

Below is the October letter for the archives. I still don't see August or September posted. And please add 2008 to the West Volusia winner ribbon.

Judy

Family Book Shop Newsletter October 2008 We have a busy October so hope to get this out early allowing you to plan ahead. Sunday October 5 we're having another parking lot sale. The store is closed but we will have lots of books to sell, weather permitting. The money goes toward sending books to our local soldiers in the Middle East. This is something we are proud to do and have been doing for years. We gladly pay the postage but this helps. While we're at it we have several families just selling their 'stuff' as well. The biggie for our store is our first author signing in years. An unfortunate event (read author no show) had me promise myself never to do one again. But I am uber excited about this one. He's a local and many of you already know him or have read his columns. For those of you who don't get the Beacon, I will reprint the review coming out in it here:Volusia County's West Side:
Steamboats & Sandhillsby Ronald WilliamsonAny reader who has wondered about the history of this small part of Florida won't be disappointed when they open the pages of a new book written by one of this area's best storytellers. His first book, Steamboats and Sand Hills, has just arrived in local bookstores from the publisher, The History Press. A natural storyteller, Ronald Williamson's knowledge of his subject has been gleaned through more than three decades of local reporting about trials, weather, government, recreation, and daily life and death for the Daytona Beach News-Journal. While seeking to add context and perspective to daily news, he often cast a curious eye into the past and found stories to tell that were not common newspaper fare. Readers responded to those tales and in 1986, News-Journal editors made him a weekly columnist and allowed him to write about events, people and issues that interested him.It has been no surprise that many of those columns turned out to be steeped in the history of this place. Over time, the column became known as Sense of Place.From those hundreds of columns, thirty were chosen for this

book. Williamson rewrote many of them, updating and expanding them as needed. The book includes dozens of images and maps, some from historical archives, some taken by the author and many created by News-Journal staffers. Some photographs and maps were published with the original columns. Others are new to the book. The stories are imbued with a strong sense of place, but the fascinating tales also reveal a strong sense of humanity couched in adventure, friendship, death, mystery, suffering, danger and a touch of myth and immortality. There's the touching story of Blind Sarah, a woman considered worthless who lived in DeLeon Springs long ago. Another tells of a magical shapeshifter that once guarded a tribal island home west of Orange City. He writes of a sandy spot in the St. Johns River that once snagged a 19th century president, and a former vice president who camped in DeBary while fleeing federal troops, and a diminishing group of black people who remember living in DeLand's Africa. He uses a sinkhole to tell about a rich man's dangerous pets and a lone, scarred pine in a Deltona cemetery to tell of an extinct way of life marked by sweat and suffering that lies embedded in local memories. Williamson delves into obscure documents to find details for these stories and leans heavily on the living memories of those whose lives were touched by circumstances of the past. He also uses experts and historians who shed light on real, but little-known aspects of the past. It's a trademark of this professional storyteller that has spent most of his life observing and writing about life along the east bank of the St. Johns River. 'No writer understands the heart and soul of Volusia County, DeLand and Stetson University better than Ronald Williamson,' Stetson President Douglas Lee says of the author whose tales of this area are 'treasures.' In a comment contained in the front of the book, Volusia native Ben Johnson, county sheriff, says Williamson is a 'storyteller with a knack for making the ordinary seem extraordinary. This book should be required reading for anyone interested in local history.' Raised on a farm near the Florida-Alabama state line, Williamson was at Western Carolina University in the Blue Ridge Mountains when, in 1972 he fell in love and married a DeLand native whose family traced its Volusia roots to 1803. The U.S. Army

veteran had never heard of Volusia County, but once here, he and Anne Travis Sams, a Montessori teacher, had two children, settled down and never left. Except for a time as bureau chief in Flagler County and special assignments in Daytona Beach, he has always worked in DeLand. For many years he directed the News-Journal's staff on the west side of Volusia County. He has won writing awards on a regional, state and national level and was named 2005 Historian of the Year by the West Volusia Historical Society. Bill and Irene Dreggors, history icons in this area because of their work in the West Volusia Historical Society, wrote the forward for Steamboats and Sand Hills. These stories, they say, cannot be found in other history books: 'This is not fiction, folks. This is history, perhaps the most intriguing history you will ever read,' they say. 'Be assured that once you pick up this book, you won't put it down.' Ronald will be signing his books Saturday October 11th from 1-3 PM at the Family Book Shop, 1301 N. Woodland Blvd. Deland, Fl. 386-736-6501

-----The last exciting happening is more personal. Joe has had another notion so we are off to Death Valley, California, leaving October 15th and returning October 26th. I have thoroughly enjoyed Ron's book and will be reading it to Joe as we travel. Joe's been here almost 50 years and loves this kind of stuff. I just finished reading Ferrol Sams (Is Ron's wife related to him?) book Epiphany to Joe and loved it as much as I did on my first reading. Our book club read The Glass Castle: A Memoir, by Jeannette Walls and had a great meeting in a cabin without electricity (or air conditioning) where we ate what little food was mentioned in the book and we ate out of garbage cans. All this will make sense to the many who have read her book as it has been a favorite of so many book clubs. A Year in Provence is our next pick. If you're in the need of a little humility try this website <<http://etymologic.com/index.cgi>> and this one for fun <<http://www.kentucky.com/181/story/532854.html>> And this one for the best and most disturbing 20 minutes you may have had in quite a while. www.thestoryofstuff.com <<http://www.thestoryofstuff.com/>>. I can't impress on you enough how important it might be to carve out 20 minutes to watch this. Nikki is reading I'm

the Vampire
That's Why by Michele Bardsley, 'a laugh out loud kind of book.' Amanda
is reading
The Way I See It by Temple Grandin which she says she highly recommends.
Lori is
reading Genome: the Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters by Matt
Ridley. I am
still reading Serena by Ron Rash for a book review in the Beacon and
Death In the
Garden by Elizabeth Ironside for our November book club selection. Our
Candy Corn
jar is full again. Come and guess how many are in the jar and you might
win a Gift
Certificate. And I can't figure out why the print keeps changing so I'm
sending it
as is.

The Indie Bestseller List Published Thursday, October 2, 2008 (for the
sales week
ended Sunday, September 28, 2008). Based on reporting from many
hundreds of
independent bookstores across the United States. For information on
more titles,
please visit IndieBound.org Booksellers: The Indie Bestseller List may
be
downloaded as a color PDF for display in your store. Go to the
bestseller page on
BookWeb.org and choose the format that works best for you, or click on
the
bestseller link in Thursday's Bookselling This Week email.

Debuts

for the week: Hardcover Fiction#3-The Given Day, by Dennis Lehane
(9780688163181)#8-One Fifth Avenue, by Candace Bushnell
(9781401301613)#12-The
Comforts of a Muddy Saturday, by Alexander McCall Smith
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by Bill O'Reilly (9780767928823)#15-Pieces of My Heart, by Robert
Wagner, Scott
Eyman (9780061373312) Paperback Fiction#14-The Best American Short
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Salman Rushdie (Ed.), Heidi Pitlor (Ed.), (9780618788774) Paperback
Nonfiction#8-Musicophilia, Oliver Sacks (9781400033539)#14-The Year of
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Biblically, A.J. Jacobs (9780743291484) Mass Market#6-Third Degree, Greg
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(9781416524540)#8-The Naming of the Dead by Ian Rankin
(9780316018869) Children's
Interest#3-Inkdeath, by Cornelia Funke (9780439866286)#8-Hate That Cat,
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Creech (9780061430923)#9-Tea for Ruby, by Sarah Ferguson, Robin Preiss
Glasser
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DiCamillo (9780060755546)#15-The Name of This Book Is Secret, by
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Tree House) (9780375837333)New: Untamed (House of Night), by Kristin
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A few
minutes later, they thank me and say they're feeling better.' --Heather
Lyon, Lyon
Books and Learning Center, Chico, CAEnjoy!

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