

"A bookstore is one of the only pieces of evidence we have that people are still thinking." -Jerry Seinfeld

It's so late I thought of skipping the January letter all together...but I like continuity so here goes.

We had a very busy Christmas season, thank you all. More and more people understand the concept of shopping locally and how it ultimately helps the community in which they live.

Kelli is finally reading **The Devil May Cry** by Sherrilyn Kenyon. (In her newest, most imaginative, and most breathtaking Dark-Hunter novel yet, Kenyon offers this story of Sin, an ancient Sumerian god whose powers were stripped by Artemis. Now a Dark-Hunter, Sin must regain his powers in order to save mankind from destruction.)

Lori is reading **A Place At the Table** by Bruce Bawer. (With "the bracingly rational passion of a writer who can think and feel at the same time" (The Wall Street Journal), Bruce Bawer exposes the heated controversy over gay rights and presents a passionate plea for the recognition of common values, "a place at the table" for everyone.)

Amanda is reading **Dark harvest** by Lynda Hilburn (Denver psychologist Kismet Knight counsels vampires. Her life changed forever when she discovered a dark preternatural underworld and became involved with gorgeous, eight-centuries-old Devereux, the powerful leader of a vampire coven. Still adjusting to her new role as an expert on all things paranormal--as well as her unexpected notoriety and new clientele--she schedules what she believes is simply another radio interview. She couldn't be more mistaken. Not only does the radio host behave very strangely, but an ominous, on-air call turns Kismet's world upside-down--again. Meanwhile, Luna, Devereux's hostile, femme fatale personal assistant recognizes a perfect opportunity to throw a wrench into her boss's blossoming relationship with the human psychologist and, to complicate matters further, Kismet's old boyfriend, self-absorbed psychologist Tom Radcliffe, shows up with his own outlandish request.) and **DawnKeepers** by Jessica Andersen (Though a Nightkeeper, Nate Blackhawk refuses to allow others to control his fate. The gods have even tried to influence his love life, sending him visions of Alexis Gray. Thrown together, they must reassemble seven Mayan artifacts that hold the key to preventing the end of the world.)

Savannah is on her second reading of **The Twilight Saga** and will soon begin **Marked: The House of Night Book 1** (In this first book of a new series, 16-year-old Zoey Redbird enters the House of Night, a school where she will train to become an adult vampyre. Zoey finds she is no average fledgling. She has been marked by the vampyre Goddess, Nyx. But she is not the only fledgling with special powers.) This is the series that is pacifying the Twilight fans as they wait for the fifth **Twilight** book to be written and there are also four in the series with the fifth **House of Night** due in March.

Our bookclub met and discussed **The Maytrees** by Annie Dillard. (*In this powerfully moving novel, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Dillard displays penetrating insight into the human condition with a remarkable story about the unknowable, unbreakable bonds of love and family.*) We were pretty evenly split on how we felt about it. I didn't care for it but will admit to appreciating her succinct use of language. One of our group hated it, two loved it, one was neutral and two didn't finish it. So, there you go.

I finished reading **The Middle Place** by Kelly Corrigan. (*Corrigan's beautifully written memoir*

intertwines her own story with that of her larger-than-life, Irish-American, born-salesman father's, and illustrates both an unbelievably powerful and healing father/daughter relationship and the unbreakable bonds of family.) I read it largely because of seeing her on youtube. Google "Corrigan transcending" and be prepared to be inticed into reading her book. It's one of the few non-fiction books I've read and I can easily recommend it.

I will be starting the new Lisa Scottoline book, **Look Again** (When reporter Ellen Gleeson gets a "Have You Seen This Child?" flyer in the mail, she almost throws it away. But something about it makes her look again, and her heart stops--the child in the photo is identical to her adopted son, Will. Her every instinct tells her to deny the similarity between the boys, because she knows her adoption was lawful. But she's a journalist and won't be able to stop thinking about the photo until she figures out the truth. And she can't shake the question: if Will rightfully belongs to someone else, should she keep him or give him up? She investigates, uncovering clues no one was meant to discover, and when she digs too deep, she risks losing her own life--and that of the son she loves. Lisa Scottoline breaks new ground in "Look Again," a thriller that's both heart-stopping and heart-breaking, and sure to have new fans and book clubs buzzing.) It won't be published until April 14th so you have something to look forward to.

I've been asked by a customer to share the following with you:

16th Florida Authors Book Fair: Preserving Old Florida

Saturday, March 7, 2009

from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

The Lake Helen Friends of the Library will be hosting the 16th Florida Authors Book Fair on Saturday, March 7 at Hopkins Hall in Lake Helen, Florida from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Over 20 authors, writers from or who focus on Florida, will be signing, selling and discussing their books, donating a portion of their proceeds to the Lake Helen Public Library.

The newly-restored Hopkins Hall is ADA accessible and will offer free parking and admission. This historic heart of the Lake Helen community provides a perfect backdrop for our library's primary fundraiser. It was the first library and now houses community events.

Following the fair from 2:00 to 4:00 pm:

Lake Helen Reads presentation by travel writer Herb Hiller, author of

Highway A1A: Florida at the Edge and Florida preservation music by Rog Lee.

Located at Historic Hopkins Hall at the corner of Connecticut and Euclid Avenues in Lake Helen, Florida.

Directions: I-4, Exit 116, east on 4116 for .8 mile to left on Euclid Ave., north 2 blocks to Hopkins Hall at
192 W. Connecticut Avenue.

For more information: www.lakehelenfriends.org
or call the Lake Helen Library at (386) 228-1152.

This is a Book Fair worth going to. Get in on the ground floor meeting new and seasoned authors. All the famous authors started out small and you'll be able to say you knew them "when", as they become famous.

[A History of 2008 in Ten Words](#)

[Merriam-Webster Online](#) recently announced its "Word of the Year" for 2008, along with nine runners-up. As the website describes it, the word of the year is the one which received "the highest intensity of lookups...over the shortest period of time." And indeed, the entire list of ten words comprises a remarkably concise portrait of what we have been through over the past twelve months or so. The winning word: "bailout." The entire list follows:

1. bailout
2. vet
3. socialism
4. maverick
5. bipartisan
6. trepidation
7. precipice
8. rogue
9. misogyny
10. turmoil

I love this stuff. I am truly a "wordy."

We have found someone who volunteers at the VA Hospital in Orlando who will pick up our mega boxes of books and deliver them to the hospital and the nursing home. He said the vets in the nursing home are so forgotten it's pathetic.

More in February.
Judy

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