



November 2010

Winner of three Florida Library Association First Place newsletter awards and the national ALTAFF 2009 "Best Friends Newsletter" award

Karen Harper brings her books and experience to SCRL January 12

Photo by Jeffrey A. Rycus



Karen Harper speaks at SCRL at 2 p.m., Wednesday, January 12.

Find out more about Karen Harper at karenharperauthor.com

This *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author is best known for her Amish-setting novels and her historical novels of the Tudor period in the British Isles. Karen's 30 books have been published in many languages and she has received the Mary Higgins Clark Award for 2005.

Karen will talk about her latest books, including the historical novel, *The Irish Princess*, that she will introduce on tour in February. Come see and hear this magnetic and prolific writer. And read editor Dave Hauenstein's interview of Karen Harper below.

Why are many of your books set among the Amish?

What fascinates me is unusual groups — enclave groups: the Shakers, Appalachian people, the Seminoles, and especially the Amish. I love to take my readers (and one of the main characters) either into or out of that group. That's a cultural clash that educates the reader, and for a love story, often leads to forbidden love.

What do your readers learn about the Amish?

First of all, I hope they learn not to stereotype people, even a group like the Amish who all seem to be alike. They aren't. Individuals within the group have different likes and varied talents; even individual districts are different from each other. I'm blessed to live just a two hour drive from the largest settlement of "Plain People" in the country (Holmes County, Ohio) and I learn something new each visit — and each book focuses on different aspects of their lives.

Who is "The Irish Princess, the uncrowned princess of Ireland?"

Elizabeth (nicknamed Gera) Fitzgerald was a real woman who led a tragic but also triumphant life in Ireland and England during the Elizabethan Age. She came alive for me in my research (including a visit to Ireland!) and, I hope, on the page. A bit of trivia: President John Fitzgerald Kennedy liked to use his middle name because the Fitzgerald family would have been the royal family of Ireland, had not King Henry VIII been their enemy. But Gera was one who survived and triumphed.

What is the fascination (in books, TV and movies) with Anne Boleyn?

The allure is partly what I call Tudor mania. The Tudors, especially Henry and his and Anne's daughter, Elizabeth, are so amazing in many ways, so over-the-top. Beheadings? Six wives? As for Anne, to have captured his heart for so long and then to have fallen so far and been beheaded makes for a compelling story. Anne risked all and paid the price. And, without Anne, would Henry have turned England from Catholicism to Protestantism? Of small, personal events are huge cultural changes made.



This 2 p.m. program is first come, first seated in the SCRL Meeting Room.



First of author's two Estero appearances is at FOSCRL author luncheon

Meet new author Johanna Moran at February 2 Grandezza luncheon



Johanna Moran

In the 19th Century, a man's wife and children were kidnapped and presumed killed in New Zealand only to show up years later at the California home the same man now shares with a young widow he's married. Charges of debauchery and bigamy filled newspaper columns.

That's the true story on which Johanna Moran has based *The Wives of Henry Oades: a Novel*. Moran is featured at the Friends of SCRL's only author luncheon this season. The book is now a reading group selection. So Moran will answer questions by phone at a February 17 reading group discussion at SCRL. You can meet the author and get the incredible story first hand at the luncheon.

JANUARY 26 reservations close for tickets to Johanna Moran author luncheon

The luncheon is at 11:30 a.m. at The Club at Grandezza, Ben Hill Griffin Parkway, Estero. Each ticket is \$28. That includes a \$7.60 donation to Friends of SCRL. To have lunch with Johanna Moran, mail a check (payable to Friends of South County Regional Library, Inc.) to 21100 Three Oaks Parkway, Estero, FL 33928 or use your major credit card at www.friendsofscrl.org where you will find map/directions to Grandezza. Tickets will be mailed to you. Seats assigned in the order reservations are received. Groups should book tickets together to assure seats together.

Writing twosome appear at SCRL Tuesday, March 22 at 2 p.m.



The Gussins

Patricia Gussin, a retired physician and research scientist, and her husband Robert, a former Chief Scientific Officer for Johnson and Johnson, have cooperated in new ventures since retiring. Together they have become authors and started a publishing company. Patricia's books include *Shadow of Death*, *Twisted Justice* and her latest mystery, *And Then There Was One*. Robert has written *Trash Talk* and together they wrote *What's Next for You?*

For "Karen Harper" and "The Gussins," the presentations are in the SCRL Meeting Room. It's first come, first seated. Some people will want to come half an hour before the 2 p.m. start time.

FOSCRL member Sam MARRS is long-time volunteer at SCRL

Tell us about your volunteering at SCRL.

I served about six years as a site coordinator for the AARP tax help program at SCRL, particularly for seniors. For the past six years, I have been a computer coach at SCRL. I coach on Tuesday mornings (10 a.m. to Noon) and usually have two students, one for each hour. I do "as needed" coaching, considering what the student wants. The majority of this is e-mail, online searches, word processing and digital photography. In recent years the call for laptop

help has increased to almost half of the total. SCRL makes study rooms available for this, and in this manner the students can work on programs specific to their own computers. That makes the instruction much more personalized.

Do you utilize career expertise and why are you volunteering at South County Regional Library?

It's almost 20 years ago that I retired. One of the reasons for choosing SCRL is the wonderful

"MARRS" continued on page 6



Friends of SCRL present a new Concert Series

All four no-charge Saturdays-only concerts outside
in front of South County Regional Library

Vintage Brass Quintet at 2 p.m. December 11



The Vintage Brass Quintet will be hosted by the Friends of SCRL in a Saturday holiday concert at the entrance to SCRL (21100 Three Oaks Boulevard) in Estero. Plenty of seating in sunshine or shade.

The Vintage Brass Quintet (trumpets, French horn, trombone and tuba) will perform a lively concert of popular, classical, and religious **holiday music**.

The quintet has performed at many local venues: Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Bonita Art League, Edison & Ford Winter Estates and Shell Point.

FGCU's Bower Wind Quintet at 2 p.m. January 22



Enjoy the Wind Quintet of FGCU's Bower School of Music. Take your seat in front of South County Regional Library. Members of the Bower Wind Quintet are selected through competitive audition.

Hosted by The Friends of South County Regional Library, our neighbors from the FGC campus to the east will show us how lovely music can sound outdoors. Join us at this Saturday event and hear popular classical selections played at their finest.



"The Trio!," jazz elegance at 2 p.m. February 19

Mellow, elegant swingin' jazz in front of South County Regional Library on a February Saturday that only SW Florida can provide.

The Friends of SCRL will be hosting The Trio! composed of Rick Howard on guitar and vocals, "Sir John" on vibes and Dan Heck on bass. Ask friends to join you for this performance of world class jazz artists.



"The Townsmen," Big Band, 2 p.m., March 12

The Townsmen are acclaimed as exciting to listen to with the most danceable band music in Southwest Florida. This Big Band orchestra performs Swing, Ballads, Latin, Dixieland, Rock and Roll, Waltzes, Polkas and Blues.

Friends of SCRL invite you to come watch, hear, and perhaps also dance to this group's music just outside the library entrance.

Make this a Swingin' Saturday Swing event.

Tell your friends that Saturdays are great days to visit your library.

And save this page as a reminder for Saturdays at 2 p.m.



From the pen of our FOSCRL president



President Claire Hauenstein

As we start the 2010-2011 season, our Friends group will play an important role in funding a robust series of programs for South County Regional Library. The Lee County budget for the coming year provides funding only for basic operating expenses – such things as book collections and staffing. To conserve available funds, operating hours and staffing levels have been reduced and the staff is taking mandatory furlough days.

We are pleased to have sponsored five children’s programs this past summer and will sponsor seven teen programs, eight adult programs and four concerts this season. A complete list is available in the Friends rack just inside the Library and on our website — www.friendsofscrl.org. Funding for this type of programming has become a necessity since 2008, and we appreciate your support in helping to raise the necessary funds so that these programs are possible —without this there would be no programming this year.

The Friends will also sponsor one *Meet the Author Luncheon* this season — Johanna Moran, author of *The Wives of Henry Oades: a Novel* to be held February 2, 2011 at the Club at Grandezza. *Ticket information for the luncheon* is in the yellow box on page 2 of this newsletter. Scheduled Adult Programs also include two authors — Karen Harper, author of *The Queen’s Governess*, January 12, 2011 at 2 p.m. and Patricia Gussin, author of *And Then There Was One* on March 22, 2011 at 2 p.m. These are presented at SCRL so that they are available to all who want to attend. Seating is first come, first seated so plan to arrive at least a half hour early.

In the spring, the Friends Board of Directors approved a proposal to replace the tables and chairs in the Meeting Room with 20 flip-top nesting tables which are on wheels for easy storage and 100 ergonomically designed mesh nesting chairs. The total cost of this project is just over \$31,000 and will provide for much safer handling of these items which are used daily by those attending events in the room, volunteers who set up the room and the Library staff. These items will be purchased in increments as funding is available, and it’s estimated that it will take one to two years to complete the purchase. The tables are on order now and should be here by the first of the year. Because of the size of this donation, approval was required from the Lee County Board of Commissioners which was received in April.

Please plan to join us December 3 and 4 for the first Friends Book Sale of the season. The Members Preview is Friday, December 3 from 2 to 4 p.m. Then the sale is open to the public on Saturday, December 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Friends Board of Directors wishes everyone a safe and blessed Holiday Season.

In Memoriam:

John Faltisko – Charter Life Member, husband of Joan

George Sarlin – member, husband of Nadine

Julie Carlson – daughter of Neal and Marilyn Noethlich

Lenore Obie Uramkin – mother of Cas Obie

Without your support in helping to raise the necessary funds...there would be no programming this year.



The Friends of SCRL are holding their next Book Sale starting Friday, December 3 (members only) from 2-4 p.m. The public sale is Saturday, December 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Book Queen Carolyn ends productive reign



Carolyn thanks Dorothea & scores of other volunteers



we thought we should have a book sale as a fundraiser to get FOSCRRL on its feet. I volunteered to run the book sale and as they say, the rest is history. Our first sale in April, 2004 netted \$1,400.

As of July of 2010, First Dibs and the Book Sales have taken in \$100,000. This could not have been achieved without all our great volunteers. They always respond to my many emails asking for assistance in the book sales.

During my time on the board of this Friend's group, I have made many lasting friendships. I have gained more self-confidence and have taken on more challenges than before.

Carolyn says goodbye and thanks for the memories

Shortly after my husband and I bought a house in Country Creek, I decided to volunteer at the library shelving books, helping with computer classes and whatever else that needed to be done. I then was asked to be on the Lee County Library System Advisory Board, representing SCRL. After our Friends group was formed,

Sandy Van den Bossche and Priscilla Lavertu have agreed to become Book Sale Chairs starting with the March, 2011 sale. They both have been helping with book sales for several years. I am sure they will do a fantastic job and will have as many great experiences as I.

First Dibs and the Book Sales have taken in \$100,000.

Sandy & Priscilla add: Bring books of all kinds, DVDs and puzzles to South County Regional Library for each Big Book Sale.

Open fewer hours, SCRL still reports healthy circulation, volunteerism and question asking

Total visitors for FY 2009/2010 = 299,677 compared to 326,085 library visitors the year before.

Total volunteer hours worked in FY 2009/2010 = 3,726 compared to 2,148 hours the year before.



Total circulation for FY 2009/2010 = 618,048 when SCRL was open 58 hours per week compared to 635,974 a year earlier when SCRL was open 64 hours per week.

15,322 visitors attended 261 adult, teen and youth programs in FY 2009/2010.

And in this Internet age, 30,702 reference questions were answered in FY 2009/2010.



More programs sponsored by you Friends of SCRL



Take a look at these 2011 Adult Programs at SCRL

February 3 at 1 and 3:30 p.m. (Two programs) "The Three Mrs. Flaglers at the Ponce." Dianne Jacoby tells the story of Henry Flagler's accomplishments during the Gilded Age as seen through the eyes of his three captivating wives.



February 10 at 2 p.m. "Ikebana Flower Arrangement." Stephanie English demonstrates some of the principles used in this art form.

February 26 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. "Interactive World War II Exhibit presented by re-enactors and Dr. Mark Herman of the Edison College History Department. Herman provides context to the WWII equipment and memorabilia.

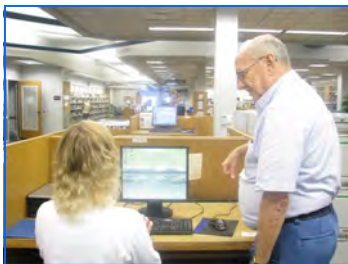


March 10 at 1 and 3:30 p.m. (Two programs) "Anne Morrow Lindbergh: An Extraordinary Life" by Jenny Aldrich. Author, aviation pioneer and feminist revealed in an *Hour of Gold* biographical sketch. Flying with Charles Lindbergh, the numbing tragedy of the kidnapping, her flight to the Orient and much more.

March 22 at 6:30 p.m. "The Stories My Clothing Can Tell." Laurie Nienhaus takes you through History's window of fashion. South County Library adults and teens will model vintage fashions from the 1880's through the Roaring Twenties. A program for mothers, grandmothers, daughters and granddaughters to enjoy together.

These programs are first come, first seated. You are advised to come early.

Sam Marris interview continued from page 2



Sam Marris provides one-on-one computer tutoring.

facility itself. Also the staff who are great to work with. Also, since I live in Bonita Springs, it makes a convenient location.

I retired from an oil company as Director of Air Transportation, with my background being directly in flying. In an earlier career, I was an instructor, both in civilian and military aviation. As a result of this background, I was always exposed to high tech areas, including computers, beginning in the early eighties.

What does volunteering mean to you?

Volunteering has been a big part of my retired life, and it means a lot to be able to give back using something that I enjoy doing so much. I feel that sharing this knowledge with others is important. Earlier in retirement I did volunteer work for about two years at Health Park Hospital when it first opened in Fort Myers, December 1991.

From where did you move to Florida?

I grew up in Louisville, Kentucky and moved to Florida from Ashland, Kentucky in June, 1991.



Thanks to all who serve

Thanks to the present board of Friends of South County Regional Library



From right to left: Claire Hauenstein, President; Karen Rockenbach, Secretary; Marcella Dooney, Vice-President; Carolyn Piscitello, Director at large; Gretchen Schmidt, Treasurer; Dorothea Meldner, Director at large; Steve Shandor, Assistant Treasurer; (not pictured) Jimmy Eichbauer, Director at large.

Two SCRL staffers win second "Shining Star"



Ann Clark

I was very honored to receive the Shining Star Award last May for being an active member of our Business Outreach Task Force. I promote our business databases through training public and staff and by outreach to the public. I have done presentations for SCORE, the Economic Development Council, the Small Business Development Center and SWFL Works. The library assists small businesses in these hard times.



Sally Bissell

My award was based on my direction of the SCRL Volunteer Program from May of 2008. We more than doubled the number of volunteers from 16 in January 2009 to 36 in January 2010, substantially increasing the number of volunteer hours.

We made a concerted effort to make the volunteers feel more welcome and known to each other, not like ships passing in the night. We put up a collage with the photos and names of all the volunteers and staff members so that we could greet each other by name. We also devised a quarterly newsletter, *The Scoop*, in which we feature articles about our volunteers.

Matching gifts mean more dollars for SCRL

As you are aware, the economy in our area is still struggling. Budget money from Lee County for SCRL will be used only for the basic maintenance of staff, buildings and the library collections in the coming year. Our Friends group is working very hard to provide as much money as possible to the Library for equipment, supplies and services which are not covered by the County Budget. All funding this year for programs and concerts is being provided by the Friends. The bulk of the money raised by the Friends is from the sale of donated used books and from Friends' memberships. **All monies raised solely benefit South County Regional Library.**

Another way you can assist in our quest to raise additional funds:

Many corporations have a matching gift program where they will match your gift to Friends of South County Regional Library, Inc. This match can double, triple or even quadruple the amount of your gift. If you or your spouse work for or are retired from a corporation with a matching gift policy, please consider taking advantage of the opportunity.

The way this works is that the corporation generally will provide you with a form which you will complete and then forward to our Friends group. We'll then sign it, provide any necessary information and submit it to the corporation.

Friends of South County Regional Library, Inc. is a 501c3 non profit tax exempt organization under IRS rules. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. EIN#20-0933469.

Thank you for considering this.



Friends to Friends newsletter
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**The Friends of SCRL Website
Where It's At**

www.friendsofscrl.org



Tell your friends they can read Friends newsletters online and learn how they can join their "Friends" in making SCRL the best.



Check out the website Scrapbook and find photos of you and your "Friends."



Do some of your gift buying at **iGive.com** on our website and part of your money comes back to the Friends.