

**Haskett Branch Library  
Book Discussion Group  
June 2008**

## **News**

Be sure to check out the new exhibition at the MUZEO, Discovering Chimpanzees: The Remarkable World of Jane Goodall running from June 13 - September 7, 2008.

Kids love to put their hands on all of the interactive exhibits. Parents marvel at the chimpanzees' mind-boggling and engaging intelligence. Clearly, chimpanzees touch all the ages. Discovering Chimpanzees transports you from urban sprawl to the African forest — rich with the sights, the sounds and the curious characteristics of chimpanzees. Explore and interact in four hands-on and multi-sensory areas of this 6,000 square-foot exhibition.

### **The Chimp Forest.**

It's lush with learning and laughter. What is it like to walk, live and climb like a chimp? Find out! Even explore their treetop nest. You'll learn it all, "first hand... and foot."

### **The Work of Jane Goodall.**

See Jane Goodall's 40 years of work come alive during a remarkable visual journey through her revolutionary discoveries. It's amazing look into the longest running natural history project ever.

### **Interact with Primates.**

How do you measure up to all 12 families of primates? Think you're stronger? Taller? Louder? You won't believe their strength! Plus, you can record your chimp sounds — see if you can talk the talk.

### **Reason for Hope.**

As much as this exhibition is enlightening and entertaining, it's also inspirational and educational. Jane Goodall's focus on the future will tug at your heart, and open your mind.

**Our next meeting will be July 17 at 1:30**

## **Reviews**

**Ruth Hirsch** read 3 books.

Primal Threat by Earl Emerson is a very exciting book about a group of Seattle firefighters who bike ride for sport. They decide to spend a few days riding in the Cascade Mountains on a trip that turns out to be much more than they expected. They are followed by a group of young men who are out for vengeance against one of the fire fighters. Jealous rage, alcohol, a gun and a forest fire combine for an exciting trip to the mountains. The story is very graphically told and made even more so because the author is a member of the Seattle fire department.

Lady Killer by Lisa Scottoline is the latest in the Mary DiNunzio series about a Philadelphia attorney. Trish Gambone, one of her former high school rivals, asks her for help in getting away from an abusive boyfriend. At first, Mary refuses to help but when Trish disappears, Mary gets involved. After many twists and turns and a few mob murders, all is resolved. This was a fairly enjoyable book even though Ruth had the feeling that she had read the book before.

Step on a Crack by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge is a most unusual book. The main character is Mike Bennett who is a detective in the New York Police Department. He has a large brood of adopted children and a much loved wife who is terminally ill with cancer. The former first lady of the United States is killed at a private dinner party. Her funeral is held at St. Patrick's Cathedral with several hundred wealthy and powerful people in attendance. The church is taken over by a group of people dressed as monks who then hold the mourners hostage. After many negotiations, a huge ransom is paid and the hostages are set free.

Despite his personal problems, Bennett figures out who the criminals are and catches the mastermind behind the hostage situation. This was a fascinating book that Ruth could not put down.

**John Simon** read 4 books.

The Whole Truth by David Baldacci started out to be a disappointment for a Baldacci story but soon turned into a can't-put-it-down story. Shaw (a one-named character) is the larger than life hero who belongs to a secret government organization that will go to any lengths to accomplish its goal. Shaw is a fearless, don't give a damn guy until he meets and falls in love with Anna. Enter billionaire Nicholas Creel who will stop at nothing to have his own way and he wants the world to return to "cold war" status regardless of the steps that he has to take to make it happen. Although different in scope and violence from his previous stories this is still an exciting page-turner.

The Grave Tattoo by Val McDermid centers on a skeleton found in an English bog and a lost work by William Wordsworth. Jane Grisham is a Wordsworth scholar who works in a London pub to support herself. She has spent years searching for a missing epic poem by Wordsworth. When a 200-year-old skeleton is found in a bog near her parent's home in the English Lake District, Grisham thinks that it may be the remains of Fletcher Christian of Bounty fame who was an ex-classmate of Wordsworth. A simple quest soon puts Grisham in mortal danger.

The One From the Other by Phillip Kerr takes place in 1949 Berlin where it's much too dangerous to be a policeman in this divided city so Bernie Gunther decides to become a private detective in Munich. Things aren't going too well until woman hires him to investigate her husband's disappearance. It's not that she wants him back; he's a war criminal. She just wants to find out if he might still be alive. What seems to Bernie like a simple task soon puts him at risk and he is on the run, facing enemies from both sides. This was an interesting book because the author took care to research the politics, history and culture of post-war Germany.

The Society by Michael Palmer is the story of Dr. Will Grant an overworked, dedicated surgeon who becomes involved in the managed health care industry. Grant is a member of an organization that is trying to reform the managed care industry. When high profile executives in the managed care industry are suddenly being murdered, Grant becomes a suspect. As he tries to clear his name, he suddenly becomes a target of the zealot trying to control the entire industry.

**Sally Nuttelman** read 2 books.

The Tears of Autumn by Charles McCarry is an espionage story about the assassination of John F. Kennedy. . Most of the story takes place in Vietnam. Paul Christopher is an American intelligence operative who believes that Kennedy's death is the result of the 1963 assassinations of Diem and Nhu, the brothers who were the rulers of South Vietnam. He proves his theory that the Kennedy administration ordered them killed and in retaliation, the Vietnamese through one of their Cuban operatives in Mexico City, paid Oswald and showed him when and how to kill Kennedy. Fortunately for the Vietnamese, the Soviet Union became so afraid of being connected that they paid Ruby to kill Oswald. Christopher fits the pieces of the puzzle together quite believably. Superstition and horoscopes are involved. There is a small reference made to McCarry's previous book, *The Miernik Dossier*.

Secret Lovers by Charles McCarry is the third book in the "Christopher Family Series". It is not as well put together as the first two books in the series. In the first book, Paul Christopher was not the main character but now is. All of the spy material is well done but is interrupted by too many kinky love/sex scenes between Christopher and his wife. This brings the action to a screeching halt too many times as well as being very boring since the wife seems to have way too many emotional problems. She knows her husband cannot talk about his work in any detail but she continues to moan and groan about not knowing where he is and what he is doing each

time that he goes on duty. The scene is mostly Paris with side trips to Berlin, Rome, Spain, Africa and Switzerland. A Russian agent has managed to slip a lengthy, hand-written history of Russia under Communism to Christopher in the West for publication, which will greatly endanger all involved in the Cold War. The book is a real page-turner except for the sex and the boring emotions of Christopher's wife.

**Jack Baird** read 5 books.

A Dangerous Fortune by Ken Follett begins in 1866 when three boys from an exclusive school in England go swimming at an off-limits swimming hole. One of the boys is drowned and one is acclaimed for an unsuccessful attempt to rescue him. As the two survivors who are cousins mature, they are employed at the same financial institution. The mother of one spreads gossip about his fellow workers, which results in her son becoming head of the institution over his cousin. This is something that she has been doing for years to help her son get ahead. Through mismanagement and sheer ineptitude, her son brings ruin to the institution and it is up to his cousin to make things right.

Crises by Robin Cook is about Craig Bowman, a popular physician who is sued for malpractice by the husband of a woman who had died a year before. It turns out that the woman was a hypochondriac. As the trial drags on, Bowman's wife asks her brother, Jack Stapleton, a medical examiner in New York City for help. Stapleton has the body exhumed and he performs an autopsy but can find nothing wrong. A toxicology study is performed and it is found that a toxic substance had been introduced through a medication prescribed by Bowman. This discovery leads to lies, deception and murder.

Red Mesa by Aimee and David Thurlo is about Navajo Police Special Investigator, Ella Clah who is accused of the murder of her cousin and fellow officer. Ella is suspended from the force but starts her own investigation. With her fellow Navajo police officers and the FBI hot on her trail, Ella has to clear her name before she is caught. The ultra strict medicine men are saying that Ella is evil; therefore her family must also be evil and must be punished. This was a good book with a surprise ending.

The Devil's Workshop by Stephan J. Cannell is the story of Stacy Richardson, a microbiology student who is told that her prominent microbiologist husband has committed suicide while on sabbatical at a top-secret government workshop. Stacy doesn't believe the report from the Admiral in charge of the project and starts her own investigation. She meets several hobos who agree to help with her investigations and find that the Admiral is behind a program testing bio-weapons aimed at specific ethnic groups.

Are You Afraid of the Dark? By Sydney Sheldon unites two widows whose husbands were mysteriously killed. They join forces to solve the murders of their husbands and eventually come under fire themselves. Initially, the two women don't get along but as time passes, they become close friends. This was an excellent book, hard to put down.

## ***Extra, Extra***

Here is a quiz that I came across in American History magazine. This quiz is a lot harder than it looks at first glance. It is permissible to do what I did – guess.

## One, Two, Three Strikes: You're Out

1. The New York Giants forfeited their 1907 home opener against Philadelphia because
  - a. their star pitcher didn't show up
  - b. a snowball fight broke out in the stands
  - c. a transit strike shut down the city
2. Which major league park was named after a British general?
  - a. Forbes Field
  - b. Crosley Field
  - c. Wellington Field
3. Teams from Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Louisville, Baltimore and St. Louis formed the American Association in 1882 to
  - a. promote patriotism among new immigrants
  - b. sell beer at their games
  - c. attract upper-class fans
4. The first covered playing field in professional baseball was
  - a. the Astrodome in Houston
  - b. the Skydome in Toronto
  - c. the Queensboro Oval under the 59<sup>th</sup> street bridge in New York
5. Who suggested baseball as a way to build better relations with the United States?
  - a. Prince Iyesato Tokugawa of Japan in 1910
  - b. Benito Mussolini of Italy in 1943
  - c. Fidel Castro of Cuba in 1962

### Match the quote with the president who said it:

6. "Next to religion, baseball has furnished a greater impact on American life than any other institution."
7. "You cannot hit a home run by bunting. You have to step up there and take a cut at the ball."
8. "I hope that night games can be extended because it gives an opportunity to the day shift to see a game occasionally."
9. "I don't know a lot about politics, but I do know a lot about baseball."

**Answers:** a. Herbert Hoover, b. Franklin Roosevelt, c. Dwight Eisenhower, d. Richard Nixon

### Match the manager with the nickname

10. Connie Mac
  11. Tommy Lasorda
  12. Rogers Hornsby
  15. John McGraw
  14. Ty Cobb
- a. Georgia Peach, b. Little Napoleon, c. Tall Tactician, d. Rajah, e. Godfather  
b.

**Answers:** 1b, 2a, 3b, 4c, 5a, 6a, 7c, 8b, 9d, 10.c, 11e, 12d, 13b, 14a.

## Recipe

### Ginger Nuggets

Yield: 8 dozen

3 cups sifted flour  
1 cup non-fat dry milk powder  
1 ½ tsp. salt  
2 tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp. ground cinnamon  
½ tsp. ground ginger  
¼ tsp. ground cloves  
1 cup shortening  
1 ½ cup molasses  
¼ cup sugar  
1 egg

- Sift the flour, dry milk, salt, baking soda and spices onto wax paper.
- Cream together the shortening, molasses and sugar. Add the egg and mix well.
- Blend the flour mixture into the shortening mixture until smooth. Mix well. Cover bowl and chill for at least 1 hour.
- Drop from teaspoon on baking sheet 2 inches apart. Bake 10-15 minutes.
- Bake in a 375° oven for 10 – 15 minutes. Transfer to wire racks to cool.