

Sunkist Book Chat
Sunkist Branch Library
January 2015

February is going to be a fun and free month in Anaheim. We're starting off on Thursday, February 11 at the Carnegie building, the historic "old library" on the corner of Broadway & Anaheim Blvd.

BRING YOUR LUNCH AND LEARN is held on the second Wednesday at 11:30am. Reservations are encouraged. Call (714) 956-8936 or online at www.muzeo.org/rsvp:

February 11 Mariellen Sereno – Anaheim Regional Medical Center, will present important information on heart care, warning signs for strokes, prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

March 11 Phillip Simone – 'Retirement Explorer' - a financial analyst/adviser will offer ideas for your financial well-being. His topic is 'If your PLANS for retirement income that you believe to be TRUE, turned out NOT to be true – WHEN would you want to know?'

April 8 Rick Shintaku - Anaheim Public Utilities – water department. 'Value of City-Owned Water Utility to Anaheim'. During this time of drought, he will provide valuable information on reducing your water bill and solutions to combat the water crisis.

Next, on **Saturday, February 14** we're having a Valentine's Day celebration. Attendees to the Art Crawl Experience (ACE) can take a romantic stroll through pop-up galleries beneath the glow of newly installed European market lights which gracefully drape from the majestic Canary Palm Trees along Center Street Promenade. Explore downtown's restaurants, shops, MUZEO, Center Gallery and Anaheim Packing District to discover over 50 artists, galleries & retail open houses. Indie craftspeople and artists demonstrating their creative process will display truly unique gifts, which will be available for purchase. Entertainment commences at 6pm on the main stage at the corner of Center Street Promenade and Lemon Street, and includes Space Circus, a collective of eclectic DJs, as well as a special performance by Spyglass Fire Dancers. Parking is free at the Downtown Anaheim parking structures (enter from Oak Street). Art Crawl Experience (ACE) is Downtown Anaheim's quarterly art walk, held on the second Saturday of February, May, August and November.

For our third event, we're back to the Carnegie building for the '**OPEN BOOK SERIES**' which is held on the third Thursday of the month. 6:00 PM Social ~ Presentation, Q & A and Book Signing 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Like the first Muzeo event, reservations are encouraged.

February 19 Gail Eastman, 'Anna's Home By the River'

March 19 Marie Jones, 'EKHO-Evil Kid Hunting Organization'

April 16 Peggy Hesketh, 'Telling the Bees'

Watch the newsletter for additional dates and events.

**Join us at our next meeting for cookies, coffee and conversation on
Thursday, February 26 at 1:00 pm.**

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.

Sandra Smith reported on 1 book.

Blind Justice (5) by Anne Perry is a William and Hester Monk story. Hester questions the finances of a London church whose members' charitable gifts appear to have ended up in the pocket of charismatic preacher Abel Taft, paying for his fine home and the stylish outfits of his wife and daughters. Taft is accused of extortion, and barrister Oliver Rathbone, newly appointed a judge, is chosen to preside over his trial. All of the evidence seems to prove that Taft is guilty. However, at the last second, the defense produces a witness who completely undermines the charges. Then Rathbone makes a well-meaning but reckless move that could ruin his career, his reputation, and his life. It remains up to Hester and Monk to save their distinguished friend Rathbone from disgrace.

Ruth Hirsch reported on 4 books.

Knitting Bones (3) by Monica Ferris is a cozy mystery set in a needle work shop. The Embroiderers Guild raised over twenty thousand dollars for charity, but the representative who accepted the check disappeared with it. He happens to be the husband of the local chapter president who insists on his innocence. Needlework shop owner Betsy Devonshire who has a reputation for solving mysteries has broken her leg horseback riding, so solving this latest crime will have to be a group project.

Black Friday (4) by Alex Kava is a fast-paced, well written story about Maggie O'Dell, an FBI profiler. On one of the busiest shopping days of the year, a group of college students believe they're about to carry out an elaborate media stunt at the largest mall in America. They think that the equipment in their backpacks will disrupt the stores' computer systems, causing delays and chaos and disrupting capitalism, if only for a moment. What they don't realize is that instead of jamming devices, their backpacks contain explosives and they're about to become unwitting suicide bombers. Maggie must work with Nick Morrelli and try to figure out who's behind this terrorist plot, a possible massacre that's all the more frightening when a tip reveals that Maggie's brother is one of the doomed protestors. This was a very enjoyable read.

Village of Secrets (4.5) by Caroline Moorehead is not a work of fiction. It takes place in the mountains of southern France. During the Second World War, the inhabitants of a town in Vichy France saved thousands wanted by the Gestapo: resisters, Freemasons, communists, and above all Jews, many of them orphans whose parents had been deported to concentration camps. With access to newly opened archives, along with interviews documenting the testimony of surviving villagers, Caroline Moorehead paints an inspiring portrait of courage and determination of what was accomplished when a small group of people banded together to oppose tyranny. A major contribution to the history of the Second World War, illustrated with black-and-white photos, this book sets the record straight about the events in this area and pays tribute to a group of heroic individuals for whom saving others became more important than their own lives. The author's style makes it a little difficult to follow at times and also a number of the people involved are named and this adds to the difficulty.

Mr. Monk on Patrol (2.5) by Lee Goldberg is based on the Monk TV series. When the local government of Summit, New Jersey, is arrested for fraudulently inflated salaries, Chief of Police

Randy Disher finds himself acting as mayor. With a town to run and a series of robberies to investigate, he calls on Adrian Monk to serve as a temporary policeman. The story is not very original and spends too much time on Monk's obsessive, compulsive disorder. Ruth found this a tedious read.

Sally Nuttelman reported on 1 book.

Death at Wentwater Court (3) by Carola Dunn begins when Daisy Dalrymple is at Wentwater Court to write a story about the estate for her magazine. When the body of the owner is discovered at the skating pond, a possible accidental drowning, Scotland Yard is called in and Daisy stays on to find the truth. This is a very good first novel but has far too many characters – almost impossible to keep straight – and too many minor distractions. It is a very good portrayal of the time between the First and Second World Wars, and the upper class manners and attitudes.

Ruth Flanagan reported on 4 books.

The Snow White Christmas Cookie (3) by David Handler is the ninth adventure featuring New York City film critic Mitch Berger and Connecticut State Resident Trooper Desiree Mitry. Des and Mitch decide to visit the New England village of Dorset for Christmas. After three blizzards have blanketed the village, the snow is forty inches deep. Bryce Peck, Mitch's neighbor out on Big Sister Island, has just been found dead of a drug overdose. Young Kylie Champlain has slammed her car head-on into an office building after she's caught trying to shoplift a pair of boots. And someone is stealing the mail from Hank Merrill's postal route, which happens to be the main route through the historic district. Des soon discovers that she's onto something much bigger: a black-market prescription drug gang with ties to organized crime. When a second murder takes place, Des has to work fast to solve the crimes.

Night Woman (4) by Nancy Price takes us to Nebraska where Mary Eliot wrote the novels that made her husband, Randal, famous. For twenty years it was Mary who kept the family together. Then suddenly, Randal's car crashed on an icy winter road and Mary was now the famous widow, free at last of care and worry. Writing books that were "found" after Randal's death, she assured her financial future. She met and married Paul Anderson, a younger man who fascinated her. Eager to share the secret that she had guarded for so long, Mary became bewildered by the sudden, brutal outbursts of Paul's growing obsessions and his temper. Paul had grandiose ambitions that no one would deny. Mary didn't realize that in the truth she longed to reveal, lay the sinister beginnings of her own destruction. When she discovers that Anderson is only after her dead husband's life story, Mary vows to make him pay.

Tell Me Your Dreams (5) by Sidney Sheldon is based on an actual murder trial. Computer whiz Ashley Patterson suffers from Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD) and is accused of murdering six people. Unknown to Ashley, her disorder causes her to have two additional personalities. Toni Prescott has a penchant for Internet dating and Alette Peters prefers quiet weekends in the arms of muscular men. The three personalities know virtually nothing about each other until the three women are linked by a murder investigation that will lead to one of the most bizarre trials of the century. The prosecution claims that the evidence against Ashley is overwhelming and most others agree, including the Judge. She is found guilty and sent to an institution where she is treated for her MPD.

The Sinner (5) by Tess Gerritsen takes place in the icy temperatures of a typical New England winter, at the bone-chilling scene of carnage discovered at the chapel of Our Lady of Divine Light. Within the cloistered convent lie two nuns—one dead, one critically injured—victims of an unspeakably savage attacker. The brutal crime appears to be without motive, but medical examiner Maura Isles’s autopsy of the dead woman yields a shocking surprise: Twenty-year-old Sister Camille gave birth before she was murdered. Then another body is found, mutilated beyond recognition. Together, Isles and homicide detective Jane Rizzoli uncover an ancient horror that connects these terrible murders. As long-buried secrets come to light, Maura Isles finds herself drawn inexorably toward the heart of an investigation that strikes close to home—and toward a dawning revelation about the killer’s identity too shattering to consider.

John Simon reported on 3 books.

What’s So Funny? (4) by Donald E. Westlake is a novel where the world of crime and criminals upside down. The bad get better and the good slide a bit, but don’t get caught. John Dortmunder is a thief who takes on an impossible crime, one he doesn't want and doesn't believe in but when an underhanded tough ex-cop named Eppick gives Dortmunder no choice, he musters his friends and they set out on a treasure hunt for a long-lost gold and jewel-studded chess set once intended as a birthday gift for the last Romanov czar. From the beginning, Dortmunder faces insurmountable odds. The past history of this precious chess set is destined to confound any strategy he attempts and though success is not inevitable, with John Dortmunder leading the attack, somehow, it all turns out in the end.

Orphan Train (4) by Christina Baker Kline is the story of the orphan trains that ran from the cities of the East Coast to the farmlands of the Midwest. Between 1854 and 1929, these trains carried thousands of abandoned children whose fates would be determined by luck and chance. This is the story of one such child. As a young Irish immigrant, Vivian Daly was sent by rail from New York City to an uncertain future in Minnesota, half a world away. Returning to the East later in life, Vivian led a quiet, peaceful existence on the coast of Maine. In her attic, hidden in trunks, are reminders of her turbulent past. Moving up to the present time, the only thing keeping seventeen-year-old Molly Ayer out of juvenile hall is a community-service position helping elderly widow, Vivian clean out her attic. As Molly helps Vivian sort through her keepsakes and possessions, she discovers that she and Vivian aren't as different as they appear. A Penobscot Indian who has spent her youth in and out of foster homes, Molly is also an outsider being raised by strangers. Moving between contemporary Maine and Depression-era Minnesota, this is a tale of upheaval and resilience, second chances, and unexpected friendship.

Vanish (3) by Tess Gerritsen was recommended by a library patron. Pregnant homicide detective Jane Rizzoli finds herself on the wrong side of a hostage crisis. A nameless woman appears to be just another corpse in the morgue, an apparent suicide. But when Maura Isles unzips the body bag prior to doing the autopsy, she gets the fright of her life. The corpse opens its eyes. Very much alive, the woman is rushed to the hospital, where with cool precision, she murders a security guard and seizes hostages, one of whom is Jane Rizzoli. As the hours pass, Maura joins forces with Jane’s husband, FBI agent Gabriel Dean, to track down the mysterious killer’s identity. When federal agents suddenly appear on the scene, Maura and Gabriel realize that they are dealing with a case that goes far deeper than just an ordinary hostage crisis.