly, the book found a home at Midnight Ink, the mystery imprint of Llewellyn, which happens to specialize in books about astrology.

Not that rejections were new to di Marco – a former actress. (She worked under the **professional name** Connie Richmond and, earlier, Connie Mercede.) "Actors know all about rejection," she laughs. She had racked up credits in a string of TV series, including the hits "L.A. Law" and "ER," and the 2004 movie, "Meet the Fockers," when her career hit "a cement wall." And so, she started to write.

Her first books didn't sell – but they led to a work for hire contract with Berkley Prime Crime to write the Soup Lover's Mysteries. She did them under the name, Connie Archer. (As a work for hire, di Marco does not own the books or their characters.) There were five titles between 2012 and 2015, beginning with "A Spoonful of Murder" and wrapping with "A Clue in the Stew." Philosophical about Berkley's decision to end the series ("I figured, 'Downton Abbey' only lasted six seasons. Who am I to complain?"), she moved on ... to the Zodiac, and a plot inspired by events that unfolded when she lived in San Francisco.

"At the time, Jim Jones and his followers were in the city. They were doing these good deeds. They kept getting



glowing stories in the press. It's as if he could do no wrong." (Tragically, Jones' cult members followed him right to the grave, in a mass murder-suicide in 1978). In "The Madness of Mercury," it's Reverend Roy of the Prophet's Tabernacle who casts an ominous spell.

She's now at work on sequels. Meantime, "I'm still pinching myself that I've written and published six books."

Her advice to writers? Using an alien-like voice, she quotes the lines uttered by one of the aliens, in the cult film, "GalaxyQuest": "Never give up! Never surrender!"

You can find out more about Connie and her books at <http://www.conniedimarco.com/>.

With a nod toward the Halloween season, unconventional crime-solving tactics were the topic of our Reader's Forum. Among the books/characters mentioned:

--Odd Thomas, the short order cook-clairvoyant who debuted in the 2003 eponymous novel by Dean Koontz. There have been six sequels.

--The Fairmont Riding Academy books by YA author Michelle Scott, in which the protagonist has a telepathic connection with her horse.

--The Dead Detective series by William Heffernan, about investigator Harry Doyle – who was murdered as a child, came back to life, and is able to hear the postmortem whispers of his victims.

--The Donna Andrews series featuring "artificial intelligence personality" (a mainframe computer) known as Turing Hopper.

--The supernatural-themed mysteries of James Hebert, and the supernatural thrillers by Alexandra Sokoloff.

--Jim Butcher's Dresden Files books, featuring investigator/"consulting wizard" Harry Dresden.

--John Sandford's "Prey" books, about Lucas Davenport, a brilliant games inventor who also solves crimes.

Books like these may stray from reality (to say the least!), but if they have a set of rules/boundaries, they manage to be credible.

Editor's Note: Many thanks to the organizers of Ladies of Intrigue who presented a check for \$500 to the Orange County chapter of Sisters in Crime.



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MEMBER NEWS

Greta Boris has signed with Fawkes Press for the first two books in her 7 Deadly Sins suspense series. Book 1, *A Margin of Lust*, is scheduled to be released in June 2017. The second book, *The Scent of Wrath*, will be released later in the year.

On Wednesday, November 9th at 7 p.m., **Jill Amadio** will give a presentation and sign books at the Balboa Island Museum for the second book in her mysteries series, *Digging Up the Dead: A Tosca Trevant Mystery*. The series is set on the island where Jill lived for twelve years. This is her second appearance at the museum. The first one, last month, featured her debut book, *Digging Too Deep*. The event is free and open to the public. The museum is located at 331 Marine Avenue, Balboa Island. 949-675-3952

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. Coffee & Wi-Fi available.

Sunday, November 13th, Noon

Sue Ann Jaffarian – *Rhythm & Clues* **Patricia Smiley** - *Pacific Homicide* - Joint signing

Two past presidents of the L.A. chapter of Sisters in Crime will be doing a talk and signing their new books from Midnight Ink.



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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. **The deadline is the 7th of each month!**



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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.