



BIOGRAPHY

TERRY LOUCHHEIM GILMAN, co-owner/managing general partner

Terry Louchheim Gilman may be managing general partner and co-owner of Mysterious Galaxy, but the title “community builder” could suit her even better.

Gilman founded Mysterious Galaxy with partners Maryelizabeth Hart and Jeff Mariotte in May 1993. Since then, she has become a fixture in Southern California’s independent bookstore scene, building a group of avid readers, top-notch authors, and nonprofit partners who are loyal to the store. She has also taken leadership roles in industry organizations like the Southern California Independent Booksellers Association (SCIBA), where she served as president for 3 years.

Her love of the bookselling business has inspired Gilman to create numerous programs and events that bring readers and authors together. One such program, “Ladies, Lunch, and Literacy,” has become so successful since Gilman introduced it to Los Angeles’ South Bay area in 2008 that two more branches have opened in 2011. The program brings readers together for lunch with a debut or emerging author, with proceeds benefitting nonprofit literacy organizations and community venues.

“I love introducing readers to a book they have never heard of and then taking it to the next level by bringing them together with the author over lunch,” she says.

Gilman, who earned a bachelor’s degree in economics and business and an MBA in Marketing and Finance, applied her business experience to the launch and planning of the Mysterious Galaxy store in San Diego. Her role has continued to expand in the last several years; she visits the store regularly, manages its finances, and oversees the activities of Hart – the store’s publicity and events manager – and the San Diego store managers.

She also publishes the store’s print and e-newsletters, pens a blog about the store’s activities, manages multiple Twitter accounts, and oversees many store-related events, as well as Mysterious Galaxy’s participation in outside festivals and conferences.

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BIOGRAPHY: TERRY LOUCHHEIM GILMAN

2 – 2 – 2

Since community-building and creative event planning are close to Gilman's heart, she continues to grow Mysterious Galaxy's impressive list of programs for young adults, business leaders, public libraries, and the South Bay Jewish community. Gilman is also overseeing the creation and launch of Mysterious Galaxy's second location, in Redondo Beach, in the summer of 2011.

Her work on behalf of Mysterious Galaxy and her community earned Gilman the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business Heart and Soul Award in 2010, and in 2009 she was named a Friend of Los Angeles' WriteGirl mentoring program.

She resides in Manhattan Beach, where she enjoys running, yoga – and of course, reading – and spending time with her husband, Todd, and their grown children, Joshua and Rachael.

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