



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"**

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Please join us for our Holiday Party at Mystery Ink Bookstore on  
**Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**

This event is open to the public. Please invite your friends and fellow mystery writers/readers.

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In 2014, we will be meeting on the fourth Sunday of every month, with the exception of December. Here are the dates. Please mark your calendars.

Jan. 26, Feb. 23, Mar. 30, Apr. 27, May 25, Jun. 29, Jul. 27, Aug. 24, Sep. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 23, and Dec. 14.



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**UPCOMING MEETING**

**Sunday, December 15:** Holiday Party at Mystery Ink Bookstore. The party will begin at **1 p.m.**, following the book signing by **John Shannon**, author of the Jack Liffey crime novels, at noon.



**Sunday, January 26:** *Forensics Fest* is back with guest speakers **Jan Burke** and **D.P. Lyle**. Jan is the award-winning author of the Irene Kelly mysteries, the Edgar winner for Best Novel (*Bones*), and founder of The Crime Lab Project. DP Lyle is the author of several best-selling books on forensics, as well as *Stress Fracture*, Book One in the Dub Walker series.

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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**MEETING ROUNDUP**

In November, we were treated to readings by some of our recently published members (during which Aileen kept a watchful eye on the clock).

**Jill Amadio** read from her debut mystery, *Digging Too Deep* (Mainly Murder Press), which features Tosca Trevant, a transplanted British gossip columnist who experiences a bit of culture clash with the residents of an idyllic Southern California island--Jill says it's a fictionalized Balboa Island--while searching for a murderer.

**Terry Ambrose** gave us a peek into the laid back Hawaiian lifestyle in *Kauai Temptations* (Satori), his latest Wilson McKenna mystery, which explores identity theft and includes this sound bit of advice: "Slow down, brah. You live too fast."

In *The Hot Mess* (Dancing Corgi Press), **Gayle Carline's** private investigator Peri Minneopa comes to the rescue when her Dean Martin-obsessed client's house (in Placentia) burns down and a body is found inside.

**Donna Kolling Lear** based her novel *Crimson Gold* (CreateSpace) on a real life family mystery, set in the Dutch Hills, U.S. Territory of Alaska, circa 1939.

*Hail, Columbia!* (Fireship Press), **Jack Martin's** newest mystery featuring Civil War Union officer -- and sleuth -- Alphonso Clay, explores the volatile period immediately after the Civil War. Characters include real life historical figures such as American railroad developer Jay Gould.

**Terri Nolan** read from *Glass Houses* (Midnight Ink), the second book (due in February 2014) in her Elizabeth "Birdie" Keane trilogy. This time out, investigative reporter Birdie teams with her homicide detective cousin Thom in a plot that involves a cold case and a serial killer.

In *The Fugitive Grandma* (CreateSpace), **Dmitri Ragano** combines humor and improbable situations to create a story about an unusual pair of Robin Hood-type bandits, young Johnny Valentine and his grandmother, Stella.

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The member readings followed a lively Reader's Forum that explored "thrillers vs. mysteries."

Among the observations made: mysteries derive tension from past events (i.e., crimes that need solving), while thrillers are often a race to stop a future threat. Also, Hollywood's penchant for fast-moving plots and action has impacted the thriller genre.



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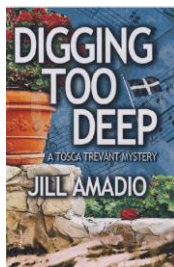
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## MEMBER NEWS

**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.

*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.

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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



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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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*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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**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.



**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.

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



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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.

**Sunday, December 15, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.** - Holiday Party at Mystery Ink with Orange Country Sisters in Crime, Buffet, Open to the Public, RSVP: [events@mysteryink.com](mailto:events@mysteryink.com)

## **Signed Copies Now in Stock at Mystery Ink!**

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



## ***UPCOMING CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, and EVENTS***

**Saturday, March 29, 2014:** Ladies of Intrigue – Featuring Women Mystery Writers

Keynote Speakers: Carolyn Hart and Rhys Bowen

Stay tuned for more details!



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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:**