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

April 2008 Newsletter: Family Book Shop

Welcome spring! If you drive north on Stone Street in Deland from the hospital towards 17/92 (International Speedway Boulevard) you'll get a chance to see a field of yellow and purple wildflowers. And if you're very lucky you'll see a group of pre-school toddlers in the field picking the flowers. It is so worth the trip...It is the meadow of my childhood.

Speaking of spring, try this web site:

www.procreo.jp/labo/flower_garden.swf

April is National Poetry Month and we are offering a 10% discount to anyone who will recite a poem to us. No limericks or song lyrics though, and the discount can't combine with any other discount. April only!

Sunday April 27th we are having a **HUMONGOUS** book sale in the parking lot along with a multi family yard sale. We will also be giving away sets of encyclopedias as we do a few times a year. And, yes, they're old but some information doesn't change. And what's wrong

with old anyway! If you want to bring your "stuff" to sell, check first to be sure we still have spaces open.

I have seriously neglected my Shop Local Soapbox and while we weren't looking we lost another mom and pop independent store.

Movieland on Spring Garden Avenue closed leaving only a chain store in Deland. We will miss you, Diane and that special personalized service we received from you.

On Plymouth Avenue is a little independent store called Uppity Women that sells all manner of gift items. Some signs were so funny I had to buy them. I'd love to tell you what they said but they're a little bawdy and I don't want to get in trouble. Hehe They're at the store if you want to see them. Better yet, go to Uppity Women and check them out yourself.

Also, in an effort to put my money where Joe's mouth is, I've been shopping for meat at the meat market on Spring Garden Avenue, another mom and pop independent. Since I'm a vegetarian I can only tell you that my Joe is very happy with the change, especially the thick bacon. Yuk...oops, sorry (Run little piggy, run for your life!)

Have you noticed our store flamingo? Kelli has this "thing" for flamingos so husband John bought her one that has sets of clothes that change for each season/holiday. Some are a hoot but with so much in our store it gets lost in everything else.

Books

There is a great forum written by a local lady you might already know, Jen Horton.

<http://www.beaconlinenews.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=16> is the web site to her "Whatcha Reading". There is undoubtedly an easier way to get there but I don't know it. Her forum is found through the Beacon newspaper.

I finished both Laura Lippman books I wrote about last month (or was it in The Beacon Book Review?), **Another Thing to Fall** and **What The Dead Know**. I feel like I found a new friend and will add her to my (long) list of authors to love.

Another favorite of mine, **A Thousand Splendid Suns**, has won an award.

The winners of the 2008 Book Sense Book of the Year Awards as voted by the owners and staff of American Booksellers Association member bookstores are :

Fiction: **A Thousand Splendid Suns** by Khaled Hosseini

Nonfiction: **Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life** by Barbara Kingsolver

Children's Literature: **The Invention of Hugo Cabret** by Brian Selznick

Children's Illustrated: **Knuffle Bunny Too: A Cas of Mistaken Identity** by Mo Willems

I must admit that I've read very few non-fiction books in my reading life. I read **Between Parent and Child** by Haim Ginott about 100 years ago. Basically he says talk to your children like they were someone you've just met and want to like you. If you listen to how you talk to the people you love you'll be much surprised and chagrined. I read **The Glass Castle** by Jeannette Walls because local book club members read and loved it and I didn't realize it was non-fiction. What a story! What a life! It amazes me how resilient people are. **River of Lakes** about our St. Johns River and Kahlil Gibran's **The Prophet** round out the sum of my non-fiction reading. I might have to read **Eat, Pray, Love** by Elizabeth Gilbert only because customers rave about it and look at me like I have two heads when I, sheepishly, admit to not having read it.

I finished **Angle of Repose** by Wallace Stegner for our book club and my reaction surprised me. I found the book hard going at first but by the time I got done I felt humbled. I felt similarly after **People of the Book**, by Geraldine Brooks. I have read and loved many books but with these I felt I was in the presence of greatness.

The **Daughter of Time** by Josephine Tey and **The Country of the Pointed Firs** by Sarah Orne Jewett are scheduled for May and June for our book club. April's choice is **The Memoir Club** by Laura Kalpakian which I enjoyed immensely and will recommend enthusiastically.

Nikki is reading **The Sword** by Jean Johnson as her new book club choice: *To avoid tempting destiny, four sets of twin mage-brothers are exiled to Nightfall Island, where females are forbidden. However, when the youngest set rescues a woman from another universe, their world is altered forever. The first title in the Sons of Destiny series.*

Amanda, whose wedding of the century is this month is reading an old Nora Roberts book, **Hidden Star**, book 1 of *The Stars of Mithra* series.

And Kelli, who will not admit to enjoying paranormal romances, is devouring all of Sherrilyn Kenyon's (paranormal) books. She is also reading **The Host**, written for adults by Stephenie Meyer whose **Twilight** series for young adults is as good as they get. She is also on her way, as we speak, to Key West with John and two teenagers for a week. Personally, I think working might be easier.

Savannah, her 13 year old and sometime bookstore worker is reading **Smiles To Go** by Jerry Spinelli, and loving it: *The author of the Newbery Medal-winning "Maniac Magee" introduces Will Tuppence, a young man whose world is suddenly tipped*

*on its side. Will soon begins to see that the beauty and wonder of life's journey is in "not" knowing what comes next. It is due out in May which means she found an advanced reading copy at the store. Good for her! She's also reading **The Adoration of Jenna Fox** by Mary Pearson, due out April 29th. *Who is Jenna Fox?* Seventeen-year-old Jenna has been told that is her name. She has just awoken from a coma, they tell her, and she is still recovering from a terrible accident in which she was involved a year ago. But what happened before that? Jenna doesn't remember her life. Or does she? And are the memories really hers? This fascinating novel represents a stunning new direction for acclaimed author Mary Pearson. Set in a near future America, it takes readers on an unforgettable journey through questions of bio-medical ethics and the nature of humanity. Mary Pearson's vividly drawn characters and masterful writing soar to a new level of sophistication. www.whoisjennafox.com*

Reading seems to run in the family but stops with grandson, Trent, who would rather skateboard with his friends than eat.

Jen is reading **Weasel's Luck** by Michael Williams and the paranormal book club books, **The Sword** and **Seduced By Night**.

We've lost Lori to her new computer. In stead of reading history she's playing history games.

Well, that's it for April. Rather than fill this up with current books on the best seller list come by and we'll give you a hardcopy.

Don't forget to see the wild flowers on Stone Street and come to our yard sale April 27th, weather permitting.

Judy