



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: Aug. 24, Sep. 28, Oct. 12, Nov. 23, and Dec. 14.

Our next meeting is **Sunday, August 24th**. This is a joint meeting of SoCal Mystery Writers of America and Orange County Sisters in Crime and our theme is **East West Mysteries: Asian Themes in Crime Fiction**.

We will begin at **1:00 pm** with a buffet luncheon. Following lunch there will be a panel discussion moderated by **Naomi Hirahara**, whose latest book is *Murder on Bamboo Lane*.

Featured authors include **Lisa Brackmann** (*Hour of the Rat*), **Steph Cha** (*Beware Beware: A Juniper Song Mystery*), **Kim Fay** (*The Map of Lost Memories*), and **Timothy Hallinan** (*Herbie's Game (Junior Bender #4)*).

This event is open to the public, but please make a reservation 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

Last month's meeting brought together three amazing writers who have something in common – The UK. The topic was “For Queen, Country & Crime ... Writing Across the Pond.” Our three authors discussed their characters, working with “Britishisms,” the differences between British and American crime-solvers and more. While British detectives are more understated, Americans tend to be brash and emotional, and they have baggage.

Jill Amadio is from Cornwall, as is her main character. Her mystery, *Digging Too Deep*, features a sassy British gossip columnist who has been plopped, against her wishes, into the heart of Newport Beach. Jill likes to write about the human side of her characters. When it comes to marketing her books, Jill likes to think outside the box. She suggests authors find a particular niche in your story to market to. For example, her crime-solving character in “Digging Too Deep” is Cornish, so Jill recently marketed her novel through a Cornish organization. Her website is <http://www.jillamadio.com/>



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American-born **Anne Cleeland** 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. Anne was inspired by books in the British tradition. “Masterpiece Mysteries” (including the Inspector Lynley series) was the inspiration for her works. Anne is not into the procedural aspects of crime. She likes her characters to have a hidden identity. While she uses Scotland Yard in her story, they wouldn’t allow her access, so she had to learn about them through Wikipedia. Anne turns people she doesn’t like into villains, so she can kill them off. Her website is <http://annecleeland.com/>.

Just as British-born **Jenny Hilborne** had to acclimate herself to California (where she now lives and sets much of her work), she also had to acclimate her characters and plots. Jenny Hilborne finds inspiration in the writings of Sidney Sheldon, enjoying his worldwide settings. Jenny is from Swindon, England and writes a series set primarily in San Francisco and featuring Detective Mac Jackson. Jenny likes to explore the psychology behind crime. She likes puzzles and stories with a twist. She’s worked in finance, so she has no trouble finding villains, but she changes their character traits so they aren’t recognizable. Because she writes dark stories, she looks for ways to lighten them up. Her website is <http://jphilborne.com/>

During the Writer’s Forum, we discussed how to create compelling characters. Everyone agreed that too many characters can make a book unwieldy. British author Lindsay Davis includes a list of characters in her books. (She writes a series set in ancient Rome featuring Marcus Didius Falco, a Roman “informer” and crime-solver.)

Another major issue writers face is deciding which characters are going to die. Also, how much technology should a character utilize? The consensus was that technology must drive the plot.

*Many thanks to **Pat Broeske** & **Cynthia Weitz**, who contributed to this article.*



MEMBER NEWS

DP Lyle's latest Samantha Cody thriller *Original Sin* will be released by Reputation Books on August 15th. Details at: <http://www.dplylemd.com/DPLyleMD/Books-SCody.html>.

On Tuesday, Oct. 14, from 7-9 PM, **T. Jefferson Parker** will be the featured author at the Pen on Fire Speaker Series. He'll talk about his new book, *Full Measure*, and will talk about the process of writing suspense fiction, structuring a novel, and more. Mystery Ink will be on hand to sell books. There will be nibbles and sips (of wine and non alcoholic beverages). Limited to 50 guests, so register sooner than later.

Visit penonfire.com/speakerseries for more information or email Barbara DeMarco-Barrett at penonfire@earthlink.net.



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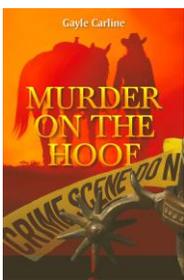


OC SinC member **Terry Ambrose** is pleased to announce that his thriller *License to Lie* was a finalist in the San Diego Book Awards. Also, the sequel to *License to Lie* received a Kirkus Review: "Ambrose touches on high-finance malfeasance, adultery and drug dealing with the kind of snark that will 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*, was released by Poisoned Pen Press on August 5 in hardcover, trade paperback, large print, e-book, and audio formats.

OC SinC member **Jackie Houchin** has reviewed Sheila Lowe's new Forensic Handwriting Mystery, *Inkslingers Ball*. 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.



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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.

Sunday, September 7, 3:00 p.m. Margaret Coel

Talk and signing *Night of the Buffalo*, the 18th book in her Wind River Mystery Series



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/>.



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



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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: