



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

We meet at the Irvine Ranch Water District 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.

Please renew your Sisters in Crime membership today!



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The meeting schedule for 2016 is as follows: Mar. 20 at Mystery Ink, Apr. 24, May 22, June 26, July 24, Aug. 28, Sep. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 27, Dec. 11. Please mark your calendars and check this newsletter and the website for updates.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday, March 20th, beginning at 2:00 p.m. -- **T. Jefferson Parker** will be our speaker. The meeting will be held at Mystery Ink Bookstore, 8907 Warner Avenue, #135, Huntington Beach, (714) 960-4000.

A Southern California native, Jeff is a prolific writer and three-time Edgar award-winning novelist. He is a regular speaker at writer's conferences and generously offers his time and expertise to educate and encourage other writers.

He will talk about his latest, *Crazy Blood*, and share stories of his writing journey. Some writing tips from Jeff include:

"Don't be afraid to just sit down and write...My advice is to work fast and read it later. Finish, finish, finish. If you read it later and don't like it, throw it away and start over."

"Don't think you have to write a whole novel in six weeks. If all you can steal is one hour a day to write, write a page a day and you'll have a 365 page manuscript in one year. The pages really do start to pile up."

"If at some point during the writing of [a] book it becomes clear to me that I'm going to have to ignore certain conventions, I'm going to do it, because the book is more important than the genre."

MEETING ROUNDUP

By Pat H. Broeske

Our guest at the February meeting of SinC O.C. was Barry Lancet, the Tokyo-based writer who pens the Jim Brodie thrillers, the latest of which is "Pacific Burn" (Simon & Schuster).

Lancet, who grew up in the San Fernando Valley, was in his twenties when he moved to Japan. His "grand plan" was to spend several years learning the language and culture, and then moving on. In fact, it took many more years to learn to speak the language, and his discoveries about the complex Japanese culture are ongoing.





His writing expertise owes much to his longtime stint with a leading Japanese publisher – where he helped develop books, including titles about Japanese culture, for Western readers.

The character of Jim Brodie bridges the two cultures. An art dealer in the Bay Area, he is also involved in a Japanese private eye firm.

Brodie debuted in Lancet’s first book, the 2013 “Japantown,” which garnered a Barry Award (given by *Deadly Pleasures* mystery magazine) for Best First Mystery Novel. It has been optioned by producer J.J. Abrams and his company, Bad Robot, in association with Warner Bros. The series’ 2014 follow-up, “Tokyo Kill,” was a finalist for a Shamus Award (from the Private Eye Writers of America) for Best P.I. Novel of the year. It was also selected as a must-read for Asian leaders by *Forbes* magazine.

“Pacific Burn” was inspired by the devastating headlines of 2011 – the Japanese nuclear power plant meltdown that followed the country’s massive earthquake and tsunami – and involves what Lancet calls the “Japanese nuclear mafia.”

In addition to talking about his writing techniques (when he reaches a point where he still needs information, he leaves a space and moves on – and fills in the blanks later), Lancet addressed the issue of writing a series.

Among the pluses: “Your character has an outlook, a way of thinking that is helpful.”

Lancet spoke to a capacity crowd that gathered at the Community Room of the Katie Wheeler Library in Irvine.

A TRIBUTE



By Pat H. Broeske

SinC O.C. laments the passing of our former president, the irrepressible Aileen Baron. She was several weeks shy of turning 91 when she died on March 1 while in hospice care.

The sassy and smart Aileen was a familiar figure in the mystery writing community. “She was a witty and wise woman who always had something to add to any conversation. And, oh, how she loved mysteries,” said chapter president Gayle Carline. Noted genre blogger Janet Rudolph called her “a remarkable woman – a role model, a mentor – funny, witty and full of life.”

Aileen earned a Ph.D. in archaeology/anthropology and taught for more than 20 years at California State



University, Fullerton. After retiring she took writing courses at the extension program at University of California, Irvine. As Aileen later recounted, “There, they told me to stop everything and start writing. They told me I had a voice, even though I can’t sing a note.”

They also told the 70-something Aileen to “write what you know.” So, having worked in archaeological fieldwork in the Middle East – she spent a year at the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem as an NEH scholar, and was director of the overseas campus of California State Universities at the Hebrew University – she wrote the short story, “Petrie’s Head.” It was published in a literary magazine and earned her a check for \$50, and a tee shirt.

It was while in class that she began work on “A Fly Has a Hundred Eyes” – which would become her first published novel. Set in British-mandated Palestine in 1938, it introduces archeologist Lily Sampson, who’s in pursuit of a missing amphoriskos (a small jug, or flask, made of blue glass). It won first place in the mystery category at the Pikes Peak Writers Conference, and the Southwest Writers Conference, and was published by Chicago Academy in 2003. In her review of the book, the New York Times’ Marilyn Stasio wrote, “In taking Lily’s search for this delicate blue-glass vial through every quarter of the endangered [Jerusalem], Baron makes an eloquent case for its preservation as one of the fragile treasures of antiquity.”

She penned two more Lily Sampson mysteries (“The Torch of Tangier” and “The Scorpion’s Bite”) and “The Gold of Thrace,” about mystery in the antiquities trade, featuring archaeologist Tamar Saticoy. In 2015 Baron sold her fifth (yet unpublished) book.

A frequent speaker at mystery conventions, it was Aileen who conceived the idea for Ladies of Intrigue, the chapter-sponsored twice held (2014 and 2015) all-day literary event that celebrated local and internationally-known female authors. She saw it as the flip-side of Men of Mystery (which is held annually in So Cal). “For too many years, female mystery writers have been given short shrift, or ignored altogether,” said Aileen – who was never one to be ignored. Or forgotten.

MEETING ROUNDUP II

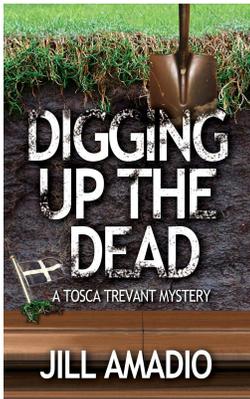
By Theresa Schultz

On Sunday, Feb. 28th, a few of us gathered at our regular meeting place for a presentation by President **Gayle Carline** on “The Nuts and Bolts of Publishing.” The emphasis was on self-publishing and the need to treat your writing like a business, as you take on the dual roles of publisher and author. Writers today, whether self-published or not, need to have “the heart of an artist and the head of a CEO.” We got into specifics on self-publishing tools, book covers, eBooks, marketing and promotion. We explored various publishing platforms, discussed book videos, planning for publication, and savvy social media strategies. Gayle answered all our questions and we left with a lot of great information.



MEMBER NEWS

In the March issue of *Orange Coast*, contributing writer **Pat H. Broeske** checks in with the “Protectors of the Past,” local archivists – and the collections they supervise. They provide a wealth of info for writers who like to take their research beyond the internet. (Remember, not everything’s online!) Writing a mystery involving Disneyland? There’s an amazing Disney collection at the Anaheim Heritage Center. Plotting political intrigue? Don’t forget the Nixon Presidential Library & Museum. Want to capture the historical look and feel of old Balboa? There are some eye-opening photo collections in the O.C. Plus the Huell Howser Archive, the Surfing Heritage & Culture Center, and more. The issue is currently on the newsstands.



Digging up the Dead, **Jill Amadio's** second book in her Tosca Trevant mystery series set in Newport Beach, will be released by the publisher on March 15. Murders, a mysterious gemstone, and lost manuscripts offer banished Brit journalist Tosca Trevant a chance to earn her way back to her beloved Cornwall and her job in London. A woman drops dead practically at Tosca’s feet, a famous author’s works show up under suspicious circumstances, and a creepy collector of rare musical instruments adds to the mysterious events. Even swimming in the Pacific Ocean and digging for minerals can be fatal, she finds. Helped by retired Secret Service Agent Thatch MacAuley and a few well-placed Cornish cuss-words, Tosca digs deep to track down the killer in a suspenseful plot that twists and turns.

Anne Perry, best-selling author of *Corridors of the Night*: “Really fun, interesting and vivid people solving mysteries... a spot of Cornish swearing. I found myself turning page after page. Treat yourself and enjoy!”
Anne Cleeland, best-selling author of the *Doyle & Acton* mystery series: “The undaunted Tosca stumbles across another high-society murder with a long-lost literary manuscript at the center. Clever and fun, an engaging read.”

Mystery Ink bookstore is having a launch party for Jill on Saturday, March 26 at 2 p.m. Other talks and signings include:

Crowell Library, San Marino, Thursday March 31 at 7 p.m.

Dana Point Library talk on Tuesday, April 2, at 6 p.m.

Book Carnival on Saturday, April 9, together with Anne Cleeland.



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Donna Lear's book, *Crimson Gold*, was a finalist in the 2015 RED CITY REVIEW BOOK AWARDS.

She was one of five finalists in the Mystery/Thriller category.

Congratulations, Donna!



D.P Lyle's updated 2nd Edition of *Forensics for Dummies* is now available. Please visit:
<http://www.dplylemd.com/books.html>

California Writers Club

April 9, 2016, 11:00 a.m.

Orange Public Library and History Center

407 E. Chapman Ave.

Orange, CA

<http://www.calwritersorangecounty.org/index.html>

Thrill Seeker Radio Interview

Authors on the Air

Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 10 a.m. Pacific

<http://www.alexolan.com/#!/thrill-seekers/su464>

<http://authorsontheair.com>

Join **Jan Burke** and **D.P. Lyle** for these upcoming Crime & Science Radio shows:

3-26-16: Crime and Science Radio: Research, Education, and the Future of Forensic Science: an Interview with Dr. Katherine A. Roberts, Director of the CSULA Graduate Program in Criminalistics

4-9-16: Crime and Science Radio: Building a Better Law Enforcement: An Interview with Chief Scott LaChasse, Burbank Police Department

4-23-16: Crime and Science Radio: Things That Go Boom in the Night: An Interview with Weapons and Explosives Expert and Author John Gilstrap

For details, go to: <http://www.dplylemd.com/crime--science-radio.html>



MYSTERY INK NEWS

Mystery Ink Bookstore, 8907 Warner Avenue, #135, Huntington Beach, (714) 960-4000
NEW HOURS – Wednesday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
www.mysteryink.com. Coffee & Wi-Fi available.

Outside Events:

Saturday, March 19th, 3:00 p.m. - Rhys Bowen at the Katie Wheeler Library.

In-Store Events:

Thursday, March 10th, noon - 1 p.m. - Alison Gaylin - WHAT REMAINS OF ME

Joining us on her West Coast Book tour for her new novel, Alison Gaylin is the award-winning author of *Hide Your Eyes* and its sequel, *You Kill Me*. A graduate of Northwestern University and of Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, she lives with her husband and daughter in Woodstock, New York.

Sunday, March 20th, 11:00 a.m. - Rhys Bowen - TIME OF FOG & FIRE

Tea, Talk & Signing for her new Molly Murphy novel.

Sunday, March 20th, 2:00 p.m. - T. Jefferson Parker - CRAZY BLOOD

O.C. Sisters in Crime Meeting at the Mystery Ink Bookstore -
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Saturday, March 26th, 2:00 p.m. – Jill Amadio – DIGGING UP THE DEAD

Launch Party! Cake! Goodies!

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 11-14, 2016 – Writer's Police Academy 2016

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

International Public Safety Training Academy, Green Bay, Wisconsin

For more information, visit: <http://www.sistersincrime.org/?page=WPA2016>



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Support your local SinC chapter. Buy a mug at the next meeting, and donate books for our raffle!

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, \$50/40 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: