



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!



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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Here are the remaining meeting dates for 2014: Jul. 27, Aug. 24, Sep. 28, Oct. 12, Nov. 23, and Dec. 14.

The British are coming! Our next meeting is **Sunday, July 27th**. "For Queen, Country, and Crime" will feature three talented authors whose writing crosses The Pond.

We will begin at **2:00 pm** with a writer's forum. We will discuss character development and what writers can do to create well-rounded characters of any gender, ethnicity, or nationality. At **3:00 pm**, our featured speakers will be Anne Cleeland, Jill Amadio, and Jenny Hilborne.

Jill Amadio is another British transplant. Her mystery, *Digging Too Deep*, features a sassy British gossip columnist who has been plopped, against her wishes, into the heart of Newport Beach. Her website is <http://www.jillamadio.com/>

Anne Cleeland is a homegrown Yank who loves to write about murder and mayhem in England. *Murder in Retribution: A New Scotland Yard Mystery* is the second book in her intriguing series featuring two gifted detectives as they navigate the darkest corners of London to solve a murder that will blur every line between right and wrong. Her website is <http://annecleeland.com/>.

Jenny Hilborne is from Swindon, England and writes a series set primarily in San Francisco and featuring Detective Mac Jackson. Her website is <http://jfhilborne.com/>

August 24th - Our get together will be a joint meeting of SoCal Mystery Writers of America and Orange County Sisters in Crime. *A Wok on the Wild Side* features the following authors: Lisa Brackman, Steph Cha, Kim Fay, and Timothy Hallinan. Naomi Hirahara will moderate the panel.

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 are a must 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

Our reader's forum focused on tough guys – what is it about them that keeps readers coming back for more? Private eye or cop, we seem to like our tough guys flawed. We agreed that our favorite “bad” good guys were usually alcoholics, chain smokers or divorcees – sometimes all three. The guys who show a softer, more human side often have a sidekick who plays the super macho tough guy, e.g. Joe Pike in the Robert Crais mysteries. While tough women are not as well represented, one in particular comes to mind, Sara Paretsky's female investigator V.I. Warshawski. (Sara Paretsky founded Sisters in Crime in 1986 to help support women crime writers.)

The topic eventually switched to noir. What is it exactly? Several definitions were offered. One person defined it as a combination of bleak setting and hard-boiled characters. Guest speaker **Gary Phillips** said it was a doomed individual on a doomed path. Speaker **John Shannon** once heard it defined as “people you don't like doing things you don't care about.”



At 3:00, Gary Phillips and John Shannon shared stories of how they got started writing and why they like to write about Los Angeles. Both men began writing with a desire to address racism and social injustice.

John Shannon writes the Jack Liffey series which explores parts of L.A. that other writers ignore. John recommends all mystery lovers read *The Simple Art of Murder*, an essay by Raymond Chandler. Chandler said noir took murder out of the drawing room and put it back in the alley, where it belongs.

In his latest book, *The Chinese Beverly Hills*, Jack Liffey hunts for a missing Chinese-American girl from a suburb east of L.A., where racial tensions have erupted into violence. But his sudden troubles with extremist gangs, teenage revolutionaries, right-wing oil barons and a South African nutjob are dwarfed by the threat a former lover poses to his relationship with Gloria Ramirez. For more information about John's books, go to www.JackLiffey.com.

Gary Phillips writes series featuring Ivan Monk and former showgirl Martha Chainey, as well as standalone novels and comic books. He also edits anthologies. Gary wrote his first book after the L.A. riots in 1992. Coming from a political activist background, he wanted to “infuse his books with the social fabric of L.A.”

His latest book, “The Warlord of Willow Ridge,” was inspired by an L.A. Times article about an Inland Empire housing complex hit hard by the economic meltdown. Then a mysterious stranger on a motorcycle rides into town. Gary also discussed the new and varied publishing choices for writers today. For more information on Gary's books, go to <http://gdphillips.com/>.



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MEMBER NEWS

OC SinC member **Terry Ambrose** is pleased to announce that his thriller "License to Lie" was a finalist in the San Diego Book Awards. Also, the sequel to "License to Lie" received a Kirkus Review: "Ambrose touches on high-finance malfeasance, adultery and drug dealing with the kind of snark that will remind readers of Elmore Leonard. Given their moral nuances, Roxy and Skip are entertaining anchors for a series, and the introduction of Lily brings the promise of further complications for their relationship. . . A solid second round of capers featuring this attractive, cynical couple." Learn more on Terry's website at terryambrose.com.

"Feisty Old Ladies," by OC SinC member **Cynthia Weitz**, is now available on Amazon in paperback or on Kindle. You can visit her website at www.feistyoldladies.com, or contact her at Cynthia@feistyoldladies.com.

Tammy Kaehler's *Braking Points*, the second Kate Reilly Racing Mystery, won Best Motorsport Book for 2013 from the American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association (AARWBA). Tammy's third Kate Reilly Racing Mystery, *Avoidable Contact*, will be released by Poisoned Pen Press on August 5 in hardcover, trade paperback, large print, e-book, and audio formats.



OC SinC President Gayle Carline attended the American Library Association annual conference in Las Vegas in June. She represented the Placentia Library District as a trustee. She was on the lookout for authors of all genres for their library, plus tools to make the library more viable. Also in attendance was author and OC SinC member Jill Amadio, who got so schmooze with Jane Fonda during her book signing.

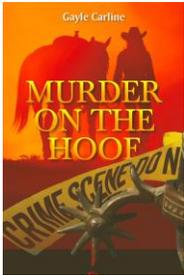


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OC SinC member **Jackie Houchin** has reviewed Sheila Lowe's new Forensic Handwriting Mystery, *Inkslingers Ball*, out this week. Sheila was a recent speaker at one of the meetings. Here's the link to Jackie's blog:

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



OC SinC president **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/>

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*.



MYSTERY INK NEWS

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

Saturday, July 19, 3:00 p.m., Susan Spann – BLADE OF THE SAMURAI

Reading and Signing - second book in her Shinobi Mystery series – a complex mystery that will transport readers to a thrilling and unforgettable adventure in sixteenth century Japan. "Combines enlightenment on 16th century Japanese life with a sharp and well integrated mystery."– Kirkus Reviews

Susan Spann is a transactional attorney focusing on publishing law and a former law school professor. She has an interest in Asian culture, has studied Mandarin and Japanese and is a member of the Historical Novel



Society. She lives in Northern California with her family.

Launch Party! Saturday, July 26, 1:00 p.m. Cake! Medieval Goodies!

Jeri Westerson – CUP OF BLOOD – a Crispin Guest Medieval Noir Prequel

“*Cup of Blood* starts with a clap of thunder. Crispin maintains his standing as one of today’s (and yesterday’s) most engaging private eyes. I loved it!” -Timothy Hallinan

Jeri is president of the SoCal Mystery Writers of America and is a member of Sisters in Crime, the Historical Novel Society, and the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America. She is married to a commercial photographer, has a screenwriter son, herds two cats, a tortoise and a bevy of bees at her home in southern California.

Launch Party! Saturday, August 2, 4:00 p.m. Cake! Wine & Cheese!

Anne Cleeland – MURDER IN RETRIBUTION

Talk and signing – second book in her intriguing New Scotland Yard Mystery series featuring two gifted detectives as they navigate the darkest corners of London to solve a murder that will blur every line between right and wrong. . . . “This entertaining pair will linger in readers’ imaginations, making them want more” -

Booklist

Anne Cleeland, a member of the California State Bar, has worked as a research attorney for both federal and state court judges. She is a member of Mystery Writers of America and the Historical Novel Society, and lives in Newport Beach, CA.

TBA – Launch Party! Tammy Kaehler – AVOIDABLE CONTACT

Talk and signing – third book in her Kate Reilly Racing Mystery series

"Snappy dialogue, a smart and affable heroine, and pacing reminiscent of *24* combine to make this entry as exciting as a spin around the speedway." – *Publishers Weekly*



UPCOMING CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, and EVENTS

Bouchercon 2014: Murder at the Beach. November 13-16 in Long Beach, CA. Register by July 31st to receive a discount. For more information, go to: <http://www.bouchercon2014.com/>.



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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. The deadline is the 7th 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:**