



# 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

The meeting location is still at the Irvine Ranch Water District, but it's now 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”**

Following are the dates for the remaining OC SinC meetings in 2013.

**Nov. 24th** – SinC members **Jill Amadio, Terry Ambrose, Gayle Carline, Donna Lear, Jack Martin, and Terri Nolan** will read excerpts from their books.

**Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>** – Holiday Party at Mystery Ink Bookstore



## ***UPCOMING MEETING***

**Sunday, November 24:** The meeting will begin at **2 p.m.** with a Reader's/Writer's Forum. The topic will be Thrillers vs. Mysteries.

At **3 p.m.**, our guest speakers will be our own members whose books have come out this year. The following authors will read excerpts from their novels.

Jill Amadio  
Terry Ambrose  
Gayle Carline  
Donna Lear  
Jack Martin  
Terri Nolan



## ***MEETING ROUNDUP***

In keeping with the Halloween spirit, the topic of the Reader's Forum was paranormal mysteries. Gayle Carline led the discussion, which included mention of obvious contenders, led by Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight" series and the Sookie Stackhouse mysteries (aka HBO's "True Blood") by Charlaine Harris.

Several readers brought up Carolyn Haines. Though she's best known for the Sarah Booth Delaney mysteries, about a crime-solving Southern belle, she's written paranormal titles—as R.B. Chesterton. (Among them: "The Darkling.") And Jack Martin reminded us of M.R. James's "A Warning to the Curious," a famed ghost story first published in 1925. And—giving it all a very current spin—John Kim discussed the Japanese manga and anime series, "Rosario + Vampire." By Akihisa Ikeda, it's about a teenage boy who's inadvertently enrolled in Yokai Academy, a high school populated by monsters. And you thought you had problems in high school!

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At 3 p.m., Retired Special Agent with the FBI, George Q. Fong (the Q is important if you search for him online) spoke to a rapt audience of writers and readers at the Orange County Sisters-in-Crime meeting in October, telling his remarkable story of 27 years in the Service.

Just 23 when he joined the Feds—after getting a degree in accounting from





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Sacramento State—Fong delivered a PowerPoint about some of the compelling cases he worked during his 27 years as a special agent.

They included the take-down of Neo-Nazi Robert Jay Mathews (of the white nationalist revolutionary group called The Order), who died in the Pacific Northwest (Whidbey Island, near Seattle) following a stand-off with agents. He also discussed the case of James V. Miller, a convicted murderer who was in a work-release prison program in Tacoma, WA, when he saw a photograph of a 10-year-old girl on the desk of a banker, the girl's father. Miller subsequently kidnapped the girl and demanded ransom. He died following a shoot-out, after releasing the girl.

Fong also detailed some of his work on high-profile drug cases in Southern California. He worked undercover for 11 years, targeting large scale drug operations. He built a special van to transport drugs for the Cartel, but delivered them instead to the FBI. "The key," he said, "is to go after the traffickers."

And he took us beat by beat through the strange and disturbing missing persons case that eventually led to the capture of serial killer Cary Stayner. In a series of slides, Fong told the story, first introducing three women; a mother, her daughter and her daughter's best friend, enjoying the snow and having a fun vacation. The three women, who had been staying at the Cedar Lodge in El Portal, just outside Yosemite National Park, went missing in 1999. Their disappearance was reported by a maid at the lodge. A large scale search & rescue operation was begun, but as clues surfaced, the task force comprised of state, local, and federal agents determined foul play. Everyone in the area was interviewed (including the true killer) with no concrete leads.

In time, their bodies were discovered—and investigators quizzed a spate of suspects. It wasn't until the brutal slaying of a fourth young woman, a Yosemite nature guide, that investigators discovered that the motel's affable handyman, Cary Stayner, was the killer. He was sloppy this time, leaving multiple pieces of evidence in the area. After being pressured about discrepancies in his story, he eventually confessed to all four murders, describing with pride each grisly step he took. He is presently on Death Row.

Today, Fong is the director of global security for ESPN, and he's on the faculty of the Bay Area's Book Passage. He's also authored a mystery titled "Fragmented." Featuring FBI special agent Jack Paris, it's a fictionalized account of one of his cases. It will be available soon.

*Pat Broeske and Jackie Huchin contributed to this article.*



## MEMBER NEWS

A slew of new books marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of John F. Kennedy—one of the most compelling mysteries of modern times. **Pat H. Broeske** reviews nearly a dozen of the new titles (including several speculative fiction takes) in the current issue of *BookPage*. Here's the link:

<http://bookpage.com/feature/on-a-tragic-anniversary-remembering-the-life-and-death-of-jfk>



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On October 15, **Terry Ambrose** published the second McKenna Mystery. In "Kauai Temptations," when Wilson McKenna's bank tells him he's written \$4,000 in bad checks on an island he's never been to, he's one unhappy *haole*. Things get worse when he's nearly arrested for impersonating himself, the woman who trashed his credit turns up dead, and he realizes he's up to his 'umi'umi in hot lava.

Jenn McKinlay, New York Times Best Selling Author of the Cupcake Bakery Mysteries and the Library Lover's Mysteries called it, "More delicious than a Coconut Mocha Frap (and that's saying something)" and JoAnn Bassett, author of The Islands of Aloha Mystery Series, said, "Kauai Temptations is a fast-paced mystery with quirky characters and loads of island charm."

Learn more about Kauai Temptations or watch the "82 seconds of fun" trailer at [terryambrose.com/kauai-temptations/](http://terryambrose.com/kauai-temptations/).

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**Donna Kolling Lear** has just self-published her first book, *Crimson Gold*. It is a fictionalized account of a true family murder mystery that takes place in 1939 in Alaska. It's available at Mystery Ink and other IndieBound bookstores.

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**DP Lyle** and **Jan Burke** have launched a new twice-monthly internet radio show called Crime and Science Radio on Suspense Radio/Blog Talk Radio with John Raab. Join them every other Saturday at 10 a.m., or catch the archived shows at a later date. Topics will include all things crime and science, both current and historical, as well as interviews with crime science professionals and writers of crime fiction. For more info, visit: <http://www.suspensemagazine.com/CrimeandScienceRadio.html>.

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*From a Cop's Viewpoint: Investigations 101. A Writer's Guide to Creating Realistic Investigations*, by member **M.A. Taylor** was recently released in e-book format through all major outlets. Visit M.A. Taylor's blog for writers with law enforcement questions at: <http://www.MATaylor1010.com>

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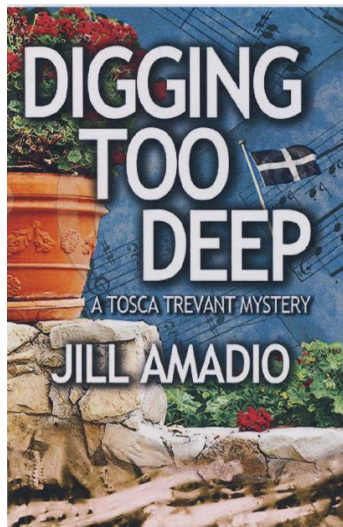
**Jill Amadio's** debut mystery, *Digging Too Deep*, featuring Cornish-cussing Tosca Trevant, will be published by Mainly Murder Press in paperback with a release date of December 1, 2013. The Launch Party will be held **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m.** at Mystery Ink Bookstore.



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*Launch Party! Tea & Scones – Cake!*



In *DIGGING TOO DEEP*, death is discovered on an idyllic southern California island when Brit gossip columnist Tosca Trevant is reassigned at the request of Buckingham Palace. Out of the mainstream of London life, she resorts to weeding neighbors' yards and finds human remains in a recently widowed music professor's garden.

Jill Amadio was a reporter in England, Spain, and Thailand and a crime reporter in the U.S. She is the author and co-author of several biographies, and a ghostwriter of fiction, non-fiction, and true crime. Her book, *GUNTHER RALL: LUFTWAFFE ACE AND NATO GENERAL* was a bestseller. Originally from St. Ives, Cornwall, she has lived on both the East and West Coasts and presently lives in Dana Point CA.



***MYSTERY INK NEWS***

Mystery Ink Bookstore, 8907 Warner Avenue, #135, Huntington Beach, (714) 960-4000  
[www.mysteryink.com](http://www.mysteryink.com). Coffee & Wi-Fi available.

**We will be open on Small Business Saturday, November 30 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Many specials!  
Hope to see you there.**



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IN STORE EVENTS:

**Friday, December 6, 4:00 p.m. - Weston Ochse - AGE OF BLOOD**

Weston is an accomplished author, having been awarded the Bram Stoker Award for First Novel and has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize in Short Fiction. He is a retired U.S. Army intelligence officer and current intelligence officer for the Defense Intelligence Agency. AGE OF BLOOD has been hugely successful, garnering rave reviews from *Booklist*, *Kirkus Review*, and *New York Times* best selling authors, Jonathon Maberry and Peter Straub. As well, AGE OF BLOOD has been placed on the *New York Post's* Required Reading List.

**December 7, 2:00 p.m.** - Board member **Jill Amadio's** debut crime novel, DIGGING TOO DEEP. Launch Party! Tea & Scones! Cake!

**December 15, 12:00 p.m. - John Shannon - THE CHINESE BEVERLY HILLS**

John Shannon will be signing his 14th Jack Liffey mystery novel, *The Chinese Beverly Hills* right before our Holiday Party on December 15th.

OUTSIDE EVENTS:

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. - Pen on Fire Speakers Series at the Scape Gallery, Corona del Mar

**T. Jefferson Parker, Susan Straight, Barbara DeMarco Barrett** will be talking about their stories that have been included in the Publication of USA NOIR: *The Best of the Akashic Noir Series*

For Location and Reservations: [penonfire.com/speakerseries](http://penonfire.com/speakerseries)

Signed Copies Now in Stock!

Patricia Cornwell – DUST

Sara Paretsky – CRITICAL MASS

Sue Grafton – W IS FOR WITNESS

Elizabeth George – JUST ONE EVIL ACT

James Lee Burke – LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Janet Evanovich/Lee Goldberg – THE HEIST

Timothy Hallinan – CRASHED, LITTLE ELVISES, THE FEAR ARTIST

Lisa Brackmann – HOUR OF THE RAT

Dean Koontz – DEEPLY ODD

T. Jefferson Parker – THE FAMOUS AND THE DEAD

Ellen Crosby – MULTIPLE EXPOSURE

Anne Cleeland – MURDER IN THRALL

Jeri Westerson – SHADOW OF THE ALCHEMIST



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**Support your local SinC chapter. Buy a lovely mug at the next meeting, and bring your novels for our Sister Share!**



***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 CHAPTER**

**Print and complete this form. NOTE: YOU MUST ALSO JOIN SISTERS IN CRIME NATIONAL TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER.**

**Send the completed form with both checks, \$40 payable to Sisters in Crime (National) and \$25 payable to Sisters in Crime, OC to:**

**Membership**

**Sisters in Crime, Orange County**

**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:**