

Jumble News

Writer's Markets, New Authors, Pet Tips, Recipes and More!

Fall is Finally Here!

October 2010
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Greetings All!

We're still waiting for things to cool off for the year in Santa Clarita.

The hubby recently asked me why most of my books take place in the Midwest. I love the change in seasons: glimmering corn fields in summer, sparkling Christmas lights in winter, and the joy of the first flowers of spring. But my favorite has always been fall.

September represented

the New Year to me. Wasn't everybody thrilled by the first day of school?

And my favorite holiday was always Halloween. I loved the candy of course, and the costumes, the apple bobbing, the jack-o-lanterns, and the chance to run around in a disguise at night. I remember watching the porch light across the street from my bedroom window on October 31st. When that light went out, Halloween was officially over.

Here's to never letting the light go out on childhood thrills.

Jackie Vick



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This Month's Market

Oak Tree Press

Oak Tree Press just happens to publish both my author of the month, J. Michael Orenduff, and this newsletter's inspiration, author

Marilyn Meredith.

Oak Tree publishes a wide variety of genres with special emphasis on mysteries and crime. Their guidelines are

available on their web site. Last year, I pitched to Oak Tree Press at The Catholic Writers Conference Online. Check out the publisher's website to see where else they might be appearing.

An Author You Should Check Out!

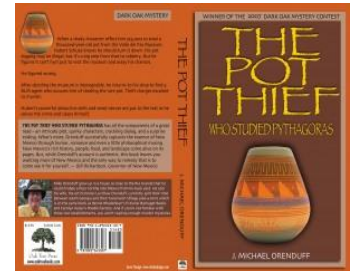
The Pot Thief mysteries by **J. Michael Orenduff** are plain fun. Each book revolves around a scientific principal which helps to solve the mystery and leaves you feeling a bit smarter.

Hubie Schuze is a treasure hunter--a pot thief according to the law. Hubie has a gift for finding antiquities in the New Mexico desert, though he now focuses on making and selling reproductions.

One of Mr. Orenduff's talents is his ability to bring New Mexico to life through its history and indigenous peoples. Add his wry humor and a cast of great characters and you have a book you can't put down.

I especially enjoy the rapport between Hubie and his best friend Susannah, and their evening ritual of Margarita's and chips is one I'd like to start myself.

Check out Mr. Orenduff's web site for more information and to receive updates on his next release.



Marketing Ideas

Is there a theme or a character in your book who relates to a specific group or target market?

My Pet Psychic mystery could interest various pet societies as well as spiritual or psychic groups.

Does your character like to

garden? Why not put on a talk or sign books at a gardening club? Maybe the local Home Depot would let you sign in the

"It's easier to figure out who your target market is *before* you write the book."

gardening center!

Sue Ann Jaffarian's Odelia Gray is a paralegal, and the author speaks and sells her books at legal conventions. Anne Carter's novels involve lighthouses. There are plenty of lighthouse groupies out there.

What opportunities can you find in *your* story?

October Events

October 14th, Cheryl Muldanados talks about her new children's book "Little Shepherd" on my blog.

Oct. 16th, 10-2, Author Performance Workshop, Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church, Pasadena. Learn how to read in front of an audience.

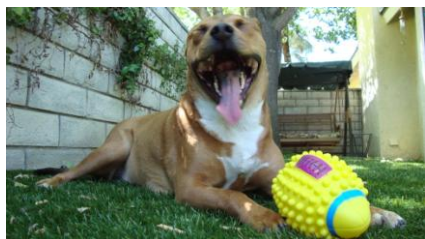
October 23rd, 5 PM, Launch party for **Jeri Westerson's** "The Demon's Parchment", Vrohman's Bookstore,

Pasadena, CA

Throughout October visit A Writer's Jumble for interviews, book reviews, and a little bit of everything to do with mysteries, good books, writing tips, and pet tips.

Remember the balance is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration!

Pet Corner - Homemade Food: Too Much Work?



After the last dog food recall where pet owners discovered that unsavory practices were killing their pets, the idea of making homemade food appealed to many. But how much time does it actually take?

I make Buster's food once every two weeks. While I microwave the veggies, I have a pot simmering the rice or oatmeal and another pan of browning meat. Then I toss it all in the food processor to blend, add a few things like bone meal and flax seed, and then package it into nifty containers and freeze.

I get other things done while Buster's food is cooking, and it only takes about a half an hour.

You can find the containers and lids at Smart and Final, where you can also get large bags of frozen veggies and 5 lbs of turkey for \$5.99. Pretty inexpensive!

You can make it even easier by purchasing from vendors such as **Canine Home Cooking**. The web site should be up by now, or you can email Jennifer Bradley: caninehomecooking@gmail.com She delivers!

Inspiration

Many writers in the mystery community are already familiar with Marilyn Meredith. She's an active member of the community, and she's always on the go promoting one of her two mystery series.

Marilyn hits about 20 events per year, from book fairs to library

events. That's almost two events per month! She also teaches, blogs, is active in her church

and with her family, and still finds time to write two series and standalone novels!

Marilyn is proof positive that if you want it, it's yours, as long as you're willing to work for it.

Visit her website or read her blog.

Does someone inspire you? Let me know so I can spread the word!
jvickwriter@gmail.com .

Recipe Corner

When I was 11, my mom bought me a cookbook that had a cookie recipe for every month. October's was Snickerdoodles!

Snickerdoodles from Betty Crocker 1972 cookbook

½ cup butter (1 stick)
½ cup shortening
1 ½ cups sugar
2 eggs

2 ¾ cups all purpose flour
2 tsp cream of tarter
1 tsp soda
¼ tsp salt
2 Tbl sugar
1 tsp cinnamon

Heat oven to 400 degrees

Mix first four ingredients. Sift and add remaining ingredients except for last two.

Shape by rounded tsp into balls.

Mix sugar and cinnamon and roll balls in mixture.

Lay onto ungreased baking sheet.

Bake 8-10 minutes or until set and remove immediately from pan. Great with tea!

Jacqueline Vick

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Links from this Newsletter:

J. Michael Orenduff; www.orenduff.org
Oak Tree Press; www.oaktreebooks.com
Marilyn Meredith <http://fictionforyou.com/>
Canine Home Cooking
www.caninehomecooking.com

Please share this with your friends!

Email me to unsubscribe.

*Making you laugh, one
page at a time.*

Just a
Thought

Mini Book Review

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by
Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

Many of us, myself included, never think about what people actually went through during WWII. People in the US (Japanese citizens excluded) were lucky enough to escape the hardships that those in Europe were subjected to.

In this touching novel, authors Shaffer and Barrows reveal the heartbreak and challenges of the citizens on the German occupied island of Guernsey. Cut off from the mainland and denied access to news from the outside world for five years, these stalwart people endured starvation, betrayal, and separation from loved ones with the pluck and humor one expects from the British.

Written entirely in correspondence a few years after the events, the story of Guernsey will make you laugh and cry--sometimes at the same time. Most of all, it will leave you admiring the spirit of these islanders.

Seeing Civility in Every Day Life

My character in Civility Rules, Edward, has given up on society. If you read the paper, it's easy to understand why. Even teenagers, with their gang or hooker-like clothing, seem prepared to be hostile or rude.

Recently, a couple of dressed- in-black-with-long-hair teens caught a neighbor's runaway dog. They cheerfully marched him back home and deposited him in his backyard, safe and

sound. First impressions were obviously wrong.

Try ignoring the odious creeps who cut you off in traffic. Better still, decide that the poor things are late for something important and have some pity. Seek out random acts of kindness and you'll find them. In fact, the more you look for them, the more you will find.

Avoid reading the nasty comments on the internet, and

realize that the author doesn't represent an entire party/race/religion.

You'll discover that most people are actually pretty nice! Civility is definitely alive and well.

