



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 in the Community Affairs meeting room on the northeast side of the parking lot. For directions, visit:

www.ocsistersincrimelocal.com ([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"

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Our final meeting for 2016 will be held on **Sunday, Dec. 11th at 1:00 p.m.** at Mystery Ink Bookstore, 8907 Warner Avenue, #135, Huntington Beach, (714) 960-4000.

Bring your friends and join us for a free buffet luncheon. Great food will be provided by our members. Come meet our authors, fellow readers and librarians. Open to the public.

In 2017, meetings will be held the fourth Sunday of every month, with the exception of The December meeting.



MEETING ROUNDUP

By Pat H. Broeske



(Left to right) Donna Lear, Gayle Carline, Jill Amadio, Cynthia Weitz, Greta Boris and Seamus Beirne

Our November meeting was all about the chapter's author-members.

President **Gayle Carline**, author of books including the Peri Minneopa mystery series, moderated a panel featuring Jill Amadio, Seamus Beirne, Greta Boris, Donna Lear and Cynthia Weitz, who discussed their respective books, their writing process, their road to publication and more.

Here's a sampling of what we learned:

-- **Jill Amadio**, a veteran journalist and ghost writer, was turned down by a slew of agents when she first tried to sell "Digging Too Deep," the debut book in her mystery series featuring Tosca Trevant, the British gossip columnist from Cornwall now living on a Southern California island that sounds a lot like Balboa Island. Undaunted, Amadio got hold of a list of small presses and sent the manuscript out herself.

One notable publisher turned the book down because it included swear words. ("Even though they were in Cornish," Amadio quipped). The publisher also balked over the appearance of a dead animal (a squirrel), fearing it could be viewed as animal cruelty. ("Even though it's already dead when it's discovered," explained Amadio. Moreover, it plays a role in the mystery!) Luckily for Amadio, she found a taker in Mainly Murder Press, which published "Digging Too Deep" in 2014. The follow-up, "Digging up the Dead," came out early this year.

-- **Seamus Beirne's** 2015 historical thriller, "Breakout from Sugar Island" (Fireship Press) is based on a true story: in the 17th Century, Cromwell sent 60,000 Irish to the island of Barbados, where they were enslaved. Born in Ireland, Beirne came to the U.S. as a teenager. He planned to join the priesthood, but wound up getting an education and becoming a high school teacher and administrator. His first writings were opinion pieces in the *Los Angeles Times*.

-- **Greta Boris** utilized her expertise as a fitness expert and wellness coach to author the Amazon Kindle bestseller, "The Wine and Chocolate Workout." The director of the online community, O.C. Writers (ocwriters.network), she participated in a Twitter pitch session to land a publisher for the first titles in her new 7 Deadly Sins domestic suspense series. Fawkes Press plans a June 2017 publication of "A Margin of Lust"; the second title, "The Scent of Wrath," is anticipated for December 2017.

-- **Donna Lear** mined a real life family mystery in "Crimson Gold" (2013), which she published as a novella.



ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  Orange County



Set in 1939, in the Dutch Hills of Alaska, the book is a fictionalized account of a case that involved murder, gold mining and greed. “I had these family letters that talked about what had happened,” recalls Lear, who traveled to Alaska to further explore the mystery.

She is now at work on a follow-up book, set 30 years later.

-- **Cynthia Weitz** started writing after taking a creative writing class through the Saddleback College Emeritus Institute. But the real inspiration came after she read “Pen on Fire: A Busy Woman’s Guide to Igniting the Writer Within” (Mariner Books) by Barbara DeMarco-Barrett, a member of O.C. SinC who hosts a well-known O.C. literary salon, and a radio program (on KUCI 88.9 FM) about writers. Weitz went on to pen and publish “Feisty Old Ladies” – about a glamorous and sexy senior socialite who turns sleuth. This after taking a tumble (in her Jimmy Choos) and winding up in a rehab center, where a mystery unfolds.

A sequel to the 2014 book is in the works: “Feisty Old Gangbusters” will be set in a fictionalized city that locals will recognize as Santa Ana.

Up until November, the chapter’s monthly gatherings for 2016 have focused on guest authors and editors, as well as experts in various areas of criminal justice. “So it was great to have an opportunity to get to know our own authors, and their books,” enthused Carline.

EDITOR’S NOTE

I have enjoyed editing the Orange Herring for the past six years. I’ve gotten to meet some incredibly talented and generous mystery writers and readers. I am turning over responsibility for the newsletter to Jack Martin. I know he will do a great job. I look forward to seeing many of you at the monthly meetings.

Theresa Schultz

MEMBER NEWS

On Wednesday, January 25th at 5.30 p.m., **Jill Amadio** will speak to the Newport Beach Book Club, at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club, located on 1601 Bayside Drive, Corona del Mar, CA 92625.

On Saturday, January 28th, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., she will appear as a panelist at Mystery on the Menu, the 13th annual luncheon hosted by Friends of the Cerritos Library. 18025 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703. Tel: [562-916-1389](tel:562-916-1389).



ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  Orange County



Greta Boris has signed with Fawkes Press for the first two books in her 7 Deadly Sins suspense series. Book 1, *A Margin of Lust*, is scheduled to be released in June 2017. The second book, *The Scent of Wrath*, will be released later in the year.

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.

Sunday, Dec. 11th at 1:00 p.m. -- Holiday Party for OC Sisters in Crime. Buffet luncheon. Open to the public.



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!**



ORANGE HERRING

Sisters in Crime  Orange County



Sisters in Crime Orange County

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.