

WORDPEOPLE FOR MAY 2007

Spring is here and if you hurry you can still see the purple and yellow wildflowers on Stone Street between International Speedway Boulevard and Plymouth Avenue. It's worth the trip...it is the meadow of my childhood.

My most exciting news is about the forthcoming book *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Often an author's second book just isn't as good as his first surprise bestseller. Khaled Hosseini's *Kite Runner* became a book club pick and was also chosen to be read in many high schools. One of the perks of owning a bookstore is the many advanced reading copies we get to read. I loved *A Thousand Splendid Suns* which is to be on sale May 22. Hosseini offers another compelling, though disturbing, look at his Afghanistan through the eyes of two women bringing us up to date as far as 2003. Our April is Poetry Month didn't do as I would have liked. It did well, however, for Sandy Anderson of Custom Iron (another independent store owner) though. She recited a poem and ended up with a hefty discount. We'll try it again next year and maybe more of you will participate. The publisher Scholastic Inc. and The American Booksellers Association are sponsoring a Main Street contest in order to highlight the new series of the same name by Ann M. Martin. Her first book is *Welcome To Camden Falls* and is in stock here as we speak. The contest will run from May 2 through July 2, 2007 and is open to children ages six through 12. Acceptable submissions include a written essay (300 words or less), a video essay (3 minutes or less), a collage, a photograph, a drawing, or a painting. The essay should address the following themes: Why is Your Town's Main Street Special? Is it the extraordinary people, the unique stores, or something more? Give the name of your town's main street and describe why it's special to you and your town. The first prize is a \$500.00 Main Street shopping spree (The top winner, a child between the ages of 6 - 12, will win a \$500 Main Street Shopping Spree, which really is a \$500 American Express Gift Card. The child can shop anywhere he or she likes) with four

\$100.00 runners up. Our Main Streets are Woodland Blvd and New York Avenue or any of the side streets that house Deland's unique independent retailers. We have the fliers with the rules and the parental permission forms at the store and buttons for those of you who participate. Hey...someone's got to win and it might as well be you. But if you don't enter you haven't a chance!

Rumor has it we will be opening early, or is it late, July 20th in order to pass out Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows at 12:01 July 21st to those of you who have taken advantage of pre-paying for the book and to sell to those of you who haven't.

We are offering a 20% discount up until June 30th. Remember, they're only printing 12 million copies so hurry. We'll have some sort of party. Details to follow next month (as soon as I can think of them). Stop by and get some of the bookmarks supplied by the publisher which are purported to become collectible.

The Harry Potter contest is a bit more tricky. It's officially called "Independent Muggles for Harry Potter" and only runs from July 20th thru July 24th. It is, as the name implies, only for independent bookstores...Narnes and Boble, eat your heart out! We have the rules and entry forms here, no purchase necessary but only one to a customer. The payoff is a trip for four to London, England. As in the Main Street contest, you can't win if you don't participate

I promised last month to tell you about 2 books that are high on my favorites books list, so much so that I'll give you your money back if you don't like them. Astrid and Veronika is a book of secrets and a friendship between two women from different decades and countries; and Water for Elephants is a very compelling story about a man and his life in the circus. Water for Elephants won the best book of the year on SIBA (Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance) while in hardback and has just come out in trade size paperback.

Nikki and Amanda's Paranormal Book group is growing. They now have 10 members and pick 2 books to discuss. This month they are Full Moon Rising by Keri Arthur and Moon Awakening by Lucy Monroe. As always, all book clubs that are registered with us get a 20% discount.

Come and meet our new employee, Lori. She has lived in Germany, been in the navy, worked at a Borders Book Store and best of all tops it off by finding a home with us. Courtney, another new employee, is a student at Deland High School and helps us keep the store in order. I found a very witty website written by a librarian that has something to offend everyone. They aren't making librarians like they use to! The site is [www.judgeabook.blogspot.com](http://www.judgeabook.blogspot.com). If you are easily offended don't access it. We have a number of thank you letters and pictures sent from the soldiers to whom we send books. We'd be glad to show them to you. We appreciate the help some of you have given to enable us to send them. We have also found a local womens'shelter to give our excess books to. Summer is upon us, Stay cool. Read!

"If you have integrity, nothing else matters.  
If you don't have integrity, nothing  
else matters."