

Sunkist Branch Library
Sunkist Book Chat
August 2014

Wall of Heroes

In conjunction with our War Comes Home initiative, the Anaheim Public Library has a photo display to honor the men and women who have served our country. We are inviting local veterans and military members, or their families to submit their photos to be included on our "Wall of Heroes". If you would like to take part in this project, please submit the form below along with a photo, to your local Anaheim branch library. There is no time limit on when the person served. On the application for the Wall of Heroes, one of the lines asks for MOS, NEC or AFSC. I have had several people ask what that means so here it is.

MOS = Military Occupational Specialty

NEC = Navy Enlisted Classification

AFSC = Air Force Specialty Code

We're only looking for a basic specialty, which in the Army or Marines could be artillery, infantry, signal corps, engineers, medic, cook, etc. Give your application and photo to your local branch library so that all of our branches will have their own Wall.

Biographical Information

Name:



Branch of Service:

MOS/NEC/AFSC/Rating:

Rank:

Years served:

Reviews

The numbers in parenthesis, following the title, indicates the reader's rating of the book.

The ratings are (1) poor, (2) so-so, (3) good, (4) very good, (5) great.

Ruth Flanagan read 5 books

Echo Burning (5) by Lee Child has Jack Reacher thumbing a ride across the hot desert of Texas and getting desperate for a ride. Luck arrives in a huge white Cadillac with its air-conditioning on high. The driver is Carmen Greer, a good-looking young woman with a beautiful little girl and quite a story to tell. She married into a bitter and miserly clan, and they've made her life hell. Now her husband who beat her and was sent to jail due to trouble with the I.R.S. is due to be released from prison. Carmen needs help, and she needs it now.

Up Close and Dangerous (4) by Linda Howard is about Bailey Wingate and her scheming adult stepchildren who are surprised when their father's will leaves Bailey in control of their fortune. A year later, while flying from Seattle to Denver in a small plane, Bailey nearly dies when the engine sputters and fails. Cam Justice, her sexy Texan pilot, manages to safely crash-land the aircraft. Stranded in the wilderness, and struggling to harness her feelings for the ruggedly handsome Cam, Bailey begins to wonder if someone tampered with their plane. Cut off from the world, and with little hope of rescue, Bailey must trust her life and heart to Cam, as they battle the harsh elements to find a way out of the unforgiving wilds and back to civilization where a killer may be waiting to finish the job.

No Legal Grounds (4) by James Scott Bell asks the question of how far a man will go to protect his family. At age forty-seven, Attorney Sam Trask finally seems to have his life in order. The dark years of too much drinking and all-consuming

ambition have given way to his Christian faith. His marriage is strong again and everything finally seems to be on the right track. When he hears a voice from the past, Sam faces a danger more real than he ever imagined, danger from someone who will not rest until Sam's life comes crashing down around him. Sam seeks protection from the law he's served all his life, but when the threats are turned on his family, and the law seems powerless to protect them, Sam must consider a choice that strikes at the heart of his life and faith, whether to take the law into his own hands.

The Vision (4) by Heather Graham is about Deep Down Salvage and their hunt for the *Marie Josephine* off Key West. It seems like any other dive until Genevieve Wallace sees the vision of a dead woman in the water. Terrified and confused, she is haunted by the memory, but no one, including her diving partner Thor Thompson, believes she saw what she knows she saw. Then a dead woman washes up on shore, and everyone assumes that this is Genevieve's "vision." Genevieve knows better. This dead woman is definitely not the ghost she encountered but another victim of the same brutal killer. Feeling that the threat of death is coming closer, she and Thor are forced to acknowledge that some things can't be explained but simply are.

A Simple Plan (4) by Scott Smith is about Hank Mitchell, his obese, feckless brother Jacob and Jacob's smarmy friend Lou who accidentally find a wrecked small plane and its dead pilot in the woods near their small Ohio town. They decide not to tell the authorities about the \$4.4 million stuffed into a duffel bag. Instead, they agree to hide the money and later divide it among themselves. The "simple plan" sets in motion a spiral of blackmail, betrayal and multiple murders. Hank is an accountant in a feed and grain store and commits the first murder to protect his brother and their secret; he eerily rationalizes the ensuing coldblooded deeds while remaining outwardly normal.

Ruth Hirsch reported on 2 books.

The Harbor (4) by Carla Neggers is a very enjoyable story set in a small New England coastal town. Patrick West, chief of police in Goose Harbor, Maine, is murdered following a visit to his 101-year-old aunt, Olivia. Olivia passes away after hearing of her nephew's death but not before trying to say that she knows who murdered him. The murder remains unsolved, and in the year following Patrick's death, his daughter Zoe abandons her police career and moves to Connecticut. Zoe returns to Goose Harbor after her sister Christina calls to say that someone has broken into Olivia's house. Meanwhile, burnt-out FBI agent J.B. McGrath comes to town claiming to be on vacation. Inevitably, Zoe and J.B. team up to solve a string of crimes that are somehow related to her father's murder.

Artscape (3.5) by Frederick Ramsay is an interesting story with a disappointing end. Ike Schwartz thought he could return to his hometown and leave his demons behind. More than anything, he wanted to blot out the pain and anger that came when thoughts of his wife of less than a month was gunned down in a CIA foul-up. He became sheriff in rural Picketsville, Virginia, a small town whose claim to fame is Callend College, The college is notable for housing one half of the billion dollar Dillon art collection, secured in an underground bunker originally built as a bomb shelter. A shadowy group has been contracted by Middle Eastern fanatics to steal the collection but when the collection is scheduled to be moved to New York, their plan must be moved forward, which, in turn, creates unanticipated risks and problems. Everyone dismisses Schwartz as a stereotypical rural sheriff but he is, however, a man with uncommon skills, a tough hide, and a notable past.

Sally Nuttelman reported on 3 books.

Under the Jeweled Sky (4) by Alison McQueen takes place just after India's independence. This is a tale of one woman's search for closure. Sophie is brought to India by her parents but her mother soon leaves and returns to England. Sophie falls in love with a young Indian boy whose father is employed by the maharaja. When this is discovered by both sides, the boy and his father are forced to leave and return north, and Sophie finds herself pregnant. She gives her baby boy up for adoption and much later returns to England where she marries a man in the diplomatic service. They are posted to Delhi, and Sophie begins searching for the young lover she has never forgotten and also for her son. She finds both, the lover too late but not the son whom she takes with her to California. A drawback to the story is a constant flipping from the present to the past, but the descriptions of the people, places and conditions are totally accurate.

Mandala (3) by Pearl Buck is a story of present day India. Prime Minister Jagat is busy turning one of his palaces into a hotel for Westerners when an American tourist arrives, alone. Inevitably they fall in love, and she accompanies him on a long journey to find his missing son, believed by Jagat's wife to still be alive although reported by the military to have

been killed in a skirmish with the Chinese. Their long search gives the author the opportunity to describe the modern India, which is the most interesting part of the story.

Not Yet Drown'd (3) by Peg Kingman begins and ends well but the extensive middle section is incredibly boring.

Catherine MacDonald, a widow, is certain that her twin brother has not drowned in a flood in eastern India, and she is correct. She sets out to find what really happened and in the last chapter is reunited with him. The several chapters in the middle are devoted to her older brother's description of various mechanical situations regarding engines. Who cares?

John Simon read 3 books.

Stalin's Ghost (3) by Martin Cruz Smith brings back Investigator Arkady Renko, of the Moscow prosecutor's office, who has been assigned the job of investigating a new phenomenon: late-night subway riders reporting seeing the ghost of Joseph Stalin on the platform of a Metro station. The illusion seems to be part political and part wishful thinking, for among many Russians; Stalin is again popular, boasting a two-to-one approval rating. Renko's lover, Eva, has left him for Detective Nikolai Isakov, a charismatic veteran of the civil war in Chechnya, a hero of the far right and, Renko suspects, a killer for hire. The investigation leads to the fields of a small town outside of Moscow, where once a million soldiers fought. In these barren fields, patriots and shady entrepreneurs — the Red Diggers and Black Diggers — collect the bones, weapons and personal effects of slain World War II soldiers, and find that even among the dead there are surprises.

The Girl of His Dreams (4) by Donna Leon is another interesting story about the people and customs of Venice, Italy. A friend of Commissario Guido Brunetti's brother, who is a priest recently returned from years of missionary work, calls with a request but Brunetti suspects the priest's motives. A new, American-style Protestant sect has begun to meet in the city, and it's possible that the priest is merely apprehensive of the competition. Brunetti suspects that the preacher could also be fleecing his growing flock, so he and his wife Paola, along with Inspector Vianello and his wife, go undercover. The investigation has to be put aside when, one morning, a body is found floating in a canal. It is a child, a gypsy girl. Brunetti suspects that she fell off of a nearby roof while fleeing an apartment she had robbed. He has to inform the distrustful parents, encamped on the mainland, and soon finds himself haunted by the crime--and the girl.

Sycamore Row (4) by John Grisham takes us back to where it all began when we return to Ford County and Jake Brigance finds himself in a controversial trial that exposes a history of racial tension. Seth Hubbard is a wealthy man dying of lung cancer and he trusts no one. Before he hangs himself from a sycamore tree, Hubbard leaves a new, handwritten will. It is an act that drags Hubbard's adult children, his African-American maid, and Jake into a conflict as dramatic as the murder trial that made Brigance one of Ford County's most notorious citizens, just three years earlier. This case raises more questions than it answers. Why would Hubbard leave nearly all of his fortune to his maid, had chemotherapy and painkillers affected his ability to think clearly and what does it all have to do with a piece of land once known as Sycamore Row?