



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](http://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/](http://www.sistersincrime.org/). To renew for our chapter, go to: [www.ocsistersincrime.org/membership.htm](http://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!**



ORANGE HERRING  
Sisters in Crime  Orange County



---

The meeting schedule for 2016 is as follows: Jan. 24, Feb. (TBD), Mar. (TBD), 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

**December 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.** – Our final meeting of the year will be held at Mystery Ink Bookstore. This will be a potluck and will begin at 1 p.m. Please email Debbie at [mysterink@hotmail.com](mailto:mysterink@hotmail.com) and let her know what you would like to bring.

**January 24<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.** – Sisters in Crime O.C. will kick off 2016 with its annual Forensics Fest meeting. The topic: "What Makes the Bad Guys Tick? Three Experts Discuss Dark Motivations and Heinous Acts."

Our three speakers are authors **D.P. Lyle**, **Dennis Palumbo** and **David Putnam** – all noted experts within their respective arenas involving criminal justice.

A board-certified MD, D.P. "Doug" Lyle has been a consultant to countless novelists as well as writers of popular television shows, among them "Law & Order" and "CSI: Miami," to help ensure forensic authenticity. He is the co-host, along with best-selling mystery novelist Jan Burke, of [CRIME AND SCIENCE RADIO](#), a twice-monthly program on [SUSPENSE RADIO](#). A prolific author of both crime fiction and non-fiction, Lyle's books have won the Macavity and Benjamin Franklin Silver Award, and have been nominated for the Edgar, Agatha, Anthony, Scribe, Silver Falchion, and USA Best Book honor. The second edition of his "Forensics for Dummies" (Wiley) will be available in February 2016.

Dennis Palumbo, M.A., MFT, is a writer and licensed psychotherapist who applies his private practice expertise to his mysteries featuring crime-solving psychologist and trauma expert Daniel Rinaldie. The fourth in the series, "Phantom Limb," is now on sale from Poisoned Pen Press. Formerly a Hollywood screenwriter, Palumbo's credits include the feature film "My Favorite Year," for which he was nominated for the prestigious Writers Guild of America Award for Best Screenplay. He was also a staff writer for the ABC-TV series "Welcome Back, Kotter," and has written numerous TV series episodes and pilots.

Prior to becoming an author, David Putnam spent more than 30 years in law enforcement. He has worked in narcotics, served on FBI-sponsored violent crimes teams, and was cross-sworn as a U.S. Marshall, pursuing murder suspects and bank robbers in Arizona, Nevada, and California. Putnam did three tours on the San Bernardino County Sheriff's S.W.A.T. team, executing dynamic entries, hostage rescues, and serving as team sniper. He has also worked in Criminal Intelligence and Internal Affairs and has supervised corrections, patrol,



# ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  Orange County



and a detective bureau. After 28 years of California law enforcement, Putnam moved to Hawaii to serve as a Special Agent for the Attorney General investigating smuggling and white-collar crimes. Now retired and living in Southern California, Putnam's latest book, due in February 2016, is "The Squandered" (Oceanview). It is the third in his series featuring Bruno Johnson, ex-cop turned parolee, which debuted in 2014 with "The Disposables" and was followed by "The Replacements" (2015), both of which were honored with nominations from SCIBA (Southern California Independent Booksellers Association).

The meeting will be held at our usual SinC O.C. location, the Community Room of the Irvine Ranch Water District on the northeast side of the parking lot. Address: Irvine Ranch Water District, 15500 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine.

The public is cordially invited.

## MEETING ROUNDUP

By Pat H. Broeske



Our November guest speaker was Michael Sears, who teams with co-writer Stanley Trollip to write the Detective Kubu mysteries, set in Botswana, under the pen name Michael Stanley.

The meeting was held at Mystery Ink bookstore in Huntington Beach, where a capacity crowd heard Sears read from "A Death in the Family," the fifth and latest Kubu mystery.

Sears spoke about the challenge of delivering a strong sense of place and culture, and detailed his collaboration with Trollip.

Both men are natives of South Africa and retired professors. Sears is a mathematician; Trollip is an educational psychologist. The genesis of their writing partnership was an incident that took place while they were on a flying



# ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  Orange County



safari. They came upon a pack of hyenas taking down and ravaging a wildebeest. “At the end,” remembers Sears, “only the hooves and horns were left.” That got Sears and Trollip thinking, what if a human body was disposed of, in similar fashion? “And then,” quipped Sears, “we rushed off and spent 25 years thinking about it.”

And in fact, their eventual first book, “A Carrion Death” (HarperCollins, 2008), is about a case triggered by the discovery of a human body found partially devoured by hyenas in the Kalahari. It introduced the character of Botswana Detective David “Kubu” Bengu, whose physique and personality are a match for a hippopotamus (hint: they can be deceptively dangerous).

The newest title finds Kubu dealing with the mysterious death of his father, which in turn proves revelatory about Kubu. “You’re always trying to give the reader more depth about your main character,” explains Sears.

The meeting opened with SinC O.C. vice president Jack Martin discussing his latest book, *Brother Can You Spare a Dime?* (Blank Slate Press), a Depression-era mystery about a suspected plot to harm President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. FBI Special Agent Harry Bierce is on the case, in a scenario that merges history and mystery. A second “Depression mystery” will be published in late 2016. Jack is also the author of the Alphonso Clay Civil War mysteries.

## MEMBER NEWS

**D.P. Lyle** has the following events coming up:

LIT UP Orange County: Reading and Q&A

Tuesday, December 15, 2015, 7 p.m.

Kean’s Coffee

13681 Newport Ave

Tustin, CA

[714-838-5326](tel:714-838-5326)

<http://litcentraloc.com/lit-up-author-reading-tonight/>

Orange County Sisters in Crime Forensics Day

Dennis Palumbo, David Putnam, and DP Lyle

“What Makes Your Bad Guys Tick? Dark Motivations and Heinous Acts

Sunday, January 24th, 2016, 2:00 p.m.

Irvine Ranch Water District Community Room

15500 Sand Canyon Avenue

Irvine, CA 92618

[ocsistersincrime.org](http://ocsistersincrime.org)



ORANGE HERRING  
Sisters in Crime  Orange County



---

Also, *Forensics for Dummies, Updated 2nd Edition* by DP Lyle, MD will be released by Wiley February, 2016.

Join **Jan Burke** and **DP Lyle** on Crime and Science Radio for these fun upcoming shows:

**12-5-15:** Crime and Science Radio: Bones Tell the Tale: An Interview with Forensic Anthropologist and Best-selling Author Kathy Reichs

**12-19-15:** Men of Valor: An Interview with Author and Weapons Expert John F. Mullins, Major U.S. Army Special Forces (Ret.)

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

\*\*\*

**Jill Amadio** just wrapped up writing two books this year. One is a ghostwritten biography now on Amazon as a paperback and kindle version. The other book is her own *Digging Up the Dead*, the second in the Tosca Trevant mystery series with a publication date of March, 2016, from Mainly Murder Press.

\*\*\*

**Jackie Houchin** was a guest blogger on Marilyn Meridith's Musings blog recently. The title of her article was "Field Trips for Writers" about what critique groups (or single writers) can do to be inspired or get real facts for their stories. She listed several activities that her group has done and gave many other suggestions. To read the blog post, go to: [bit.ly/1PIYv3o](http://bit.ly/1PIYv3o).

### **MYSTERY INK NEWS**

Mystery Ink Bookstore, 8907 Warner Avenue, #135, Huntington Beach, (714) 960-4000

New hours: Wed. – Fri., 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Sat., 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

[www.mysteryink.com](http://www.mysteryink.com). Coffee & Wi-Fi available.

In-Store Events:

**Saturday, December 12, 4:00 p.m. – Sybil Johnson's Launch Party! Cake! Goodies!**

Talk and signing for her latest release – *Paint the Town Dead*



ORANGE HERRING  
Sisters in Crime  Orange County



---

Computer programmer and tole-painting enthusiast Aurora Anderson is attending the Ocean Painting Society's inaugural convention when she witnesses her childhood friend collapse in class and die. When the police find no foul play, she embarks on her own investigation.

**Sunday, December 13, 1:00 p.m. – Orange County Sisters in Crime Holiday Party at the Mystery Ink Bookstore**

**Saturday, February 6th at 1:00 p.m. – Launch Party for Jeri Westerson's latest.**

Outside Events:

**Saturday, December 12, 11:00 a.m. – Anne Cleeland at Brea Library**

Location: 1 Civic Center Circle, Plaza Level, Brea, CA 92821



**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



# ORANGE HERRING

**Sisters in Crime** 🍊 **Orange County**



---

and suggestions to: [ocsinc.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ocsinc.newsletter@gmail.com). **The deadline is the 7<sup>th</sup> 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: