



# 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](http://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/](http://www.sistersincrime.org/). To renew for our chapter, go to: [www.ocsistersincrime.org/membership.htm](http://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.

**Please renew your Sisters in Crime membership today!**



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The meeting schedule for 2016 is as follows: July 24, Aug. 28, Sep. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 27, and Dec. 11. Please mark your calendars and check this newsletter and the website for updates.

Snack signups are as follows: July: Gayle Carline, August: Donna Lear, September: Gita Fisher, October: Jill Amadio, November: Gita Fisher, December: potluck

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### **Sunday, July 24th at 3 p.m.: Guest speaker Lisa Brackmann**

Lisa Brackmann will discuss her latest book, *Go-Between* (Soho Crime). A follow-up to her 2012 thriller *Getaway*, it deals with the intersection of for-profit prisons, big-money politics, shady non-profits and the war on drugs.

Lisa's interest in this country's "prison/industrial complex" – and especially, private for-profit prisons – triggered the book. (She initially contemplated doing a non-fiction work on the prisons of California.)

The book is garnering strong reviews, including:

"*Go-Between* is a perfect title. [Protagonist] Michelle Mason is between lives, between names, between worlds, between versions of herself... Brackmann provides full access to Michelle's every thought and observation." — *New York Journal of Books*;

"The edgy plot never lets up ... " — *Publishers Weekly*;

If you believe in conspiracy theories, this is the book for you. And if you don't, it might make you a believer." — *Mystery Scene*

Lisa also authors the series featuring Ellie McEnroe, an Iraq War vet living in Beijing. The series debuted in 2010 with "Rock Paper Tiger."

Lisa will speak at 3 p.m.

At 2 p.m. we'll have a Readers Forum. The topic: "Fish out of water" stories. We'll talk about our favorite characters thrust into strange circumstances or unfamiliar territory.

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**Sunday, August 28 at 1 p.m.: Annual joint luncheon meeting with So Cal MWA**

We team with the So Cal chapter of Mystery Writers of America for our annual gathering. The program will feature members of the ATF – the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives – who will discuss a San Diego murder for hire investigation.



-- AND --



Mystery  
Writers  
of  
America

Southern  
California  
Chapter

**PRESENT**

## **Murder for Hire: A True Crime ATF Investigation**

***Luncheon & Program***

*Agents with the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives)  
will discuss a 'ripped from the headlines' case*

**Sunday, August 28, 1 p.m.  
Irvine Ranch Water District \*  
15500 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine**

***Free & Open to the Public***  
**RSVP: [secretary@ocsistersincrime.org](mailto:secretary@ocsistersincrime.org)**

\* (Disclaimer: 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.)



## MEETING ROUNDUP

By Pat H. Broeske



**Janis Thomas**, our guest speaker in June, has the distinction of having created (or should we say composed?) a new genre – murder mystery with a soundtrack. In *Murder in A-Minor*, Janis Thomas delivers a protagonist who composes songs in order to solve crimes. The character shares a trait with the author, who has written more than 50 songs and was once in a band with her sister. *Murder in A-Minor* is the first in Thomas’s Musical Murder Mystery series. Other anticipated titles: *Murder in B-Flat*, *Murder in C-Major*, *Murder in D-Sharp* ... and on down the music scale.

The book was self-published by Thomas – who got her start in traditional publishing. Thomas is quick to point out that she paid a professional editor, and that the manuscript was worked and reworked and polished. In fact, the original manuscript – titled “The Devil You Know” – ran 150,000 words. It was trimmed to 110,000.

During her PowerPoint presentation, Thomas occasionally burst into song (her own compositions), as she charted her journey through publishing and from one genre to another.

She brought swag (including chocolates wrapped in promos for her book) and wore a t-shirt emblazoned with the opening line of her book: “The problem wasn’t too much booze ... the problem was too little coffee.” It’s from Samantha “Sam” Wedlock, a former detective with the N.Y.P.D., who’s relocated to So Cal and is asked to help investigate O.C. crime.

The mystery is a change of pace for Thomas, who broke through in 2012 with humorous women’s fiction, triggered by her interest in chick lit. “I enjoy a lot of chick lit, but so much of it is about twenty and thirtysomethings, who are always looking for and finding Mr. Right. I’m in my forties. I write chick lit for the soccer mom set.”

Her first book, “Something New,” was published by Penguin, as was the 2013 title, “Sweet Nothings.” Her third book, “Say Never,” came out in 2014 via the indie publisher, Wedlock Publishing. It was named one of the best books of the year by Chick Lit Central.

So, why the switch to mystery – and self-publishing? “I found it stifling to write one category,” says Thomas, adding that when once asked about “her brand,” she replied: “As a writer, I want my brand to be good books.” Then there was the issue of time. Roughly 18 months from acceptance to publication is standard in traditional publishing. Thomas wanted to cut short that time period. A “pantser” when writing women’s fiction, she outlined her mystery. “You have to be consistent as you build on clues,” she says.



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A resident of Orange County, she's a PTA mom who grew up reading Nancy Drew and Harriet the Spy. In the early Nineties she teamed with her dad to write two children's books.

Her writing career was given a boost by the annual novel writing competition sponsored by NaNoWriMo.com . Challenged to write a 50,000-word novel in a month, she exceeded the word length – and still wasn't finished. She subsequently polished the manuscript and submitted it for a critique at the Southern California Writers' Conference – where she is now a workshop leader. (The next conference is scheduled for Sept. 23-25 in Irvine.) The busy Thomas is currently at work on a novel that embraces magical realism. "It's very dark," she says. "And it's being shopped."

For more on Thomas, visit her website at [janisthomas.com](http://janisthomas.com) – and look her up on YouTube, where you can hear her warble in both a teaser and trailer for her just-out book.

Thomas spoke following a Readers Forum. The topic: bad guys and gals. Among the thoughts shared: the villain must be as strong and as memorable as the protagonist. Along with villains from literature – including Professor Moriarty, the criminal mastermind of the Sherlock Holmes tales – we discussed bad guys central to TV series, including the title character from "Dexter."

## MEMBER NEWS



Fired Pizza in Placentia, where the mystery series is set.

OC Sisters in Crime Board President **Gayle Carline** released her 4<sup>th</sup> Peri Minneopa Mystery, *A MORE DEADLY UNION*, on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Featuring her 50-year-old housecleaner-turned-detective, the story involves marriage, murder, and blackmail, set against the backdrop of a local election. Peri's boyfriend, Skip, has been shot and is in a coma. Unfortunately, the case she's working on is interfering with the police's ability to catch Skip's shooter. The book was launched at a lively gathering with food, drink, and music, at Craftsman's Wood

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**On Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**, OC SinC Member **Jill Amadio** will be reading from the latest book in her series, "Digging Up the Dead: A Tosca Trevant Mystery," at Kean Coffee, Newport Blvd, Tustin. The event is a Lit Up monthly open mic evening with three authors.

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**DP Lyle's DEEP SIX**, the first in a new Jake Longly comedic thriller series is now available.

Details: <http://www.dplylemd.com/books.html>

DEEP SIX Launch Party

Saturday, July 16, 2016, 2 p.m. PDT

Mystery Ink Bookstore

8907 Warner Avenue, #135

Huntington Beach

714-960-4000

<http://www.mysteryink.com>

Book Carnival

DEEP SIX signing

July 23, 2016, 2 p.m. PDT

348 S. Tustin Street

Orange, CA

[714-538-3210](tel:714-538-3210)

<http://www.annesbookcarnival.com>

Book Passage Bookstore

DEEP SIX Signing

Saturday, July 27, 2016, 7 p.m. PDT

51 Tamal Vista Blvd

Corte Madera, CA

[415-927-0960](tel:415-927-0960)

<http://www.bookpassage.com>

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Anyone interested in joining a critique group? If so, please contact members **Howard Rogers & Ruth Carter**. They'd like to get something going. They can be reached at: [rcarter@email.Arizona.edu](mailto:rcarter@email.Arizona.edu)

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**Greta Boris** is the new director of O.C. Writers. We're a group of 600+ writers in the Orange County area. We meet online at OCWriters.org and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OCWriters/>. We also have several around town write-ins and we're offering a workshop series in conjunction with the Katie Wheeler library in Irvine.



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**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.

**Store Events:**

**Saturday, July 16, 2 p.m. - D.P. Lyle Launch Party! Cake! Wine & Cheese!**

D.P. Lyle will be discussing his latest book, *Deep Six*.

“Lyle debuts a new series starring Jake Longly, former baseball player, now reluctant PI working for his father. Assigned to watch a wealthy woman believed to be having an affair, he quickly learns that her paramour is Jake's own ex-wife's new husband. Then the woman is murdered, and Jake, who has a mouth that speaks before his brain has time to think, finds himself in deep trouble. Readers who enjoy smart-mouthed PIs like Robert Crais' Elvis Cole will want to watch this series develop.”—Booklist Reviewer, Jeff Ayers

**Saturday, August 6, 1 p.m. – Jeri Westerson – Launch Party! Cake! Mead! Raffle!**

Jeri Westerson returns to Mystery Ink to launch, *A Maiden Weeping*, the ninth book in the Crispin Guest Medieval Noir series. Jeri will be raffling a Pandora-style bracelet which includes a tiny portrait of Crispin Guest! Don't miss out!

**Outside Events:**

**Tuesday, July 12, 6 p.m. - Pen on Fire Salon w/Barbara DeMarco Barrett with speakers - Parnaz Faroudan and Cynthia Sweeney**

**Sunday, October 2nd - 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. -** The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual LADIES OF INTRIGUE event will be held at the Hotel Huntington Beach, 7667 Center Avenue, Huntington Beach.

National Sisters in Crime past President, Carolyn Hart (in her career event finale) appearing as one of our speakers.

Aspiring crime novelists and mystery lovers alike will enjoy this day-long conference featuring more than 15 women mystery writers. Headlining the outstanding lineup is Carolyn Hart, winner of the Agatha Award in 2003 and the Malice Award in 2007. She has also received the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Amelia Award from Malice Domestic. Past national president of Sisters in Crime, she was named a Grand Master by the Mystery Writers of America in 2014. In her career event finale, she will be interviewed by *New York Times* best-selling author Rhys Bowen.



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Other popular mystery writers will include Robin Burcell, Ellen Byron, Donis Casey, Hannah Dennison, Kate Dyer-Seeley, Earlene Fowler, Daryl Wood Gerber, Naomi Hirahara, Carlene O'Neil, Laurie Stevens, Pamela Samuels Young, Linda O. Johnston and Kate Carlisle. They will participate in lively panel discussions where writers and fans can learn and enjoy.

Tickets are \$55 for SinC members before August 1st, \$60 after that date Tickets are \$60 for non-SinC members before August 1st, \$65 after that date.

Lunch is included. Free Parking

Go to [www.mysteryink.com](http://www.mysteryink.com) for more information or to register.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 11-14, 2016** – Writer's Police Academy 2016

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

International Public Safety Training Academy, Green Bay, Wisconsin

For more information, visit: <http://www.sistersincrime.org/?page=WPA2016>



**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.