



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.

Please renew your Sisters in Crime membership today!



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The meeting schedule for 2016 is as follows: 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.

Snack signups are as follows: May: Pat Broeske, June: Sharon Nelson, July: Gayle Carline, August: Donna Lear, September: Gita Fisher, October: Jill Amadio, November: Gita Fisher, December: potluck

LOST and FOUND

Someone left a navy blue jacket at the last meeting. Please contact Gita at gewfy@socal.rr.com.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday, May 22nd, 2:00 p.m. – We'll begin with a Writers Forum on the challenges of writing a series. At **3:00 p.m.**, guest speaker **Tammy Kaehler** will address the group. A longtime member of SinC, Tammy is the author of the Kate Reilly mysteries, set in the world of auto racing. The latest title in the series is *Red Flags*. Her topic: "Going for the finish line ... Writing, Racing, and Research." She'll talk about her writing and publishing journey and she'll bring some show-and-tell from her research efforts. For more information on Tammy's books, visit: <http://www.tammykaehler.com/>.

“Such a pacy, twisty cocktail of celebrity culture, family dysfunction and full-on glamour would be delicious anywhere, but the top-notch race-world setting makes *Red Flags* irresistible. Like Kate's Corvette, we're in good hands.”

-- Catriona McPherson, multi-award-winning author of *The Day She Died*.

MEETING ROUNDUP

by Theresa Schultz



We began our April meeting with a writer's forum on historical mysteries. Vice-president Jack Martin pointed out the fact that it is much harder to get away with murder today, given the detection tools we have now. Not so in past times. That said, careful research is required to provide the reader with an accurate picture of crime solving in past eras. We discussed the pros and cons of imposing modern moral values on historical characters versus depicting the era as it really was. Terry



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Ambrose introduced an interesting discussion about dialogue. How does an author stay true to the speech and dialect of a particular time without annoying the reader? Some of our favorite historical mystery writers are: Anne Perry, Stephanie Barron, Daphne DuMaurier, and Davie Morell, not to mention that talented writer of medieval thrillers, our speaker and past president of OC Sinc, **Jeri Westerson**.

Jeri presented the topic “Crossing Genres from History to Mystery and Beyond.” Jeri began her career writing historical novels, such as *Though Heaven Fall* and *Roses in the Tempest*, set in Tudor England. She realized there was a better market for mysteries and a lot of fine organizations such as Sisters in Crime promoting them. So she combined her love of historical fiction and mystery and began writing the Crispin Guest series, set in 14th century London.

Jeri likes to write about ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances. She likes writing novels set during turning points in history. Often the timeline of history itself influences the outline for her novel. Jeri’s tips for a successful historical mystery include the following: Up the suspense, foreshadow events, increase tension wherever possible, appeal to readers’ phobias, and isolate the main character. Make it personal for him.

Her only rule? Always end your chapters on a climax, not necessarily a big one, just something that will keep those readers turning the page.

Jeri also talked about her publishing experience and the benefits of self publishing versus being traditionally published. For more information on Jeri and her books, visit: www.jerwesterson.com.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

On Saturday, April 30th, the Orange County chapter of Sisters in Crime hosted a writer’s workshop in conjunction with the Adult Services department of the Placentia Library. In 2015, the Placentia Library was the recipient of the national organization’s “We Love Libraries” grant for \$1000. In addition to purchasing several mysteries for their collection, the library invited the local chapter to teach a workshop.

A panel of five writers from the chapter gave their insights about writing their novels, from developing their characters to avoiding writer’s block, and how they carve time from their schedules to write. Seamus Beirne, Greta Boris, Nancy Churchill, Donna Lear, and Cynthia Weitz shared their experiences with a nearly full house of attendees. The panel was moderated by chapter president Gayle Carline, who added her suggestions and advice as well.

The attendees asked intelligent questions about the writing process, making the two-and-a-half hours pass quickly. Specific problems were addressed in terms of how a sleuth discovers clues realistically, and how to tie up loose ends quickly at the end of the story. Everyone remarked on what an informative workshop it was, and even requested another.



MEMBER NEWS



OC SinC member **Theresa Schultz** was named one of three finalists in the James Patterson Co-Author Contest sponsored by Master Class. The grand prize winner will receive a cash prize and the opportunity to co-write a book with James Patterson.

D.P Lyle launches his new Jake Longly comedic thriller series with DEEP SIX to be released July 5th from Oceanview. It's available for pre-order now.

“We all know Lyle’s erudition and expertise – but who knew he was this funny?”
– Lee Child, NY Times Best Selling Author

Also, Lyle’s updated 2nd Edition of *Forensics for Dummies* is now available.

For more information, visit: <http://www.dplylemd.com/books.html>

Upcoming appearances for D.P. Lyle include:

Thrill Seeker Radio Interview

Authors on the Air

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

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

<http://authorsontheair.com>

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

5-7-16: Crime and Science Radio: Personal Violence: Sex and Domestic Crimes: An Interview with Former Federal Prosecutor and Author Allison Leotta

6-4-16: Forensic Science Then and Now: an Interview with Forensic Scientist Jay Jarvis

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



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Digging up the Dead, **Jill Amadio's** second book in her Tosca Trevant mystery series set in Newport Beach, came out in March. 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.



“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.”

-- Anne Perry, best-selling author of *Corridors of the Night*.

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.

Store Events:

**Monday, May 9th, 5:00 p.m. - Hannah Dennison
Wine & Cheese!**

Hannah Dennison will be joining us for a talk and signing for her 3rd book in the Honeychurch Hall series, *A Ball at the Honeychurch Hall*. When antique dealer Kat Stanford stumbles upon the partially mummified body of a young woman in an abandoned wing at Honeychurch Hall, suspicion falls on the family and occupants that had been living there at that time. Reserve your book at events@mysteryink.com

Outside Events:



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Saturday, May 14th, Literary Guild of Orange County

The 23rd Annual Festival of Women Authors at the Irvine Marriott Hotel. For info & reservations contact:
www.lgoc.org.

Sunday, May 22nd, 2:00 p.m. O. C. Sisters in Crime Meeting

2:00 p.m. - Writers Forum

3:00 p.m. – Guest speaker Tammy Kaehler will be discussing her new book, *Red Flags*. "Such a pacy, twisty cocktail of celebrity culture, family dysfunction and full-on glamour would be delicious anywhere, but the top-notch race-world setting makes RED FLAGS irresistible. Like Kate's Corvette, we're in good hands." Edgar-award winner, Catriona McPhearson. Check location at: www.ocsistersincrime.org.

COMING IN JUNE!

Saturday, June 4th, 1:00 p.m. – Robert Levinson – *The Stardom Affair* - "When one of Hollywood's hottest young stars finds himself in a tangle with two dead bodies and almost dead of a drug overdose himself, Neil Gulliver's reporter's instincts are aroused, and he's plunged into an ever darker world of sex, drugs, and murder.

June 23rd-26th – William Bernhardt's Writers Workshop Retreat

The bestselling author of more than forty books, including the blockbuster Ben Kincaid series and *Nemesis: The Final Case of Eliot Ness*, currently being adapted into an NBC miniseries has founded the Red Sneaker Writing Center. He has become one of the most in-demand writing instructors in the nation and will be hosting a writing workshop at the Mystery Ink Bookstore. willbern@gmail.com

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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Print and complete this form. NOTE: YOU MUST ALSO JOIN SISTERS IN CRIME NATIONAL TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER.

To become a member of SinC National (\$40 **ACTIVE***, or \$50 **PROFESSIONAL****) go to: <http://www.sistersincrime.org>; See "Become a Member" at the top of the opening page.

To join SinC O.C., send the completed form, below, with a \$25 check, payable to Sisters in Crime, to: Membership, Sisters in Crime O.C., P.O. Box 53132, Irvine, CA 92619-3132.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Pls. 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:**

*An **ACTIVE** member is a paid-up Sisters in Crime, Inc. member who does not have a business interest in promoting the purposes of Sisters in Crime, Inc. This includes, but is not limited to, fans and readers.

** A **PROFESSIONAL** member is a paid-up Sisters in Crime, Inc. member who is one of the following: an author pursuing a career in mystery writing, a bookseller, a publisher, a librarian, an editor or one who has a business interest in promoting the purposes of Sisters in Crime, Inc.