



ALL ABOUT BOOKS

July/August 2006

Largo Public Library Readers' Advisory Group

“Libraries are not made; they grow.” Augustine Birrell

Check Them Out: **Book Clubs to Go!**

Book Clubs to Go! is a new service at the Largo Public Library: book discussion kits that can be checked out of the library for home book group meetings.

Each kit consists of five copies of the same book in a canvas bag, accompanied by a folder containing a brief biography of the author, reviews of the book, questions for a book group discussion, and suggestions of other books readers might enjoy. Book groups can also share their thoughts about the book in a journal that remains in the kit to be read by other book groups.

Each **Book Clubs to Go!** kit can be checked out of the library on one library card for a period of two months.

A sample **Book Clubs to Go!** kit is on display in the glass case near the stairway. For further information about this new service and a list of the titles currently available, pick up the **Book Clubs to Go!** brochure accompanying the display.

New Program for Booklovers:

Booktalking with Iris

Are you always looking for a good book? Are you interested in discovering authors beyond the big names that dominate the bestseller lists?

If so, join us for **Booktalking with Iris**, a new, informal, monthly program at Largo Public Library. Each month, Iris Shalit, our librarian/reviewer will introduce you to a noteworthy book or favorite author.

Come to hear about a good book, find a new author, or get other reading recommendations. As part of the Largo Public Library Readers' Advisory Group, Iris has created some of our most popular booklists to share her enthusiasm for favorite books and authors.

Booktalking with Iris meets on the third Wednesday of each month, at 12:00 noon in the first floor Art Gallery area of the Library, for approximately 30 minutes. No reservation is required.

The next **Booktalking with Iris** will be Wednesday, July 19, 2006, at noon. The book selection is *Dinner with Anna Karenina* by Gloria Goldreich.

Heard a Good (New) Book Lately?

Readers—or, rather, listeners--frequently ask us what's new in Largo Public Library's extensive collection of books on audio cassette and CD.

To help our readers locate some newer items, the Readers Advisory Group recently compiled a booklist: **New and Nearly New Audiobooks**. This list includes both fiction and nonfiction titles on audio cassette and CD. Pick up a copy of the list at the first floor Information Desk as a guide for browsing the shelves or planning your next listen.

If an audiobook you want is not currently on the shelf, you can place a request for it via the catalog computers in the Library or from home through the SunCat catalog (follow the link to the catalog at www.asklargo.com). When a requested audiobook is available for you to check out, staff will hold it at the Circulation Desk for you and give you a call.

For assistance in finding audiobooks, see staff at the first floor Information Desk or phone the Reference Desk at 587-6748.

In addition to our great collection of books on audio cassette and CD, downloadable audiobooks are available 24/7 from our web site. Go to www.asklargo.com and click on the link to OverDrive downloadable audiobooks.

Get Cozy

Many mystery lovers find cozy mysteries to be just their cup of tea. What's a cozy? Cozy mysteries are usually humorous stories that occur in benign, intimate environments, like villages and universities. Readers often choose cozies because of their lack of graphic sex, violence, or profanity. The sleuths are almost always amateurs who have stumbled on a murder or crime that needs to be solved. The sleuth is usually, but not always, a woman, who solves the mystery through intuition and her knowledge of human nature. Small town settings and gossip are integral parts of these mysteries. Agatha Christie's Miss Marple mysteries are classic cozies.

Whether you are a long time cozy fan or just interested in giving them a try, pick up our booklist **Cozy Mysteries: Selected Titles from Favorite Authors** at the first floor Information Desk for some reading suggestions.

Christian Suspense!

Many readers who hear the term “Christian fiction” think only of the bestselling “Left Behind” series or the sweet historical romances of Janette Oke. However, one of the fastest growing areas in Christian fiction, and increasing popular with Largo Public Library readers, is suspense fiction.

In the general market, suspense novels often feature graphic violence, steamy sex, and plenty of profanity. Christian suspense novels, in contrast, contain none of those devices.

What does Christian suspense fiction feature? An intriguing story that derives its tension from ordinary people caught in extraordinary circumstances, with universal moral themes such as good and evil, life and death, and truth and deception. Because the main characters acknowledge their dependence on God to resolve the story's primary conflict, Christian suspense fiction allows readers to envision themselves overcoming extraordinary circumstances through the power of faith.

Pick up our booklist **Christian Suspense Fiction: Selected Recent Titles** at the first floor Information Desk for suggestions of recent titles and authors in this fast-growing genre.

Sources:

Crosby, Cindy. “For the Thrill of It All,” *Publishers Weekly* (June 17, 2002).

Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. “Suspense Writer's Guidelines,” www.tyndale.com (June 19, 2006).

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Sat 9:30 am-5pm

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