

# ORANGE HERRING



## MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to promote the ongoing advancement, recognition and professional development of women crime writers.

## 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](http://www.ocsistersincrime.org). ([IRWD map](#))

"IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT NEITHER SUPPORTS NOR ENDORSES THE CAUSE NOR ACTIVITIES OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT USE THE DISTRICT'S MEETING ROOMS, WHICH ARE MADE AVAILABLE AS A PUBLIC SERVICE"

## NEXT MEETING

On Sunday, May 27, at 3:00, our guest speaker will be Tod Goldberg. Goldberg is *The New York Times* bestselling author of more than a dozen books, including his new series, *Gangster Nation*, *Gangsterland* (a finalist for the Hammett Prize), and *The House of Secrets*, the novel he co-authored with *New York Times* bestselling author Brad Meltzer. Goldberg's novel, *Living Dead Girl* was a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize, and his short story collection, *Simplify*, was a 2006 finalist for the SCIBA Award for Fiction and winner of the Other Voices Short Story Collection Prize. Goldberg holds an MFA and directs the Low Residency MFA Program in Creative

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Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts at the University of California, Riverside, Palm Desert. He lives in Indio, CA with his wife, the writer Wendy Duren.

Goldberg's presentation will be preceded by the Readers' Forum. The topic: Mistaken Identities.

### MEETING ROUNDUP

APRIL MEETING - Joan Renner, guest speaker

By Pat H. Broeske

Legendary Aggie Underwood, the first city editor of a Los Angeles newspaper, was the subject of the talk given by guest speaker Joan Renner at our April meeting. Renner, a board member of the Los Angeles chapter of Sisters in Crime, is a social historian who has written authoritatively about L.A.'s crimes of the past, and author of *The First with the Latest! Aggie Underwood, the Los Angeles Herald, and the Sordid Crimes of a City* (Photo Friends Publications, 2016). Renner gave a PowerPoint presentation that traced Underwood's rise from newspaper switchboard operator (at the *Los Angeles Record*) to overseeing the city desk of the William Randolph Hearst newspaper, *The L.A. Herald*.

A 1927 kidnapping and murder case triggered Underwood's journey. Schoolgirl Marion Parker was just 12 when she was mutilated and killed by William Edward Hickman (who called himself "The Fox"). The frenzy generated by the case—in and out of the newsroom—made Underwood realize she wanted to be a reporter. Underwood went on to become known for scooping the competition by nailing exclusive interviews. Renner detailed a few of the many cases Underwood covered, including:

- \* The shooting deaths of Charles Crawford and Herbert Spencer, a huge L.A. case in 1931 involving City Hall machinations and the criminal underworld.
- \* The still-unsolved 1935 death of actress Thelma Todd. Underwood was on hand for Todd's autopsy.
- \* The arrest of Hazel Glab for the 1935 murder of her fiancé. Also a suspect in the death of her first husband, Glab gave an exclusive interview to Underwood, who

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spirited the woman away to her own home to keep her from the other reporters. While at Underwood's, Glab helped with a potluck that was being held for Underwood's daughter and the rest of her Girl Scout troop. Subsequently convicted of murder, Glab served time at the women's prison in Tehachapi, the site of numerous Underwood visits and resulting interviews.

\* The 1939 deaths of the wife and three children of Laurel Crawford in a car accident on a twisty road leading from Mt. Wilson. It was Underwood who suspected that the husband and father had killed his family, leaping from the car before it plunged off a cliff. Sure enough, it was discovered that he had taken out insurance policies and was planning to use the pay-outs to buy a car dealership.

\* The gruesome death of Elizabeth Short, aka The Black Dahlia. Perhaps L.A.'s most notorious crime, the 1947 case remains unsolved. But according to Renner, Underwood told family members she knew who the killer was. Pressed for a name, Underwood reportedly said, "He's dead, and it doesn't matter anymore." Revelations about the Dahlia were still making headlines when Underwood was promoted to city editor, a post she held until 1968.

Renner's book about Underwood is a tie-in to a 2015-'16 photo exhibit she curated for the Los Angeles Central Library. The author has also worked with the Los Angeles Police Museum, assisting with archival projects, research, and exhibits, and is currently a volunteer archivist/historian for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Museum, slated to open later this year/early in 2019. She blogs about L.A.'s



notorious past at [derangedlacrimes.com](http://derangedlacrimes.com) .

The meeting kicked off with a lively Reader's Forum about true crimes that have made their way onto the page and screen. Among the cases/titles mentioned:

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*In Cold Blood, The Boston Strangler*, the Manson case, the Zodiac murders and the haunting L.A. murder of the Black Dahlia.

## MEMBER NEWS

**Terry Ambrose** has released a new Seaside Cove Bed & Breakfast Mystery called *Clues in the Sand*. This is the second book in the series featuring B&B owner Rick Atwood and his precocious ten-year-old daughter Alex. The book is available in both Kindle and paperback editions.

**Diane Pardee** recommends the following resource as a great free resource for published authors. “We have our own Orange County page, plus there is also Los Angeles, San Diego and a lot of other California counties,” she says. “The more people you get on there, and the more they promote it to their groups, the better it will be for everyone. We have 20 authors on it now, but I know there are tons more who haven't heard of it.” <https://hometownreads.com/city/orange-county>

And Orange County Chapter President **Barbara DeMarco-Barrett** says if you don't already know about Crime Reads, you should. Subscribe to receive a weekly e-letter at [crimereads.com](http://crimereads.com). And as a follow-up to Renner's talk on true crime: <http://crimereads.com/category/features/>

Barbara will be gone the entire month of June. She'll be in Palm Springs where she rents a four-bedroom house and holds writers retreats/getaways. If you'd like a flyer, drop her a line at [penonfire@earthlink.net](mailto:penonfire@earthlink.net) or give her a call.

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## MYSTERY INK NEWS

Saturday, June 10, 4:00 p.m. **Betty Webb**, *The Otter Of Death*. Webb will discuss and sign the fifth novel in her Gunn Zoo Series. Webb is also well known for her Lena Jones Mysteries.

Saturday, June 16, 5:00 p.m. **Craig Owens**, *Haunted By History*. Owens will discuss Volume I of *Haunted By History: Separating the Facts and Legends of Eight Historic Hotel and Inns in Southern California*.

Check [mysteryink.com](http://mysteryink.com) for upcoming mystery conferences.

Mystery Ink, 8907 Warner Avenue, #135, Huntington Beach, CA (714) 960-4000

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 6, 2:00 p.m.—Los Angeles Sisters in Crime Meeting

For location and additional info: [sistersinrimela.com](http://sistersinrimela.com)

**SAVE THE DATE! October 7th, Annual Ladies of Intrigue Conference in Costa Mesa**

### **MYSTERY CONFERENCES 2018:**

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

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

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

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

**For additional information and location: [ocsistersincrime.org](http://ocsistersincrime.org)**

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**Support your local SinC chapter. Buy a mug at the next meeting, and donate books for our upcoming raffle.**

If you have future events or announcements, 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.

### 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:**

\*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.