



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. ([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"



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To join or renew your membership in our Sisters in Crime Chapter, you must also be a member of National. To renew your national membership, go to: www.sistersincrime.org/. To renew for our chapter, go to: www.ocsistersincrime.org/membership.htm and download the form, or fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and mail it in with your check. You can join national online or send your check to national to us, along with your check for our chapter.

If you have not already done so, please renew your Sisters in Crime membership today!



ORANGE HERRING
Sisters in Crime  Orange County



UPCOMING MEETINGS

In 2014, we will meet on the fourth Sunday of every month, with the exception of October and December. Here are the remaining dates: Jun. 29, Jul. 27, Aug. 24, Sep. 28, Oct. 12, Nov. 23, and Dec. 14.

Our next meeting is **Sunday, June 29th**. We will begin at **2:00 pm** with a reader's forum, discussing why we like tough guys in our mysteries/thrillers and which noir protagonists Hollywood has gotten right - or wrong.

At 3:00 pm, our featured speakers will be **Gary Phillips**, past president of Mystery Writers of America, and **John Shannon**, who will be talking about their books, which are set in Los Angeles.

Weaned on the images of Kirby and Buscema (Thor, Captain America, the Avengers, etc.) in Marvel comics, and Hammett and Himes in prose, **Gary Phillips** also draws on his experiences ranging from community organizer, teaching incarcerated youth, to delivering dog cages in writing his tales of chicanery and malfeasance. His latest includes being co-editor and contributor to *Black Pulp*, a retro anthology, the graphic novel *Big Water*, and *Booklist* said of his prose novel, *Warlord of Willow Ridge*: "Phillips is a veteran crime novelist who creates a plausible post-apocalyptic scenario in which the safety of middle-class America can dissolve in a moment. Exciting, violent, and entertaining."

John Shannon writes the Jack Liffey Mysteries. Dick Adler of the *Chicago Tribune* called Jack Liffey "The most interesting new private detective to lift his fedora over the horizon since Walter Mosley's Easy Rawlins!" In John's new book, *The Chinese Beverly Hills*, a wildfire is out of control. Jack hunts for a missing Chinese-American girl in the midst of rising racial tensions and the hidden machinations of two oil baron brothers who try to brew up their own Tea Party.

It will be quite a change from our discussion of cozies at last month's meeting.

July 27th - Speaker/topic to be announced.

August 24th - Our get together will be a joint meeting of Mystery Writers of America and Orange County Sisters in Crime. Naomi Hirahara will moderate a panel that includes the following authors: Lisa Brackman, Steph Cha, Kim Fay, and Timothy Hallinan. Join us on August 24th for an entertaining presentation and an Asian-inspired buffet starting at 1:00 p.m. The panel discussion will begin around 2:00 p.m. This event is open to the public. Reservations requested at events@ocsistersincrime.org.

Sept. 28th - **Tod Goldberg** will discuss his new book, *Gangsterland*.



October 12th - T. Jefferson Parker has a new book coming out called *Full Measure*. This meeting will be held at Mystery Ink. Please note the **change in date and location** from the original schedule.



MEETING ROUNDUP

There was a nice write-up of our March Ladies of Intrigue Event in the National SinC newsletter. Here is the link: <http://www.sistersincrime.org/associations/10614/files/inSinCQuarterly-June2014-HiRes.pdf>.

Our May meeting featured a lively Writers Forum. The topic was cozy mysteries. Cozies tend to be kinder, gentler mysteries. The murders may be gruesome, but the violence takes place off stage. They are solved by amateur sleuths (often accidental sleuths) and humor is often used to soften the drama of the deaths. Some publications require certain guidelines for the genre, e.g. a dead body by page x, foul language must be PG-13, no overt sex, etc. Cozies are often written as series; some can be read out of order, but others work best if you begin with the first book and move on from there.

Many cozies have a recurring theme, e.g. John J. Lamb's Teddy Bear mysteries, Rita Mae Brown's Sneaky Pie mysteries, and Mary Marks' quilting mysteries. Our forum then morphed into a discussion of other subgenres as well, including: legal, hard-boiled, historical and mash-ups, which incorporate multiple subgenres.

At 3:00, speaker **Mary Marks** took us through her writing journey, culminating in the publication of her first book, *Forget me Knot*. Mary followed the old adage: Write what you know. An experienced quilter who had made over one hundred quilts, Mary had a built-in audience for her books. To date, there are over 20 million quilters in the U.S.

Mary took writing classes through UCLA extension. Following her writing instructor's advice, she rewrote the entire manuscript, switching from third to first person and making the book more humorous. She entered the manuscript in the Malice Domestic contest and came in third. Her amateur sleuth, Martha Rose, is incensed at injustice, and Mary's own interest in social activism winds its way into the story.

Her writing style is more "seat of pants" as opposed to outlining. At the beginning of each book, she does know who's getting killed, though she may not know who the villain is. She workshops her pages at a writers' critique group and uses Autocrit to search for overused words, cliches, etc. Her future books will include a quilter's tip at the end of each book.

Mary's next book, *Knot in My Backyard*, comes out in November. For a more detailed summary of the meeting, see Jackie Houchin's blog entry at: <http://bit.ly/1u6s3Mg>.

Theresa Schultz



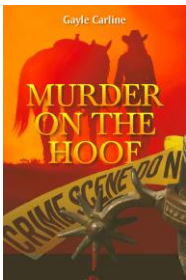
ORANGE HERRING
Sisters in Crime  Orange County



MEMBER NEWS

OC SinC member **Jackie Houchin** has reviewed Sheila Lowe's new Forensic Handwriting Mystery, *Inkslingers Ball*, out this week. Sheila was a recent speaker at one of the meetings. Here's the link to Jackie's blog:

<http://bit.ly/1nmyOHa>



SinC member **Gayle Carline** has left her Peri Minneopa Mystery Series briefly to venture into the world of romantic suspense. Her latest book, *Murder on the Hoof*, is being released May 21st, and features a brand new protagonist. Young widow Willie Adams is at a horse show, trying to buy her first horse. Instead, she finds herself caught up in a murder investigation, and attracting the attention of two interesting men. Will she choose the cowboy or the detective, or is she too busy solving the crime to consider romance?

For more information, visit <http://gaylecarline.com/murder-on-the-hoof/>

Terry Ambrose released his latest thriller, *Con Game*, on April 29. Con artist Roxy Tanner just walked away with \$2.6 million on her latest job, but left behind a dead body. Skip Cosgrove wants to help Roxy find out who killed her mark, but he has his own problems—a man the former criminologist once helped put behind bars is back for revenge. With the cops closing in on Roxy, and a killer on the hunt for Skip, the last thing they need is a gutsy street kid turning their lives upside down—until it happens. Now, all three must decide how far they will go to survive a killer's con game. Learn more on Terry's website at terryambrose.com.

New OC Sisters in Crime member **Barbara DeMarco-Barrett** has a short story, "Message in a Bottle," in The Big Click magazine. Find it online at www.thebigclickmag.com.

Walt Golden just published his sixth e-book, *Mary, Mary Quite Contrary*.



ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  **Orange County**



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. **The deadline is the 7th of each month!**



ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  Orange County



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: