

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Chris Seidel

The past few months have been a busy time for the Friends.

March saw our spring book sale, a very well attended and productive event. Such sales are extremely labor intensive, and “thank you” is clearly an inadequate expression for all that Richard Ellis, event chair, and his cadre of volunteers did to ensure the sale’s success.

In its ongoing effort to provide the library with program funds, the board of directors at its April meeting authorized an expenditure of up to \$5,000 toward expenses of the library’s summer reading program, which library director Jeannie Kays hopes to expand significantly this year.

And, our public awareness program continues apace. Advertisements have been placed in numerous issues of *The Desert Sun*, items about the Friends have appeared in business publications and *Desert Charities News*, and your president has spoken before four Palm Springs service clubs during the past two months to spread the word about FOPSL, its purpose and activities.

Which brings me back to one of my favorite and persistent themes: the need for new and active members. I have said many times before that if each member of the Friends recruited just one individual for membership our numbers would double. So, I urge you to please speak with others you know who may have an interest in the library and suggest that they

consider membership (and have a look at our web site – www.friendsofthepalmspringslibrary.org).

As always, if you have comments or suggestions for consideration by the Friends, please don't hesitate to e-mail me at chrisin312@aol.com or to write me in care of the library.

DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES

Jeannie Kays, Director of Library Services

The Palm Springs Public Library has added a new collection of books called ***Hot off the Press***. These books are on display in the front lobby and include hot new fiction, mystery, and science fiction titles that are highly desirable to many readers. Through the generous sponsorship by the Friends of the Palm Springs Library, we are able to augment our collection with multiple copies of the hot new releases.

You may check out Hot off the Press books for a two-week period. This display table might be called the 'serendipity table' or your 'lucky day table' because you never know what will be available. We do not allow customers to place holds or renew these copies. By not allowing holds or renewals, the books return to the display table sooner and more people get to enjoy them. We hope that you enjoy the selections available and thank the Friends for their \$12,000 donation to make this collection available.

Your contributions to the Library mean so much to us. The Friends are able to sponsor projects like Hot off the Press and

have agreed to donate \$5,000 to make our Summer Reading Program the best one yet! Thank you for your donations, large and small. Every quarter counts.

What I'm reading: I have read quite a few books in the last few months. Since the last newsletter, some of the books I have read have been Mission Flats by William Landay, Heat Wave (Nikki Heat, #1) by Richard Castle, and books 11-13 of the Jack Reacher series by Lee Child. I am currently reading 61 Hours (Jack Reacher, #14) by Lee Child. Do you sense a pattern? I love mysteries and I'm working my way through this series.

You might wonder how I remember what I've read. I have an application (app) on my iPad called *goodreads* that helps me track what I've read, what I want to read and what my friends are reading. You can have a *goodreads* account on your computer and/or through your Facebook account. You can even put books into categories of your choosing. Some of my categories include "first in a series," "humor," "dystopia," "to-read," and a category we'll just call "don't recommend".

BOOK SALE REPORT

Richard Ellis

March Book Sale – I'd like to send my deep thanks to all you Friends who joined us for setting up and tending the annual sale! You were all a huge help and great company, which made everything go wonderfully smoothly. Thank you. The

sale brought in over \$5000 for the library, and we also gained a number of new Friends members during the sale. In the coming year, we hope to have at least three small, one-day sales in coordination with programs at the library, as well as the big sale again next March.

Library Sale Shelf - Please don't forget to shop the Friends' Sale Shelf in the library lobby! Several volunteers work hard all year to make sure there are plenty of interesting titles on the shelves, and new titles are added every day!

Donations – We are grateful for the increased donations over the recent months, and we're always happy to receive more! Please be aware that we cannot use old magazines, catalogs, phone books, VHS or cassette tapes, and out-of-date textbooks and calendars. Please put these items in your blue recycling bins and save room in the library's bins.

A BOOKATHON LIFE: A TRIBUTE TO JIM GERARD

A Special Interview by Sheila Grattan

Jim Gerard, the late Friends of the Palm Springs Library board member and book sale volunteer, could no more stay away from books than a fish could survive without water. He is pictured at left with Chris Seidel, President of Friends of the Palm Springs Library.

With a twinkle in his eye and a demeanor a tad over the top, Mr. Gerard had none of the characteristics of a "book worm" and all the bravado and delightful drama of a gentleman who

knows his way around back stage at the Old Vic, the Paris Opera House and the Met.

Mr. Gerard lived a "bookathon" life, first as a worldwide book publisher for a branch of the United Nations and later, as the Palm Springs retiree who wore his old clothes to sort and price thousands of books for the annual Friends sale before scooting home to host friends for spirited conversation at his exquisite Deepwell sanctuary.

Living in Manhattan for decades before moving to Palm Springs, Mr. Gerard's life itself reads like a book. Eleanor Roosevelt befriended Gerard when was a young college grad and had just first moved to New York from Chicago. The former first lady hosted regular salon-like luncheons, introducing Gerard to such quintessential Manhattan luminaries as Sen. Jacob K. Javits, who represented New York in the U.S. Senate from 1957 to 1981, and Leonard Bernstein, acclaimed composer/ conductor and Lifetime Laureate of the New York Philharmonic until his death in 1990. Another good friend was skater and film star Sonja Henie.

Mr. Gerard's secret to attracting such accomplished and varied friends was his ability to never put anyone to sleep, especially those who were famous enough to be the target of professional bores.

"Eleanor and I remained close friends throughout her life. She was one of the most gracious people I have ever known and a wonderful conversationalist," recalled Mr. Gerard, who mainly discussed current events and politics with FDR's widow.

Mr. Gerard's career was not without controversy. In retrospect, he relished the drama with delight. UNESCO became controversial during the communist witch hunts of the 1950s. The mere memory caused Mr. Gerard to toss his head back and laugh. Sen. Joseph McCarthy believed UNESCO was a publisher of Communist propaganda back in the 1950s during the time the senator conducted his famous House Un-American Activities (HUAC) hearings.

Fortunately for Mr. Gerard, the investigation evaporated when congressional leaders realized UNESCO books were basically "how to books for the world," helping poor farmers and families of under-developed countries improve agriculture and health while preserving languages and other cultural heritage. Mr. Gerard's most popular UNESCO publications were a series called *Study Abroad*. These were sourcebooks for hundreds of scholarships around the world. There also was a sourcebook for science teaching with experiments that used common substances found in the home.

"Hardly controversial," Mr. Gerard chortled.

Mr. Gerard, the vibrant, widely-read storyteller sorting donated books into the 21 categories offered in the sale was on a mission to make others fall in love with books when last interviewed. He was a stickler for a book's condition. "Every hardback has its original cover and many look as if they have never been opened," he proudly said in 2009. "You can't find a better deal than \$2 - what we charge for every hardcover. Soft covers are \$1 and paperbacks 50 cents."

Palm Springs Friends of the Library could not find a better friend, board member and volunteer than Jim Gerard who died in February. Even when failing in the hospital, his mission was all about books and having more new readers succumb to life-long book affairs. "One of the last things Jim did was to suggest the Friends purchase new books in Spanish from a bookseller going out of business in downtown Palm Springs," said Chris Seidel, president, Friends of the Palm Springs Library. "It was a wonderful idea. The board did buy the books and we donated them to the City's Main Library at Sunrise Park.

Jim Gerard, the international publisher, now has another book legacy going forward, fittingly, in both Spanish and English."

BOOK CLUB REPORT

Richard Bass

After nearly twenty years, Derry Levy has passed the gavel as founding coordinator of the Palm Springs Library Book Club. She set the tone for a highly successful and sought-after club that provides a venue for lively, interesting discussion. She has also agreed to do the book clubs' newsletter for the rest of the season. We are looking for a volunteer to take on this job in September.

Richard Bass, who has been a member of the Book Club for some time, has agreed to coordinate the meetings for next year.

Derry is dearly missed, but her legacy lives on. Thank you, Derry!

Next month's book will be *The Paris Wife*, by Paula McLain. This is a fascinating inside perspective on Ernest Hemingway from his first wife, Hadley Richardson.

"Chicago, 1920: Hadley Richardson is a quiet twenty-eight-year-old who has all but given up on love and happiness, until she meets Ernest Hemingway. Following a whirlwind courtship

and wedding, the pair set sail for Paris, where they become the golden couple in a lively and volatile group, the fabled “Lost Generation” that includes Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, and F. Scott Fitzgerald.”

The book is available for regular checkout in the Library, thanks to the Friends of the Palm Springs Library.

Book Club meetings are on the third Friday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the Library Reading Center. there is no cost to attend and everyone is welcome.

Every March, readers nominate books for the following year, the top ten of which are selected by vote.

Next year’s books will be published soon.

See you at the library!

ANNUAL MEETING

Our recent Annual Meeting was a grand success thanks to the help of our Board members, especially Evelyn Berry, who coordinated with Cheryl Markovitz to arrange for the venue. A collage of photos taken by Library Director Jeannie Kays follows this article.

Along with the beautiful venue, wine and appetizers, members enjoyed a lively talk by Mel Haber. He related stories of the rich and famous who stayed and ate at his Ingleside Inn and Melvyn’s Restaurant. He had to leave early, but said that he would sign his books, *Stories of the Ingleside Inn* and *The Colorful World of the Caviar Crowd at their Favorite Desert Hideaway*, if members wished to drop by and purchase them.

Before Mr. Haber’s talk, Friends’ President Chris Seidel conducted a brief business meeting to bring members up to

date on what the Board has done in the past year. At the suggestion of Vice President Jim Hicks, members voted to cast a unanimous vote to increase the number of Directors by three in order to fulfill the many tasks the Board has to accomplish each year. Members also approved the new three-year terms of Barbara Stanford, Jim Hicks, and Richard Ellis, whose terms expire this year.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Barbara Stanford

It has been a bit more than three months since our new website, www.friendsofthepalmspringslibrary.org, has been "up and running" as part of our effort to communicate more directly and efficiently with the public. We are curious and eager to receive your feedback.

If you've not yet checked us out, please take a moment to do so. We think you will be pleasantly surprised. On our website, you can access information about book sales, our Book Club, and you can register to volunteer in several different areas. You can also view upcoming events, learn how to make donations (monetary and material) to the Friends, and read current and past newsletters. You can also join the Friends of the Palm Springs Library utilizing the PayPal feature.

In addition to maintaining our membership records, the Membership part of our website features automatically generated emails reminding members of renewal dates, and offers the ability to pay annual dues online. This is quite a

money-saving feature for our group considering continually rising postage costs. We do continue to mail membership renewal notices to our members who have not registered their email addresses with us.

Once you've explored our new website and its online options, please take a moment to let us know what you think. Just click on the "Contact" tab at the top right-hand portion of the website. This will generate an email to me at info@friendsofthepalmspringslibrary.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Welcome new and renewing members!

<u>Patron</u>	<u>Individual, cont.</u>	<u>Individual, cont.</u>
Allison, Robert	Bilby, Murray	Rainey, Lee
Cone, Mary	Braband, Patricia	Regal, Mickey
Grattan, Sheila	Buck, Jeremiah	Rhea, Joe
McCalla, Christina	Burns, Craig	Ross, Diane
Morrison, Nanci	Chang Weng	Simrin, Stephen
	Clayton, Jeff	Stewart, Kathlyn
<u>Corporate/Non-profit</u>	Cline, Michael	Strenski, Ellen
Morrison, Nanci	Cushmore, Carole	Tallichet, Carol
	DeFelice, John	Tracy, Catherine
<u>Family</u>	DelGatto, Paul	Tritel, Irene
Bain, Lenette	Famelos, June	Wang, Yongcheng
Jackson, Joe and Hebert, Gary	Forbes, Carole	Webb, Richard

McGlamary, Georgiana	Futterer, Linda	Wehrli, Mary
Mishima, James	Graham, Jim	Williams, Dr. Emily
Parrish, Robert	Haack, Carol	
Steele, Richard	Henne, Peter	<u>Renewing Members Patron and</u>
Stedman, Bill	Howorth, Diana	<u>Platinum</u>
Crosby, Greg	Kays, Jeannie	Anita B. and Howard S. Richmond Foundation
	Loomos, Dean	
<u>Individual</u>	Martinez, Carlos	<u>Corporate/Non-profit</u>
Bain, Sam	Masterson, Rebecca	Falk, David
Barry, Doug	Morrison, Debbie	
Bash, Christina	Nelson, John	

[Thank you for your donations!](#)

Austiin, Stephanie	Evich, Antoinette	Schr
Bastow, Tom	Gray, David and Shuman, Steven	Sha
Bushore, Lynne	Hoover, Bud and Barbara	Smit
Di Carlo, Peter	Jigarjjan, Dr. and Mrs.	Trog
Eagan, Judith	Kahn, Sheila and Michael	

READING IS SO DELICIOUS



SUMMER READING AT THE PALM SPRINGS

LIBRARY: *CALLING ALL FOODIES!*

Julie Warren, Library Services & Public Relations Manager

Mark your calendars now and plan to participate in the Palm Springs Public Library's Summer Reading Program, June 3rd through July 27th!

The theme this summer is *Reading is So Delicious* and readers of all ages are invited to EAT, MOVE, READ and join in the fun! A program has been designed for each age group: youth, teen and adult, which includes reading, activities and special programs with performers or lecturers; all free!

Grand Prizes will also be offered. Anyone completing the program will have the opportunity to earn an entry for the grand prize giveaway of a Bike, one each for each age group, courtesy of the Palm Springs Sustainability Commission! A tricycle will be awarded to one lucky participating toddler and then a bike will be awarded to one youth, one teen and one adult participant.

In addition to weekly prize giveaways of restaurant gift certificates and more, Adults will also be treated to Thursday Food-Themed movie screenings, a Behind-the-Scenes peek into what it takes to produce a TV cooking show and an opportunity to explore food myths. Plus, complete Book BINGO to earn a free prize (while supplies last) and an entry for the grand prize giveaway at the end of the program. This program runs concurrently with our youth programs so it's easy for everyone in the family to be involved!

Tweens and Teens (going into the 6th thru 12th grades in the Fall) and Elementary students (going into 1st – 5th grades in the Fall) will be able to participate in a program designed just for them! All students will have the opportunity to win prizes by reading and attending programs. Story tellers, magicians, marionettes and food demonstrations are just of the few special programs planned.

Children (infant – entering Kindergarten in the Fall) can join in the fun too, with help from their parents or guardians. They can be part of the '**Read-To-Me**' program and enjoy special story times, reading, and an opportunity to win prizes too!

Registration begins online and in-person at the Library on Tuesday June 3rd but there will be a special kick-off celebration at the Library on Saturday June 8th! Anyone attending the launch party on Saturday, beginning at 10:00 a.m., will receive a special gift (while supplies last), plus there will be fun activities for all ages. It's summer fun for the whole family! Come to the Library or go online to our website at www.palmspringslibrary.org to get more details. Don't miss

this opportunity to eat, move and read this summer!

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