



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"

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.

Please renew your Sisters in Crime membership today!

The meeting schedule for 2016 is as follows: Sep. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 27, and Dec. 11.
Snack signups: Sep. - Gita Fisher, Oct. - Jill Amadio, Nov. - Gita Fisher, Dec. - potluck

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Sunday, September 25th -- Writerpalooza!

At 2:00 p.m., we will begin with a Writer's Forum to discuss the publishing industry's various paths. If you are a published writer, you can discuss your personal journey, your successes and your regrets. If you are looking to be published, it's a perfect opportunity to ask questions and find out from other writers who have been standing where you are, how they decided which road suited them.

At 3:00 p.m., we welcome our guest speaker, **Jennifer Silva Redmond**, a freelance publishing consultant and editor, who will be talking about pitches, loglines, and queries, and what it takes to get an agent/publisher/reader to say, "Tell me more." Bring your pitches and query letters, and be prepared to get Jennifer's expert advice on whether you're successfully selling your story.

Jennifer spent more than a decade as editor-in-chief/acquisitions editor at Sunbelt Publications. On the staff of the Southern California Writers Conference and San Diego Writers, Ink, she was also prose editor for A Year in Ink Vol 3, and co-founder of the Sea of Cortez Review. Her essays, articles, and short fiction have been published in various anthologies, such as *Latinos in Lotusland*, and national magazines. She is always looking for "great new stuff" and has a wide circle of agents, editors, and publishers with whom to share marketable fiction and nonfiction.

Please tell your friends. As always, the public is invited!

MEETING ROUNDUP

By Theresa Schultz

The annual joint meeting of OC Sisters and Crime and Mystery Writers of America got off to a good start with a delicious luncheon. Many thanks to the members who contributed salads, appetizers and desserts.



Terri Nolan, Stephanie Romo, Gayle Carline

Following lunch, we were treated to a marvelous presentation by ATF agent **Stephanie Romo**, who gave us a detailed look at her investigation into a recent murder-for-hire case.

Adeline Cristobal wanted to have her nephew killed for three reasons: he owed her money, he was romantically involved with her 19-year-old daughter, and she blamed him for her husband's health problems due to

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Sisters in Crime Orange County

stress. She enlisted the help of her friend Antonio Quevada in hiring a killer. Fortunately, the man he approached to do the job was one of Romo's informants.

When Stephanie learned of the plot, she knew she had to move quickly. If they didn't act fast, Cristobel might find another man willing to do the job. In fact, Romo later learned that Cristobel had indeed lined up another killer if this man didn't work out. While a normal investigation might take up to two years, ATF figured they had no more than 48 hours to resolve this case. They set up a meet between Cristobel and one of their undercover officers – a man with the right look and knowledge of the right kind of Spanish, including street slang. Every detail was planned with precision, even where the undercover man would be sitting in the car.

Cristobel had followed her nephew for weeks and knew his schedule. She even had a copy of his driver's license in her purse. Using her cell phone, she contacted someone to advance her the money to pay for the murder. In an interesting twist, authorities were unable to prosecute the person she called because they spoke in an unusual dialect called Nathaul, and no one was able to translate the conversation.

The use of the cell phone proved key. Because cell phones cross state lines, the crime became conspiracy to use interstate commerce facilities to commit murder for hire. Federal authorities got involved and that resulted in harsher sentences. Cristobel got nine years in prison while her friend Quevada got seven.

Romo said that Cristobel was one of the most evil people she has ever arrested. During the interview with the undercover officer, Cristobel had specified that she wanted her nephew killed slowly and she wanted to be sure he knew that she had arranged his murder. When Romo interviewed her, she showed no emotion and no sign of remorse.

For the remainder of the meeting, Stephanie answered questions about law enforcement in general and the ATF in particular. It was a fascinating and informative behind-the-scenes look at a real life case, and Romo was an excellent speaker.



Raffle baskets created by Sheryl Mather

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Sisters in Crime  Orange County



MEMBER NEWS

Terry Ambrose's sixth Trouble in Paradise McKenna Mystery, *North Shore Nanny*, was released on August 30. In this latest caper, McKenna takes on the case of a precocious ten-year-old surfing sensation named who is determined to prove her nanny isn't a killer. Kai Palakiko could be McKenna's toughest client yet.

Terry also has a short story in the Happy Homicides 4: Fall into Crime anthology.

Jill Amadio has two events coming up.

Saturday, September 17, noon-3 p.m. As a panel member with three crime writers, she will discuss the recently-released second book in her mystery series, "Digging Up the Dead," which continues to feature exiled Cornishwoman Tosca Trevant in her new home in Newport Beach. Mysterious Galaxy, 5943 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, 92111.

Saturday, September 24, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Woman's Club of Hollywood luncheon, subject: "Women Who Kill." Panelist along with Sheila Lowe, Linda O. Johnston, and Diane Vallere. 1749 N. La Brea Avenue, Hollywood, CA.

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

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.

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.

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Sisters in Crime Orange County

Sunday, October 2, 2016 – 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Ladies of Intrigue

Ladies of Intrigue

Featuring Remarkable Women Mystery Writers

Sunday, October 2, 2016

Hotel Huntington Beach

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Registration: www.mysteryink.com

Our 2016 Headliners

Carolyn Hart



Carolyn Hart received the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Amelia Award from Malice Domestic. Past national president of Sisters in Crime, she was named the Grand Master by the Mystery Writers of America in 2014. In this, her career event finale, she will be interviewed by N.Y.Times Best-Selling author, Rhys Bowen.



Rhys Bowen



Robin Burcell spent nearly three decades working in law enforcement as a police officer, hostage negotiator and as a FBI Academy-trained forensic artist. She is an award-winning author and is currently co-writing the Fargo series with best-selling author, Clive Cussler.

Panelists:

Kathy Aarons, Lisa Brackmann, Ellen Byron, Kate Carlisle, Donis Casey, Hannah Dennison, Kate Dyer-Seeley, Earlene Fowler, Daryl Wood Gerber, Naomi Hirahara, Linda O. Johnston, Carlene O'Neil, Laurie Stevens, and Pamela Samuels Young

REGISTRATION FORM: At Hotel Huntington Beach on Center Avenue
Lunch Included/Free Parking - Early Bird Specials!

Tickets before August 15th, \$55 SinC members, \$60 for non-members
Tickets after August 15th, \$60 SinC members, \$65 for non-members



Please send check and registration information to:
Mystery Ink, 8907 Warner Avenue, #135, Huntington Beach, CA 92647

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____
or pay by PayPal at www.mysteryink.com

For an interesting article on Ladies of Intrigue, go to: <http://kingsriverlife.com/08/31/ladies-of-intrigue-featuring-remarkable-women-mystery-writers/>.

Saturday, October 8, 3:00 p.m. – Poisoned Pen Press Party!

David Moss's debut book – *This Isn't a Game*. **Tammy Kaehler** – *Red Flags*, **Ken Kuhlken** – *The Good Know Nothing*.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 15-18 – Bouchercon 2016 in New Orleans, LA

Chairs and Guests of Honor

Chairs: Heather Graham & Connie Perry

American Guest of Honor: Harlan Coben

International Rising Star Guest of Honor: Craig Robertson

Bouchercon Kids Guest of Honor: R. L. Stine

Local Legend: Julie Smith

Lifetime Achievement: David Morrell

Fan Guests of Honor: Jon & Ruth Jordan

Toastmasters: Harley Jane Kozak & Alexandra Sokoloff

For more information or registration questions, go to: bconreg2016@gmail.com



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.