

BOOK AGAIN

NEWSLETTER

January/February 2006

TWO FOR ONE!

Sheryl's News

We want to wish each of you a very happy new year!

2006 is a big year for Book Again since we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary on March 1st. Many of you have been with us since we opened in March of 1986, and we are grateful for your continued support. Without you, we would not be celebrating a 20th anniversary, so be sure to come celebrate with us.

As welcome and as necessary as our longtime customers and friends are to our success, so too are the first-time customers to Book Again. I appreciate that most of you let us know when it is your first time in the store so we can help you find the books you are interested in, and also to let you know about our different specials. We quite often notice that before we can help you, one of our longtime customers will be showing you around, as well as sharing their feelings on books they have recently read. I hope you appreciate this help because it is contagious, and before you know it you will probably be helping someone else who is newer to the store!

—Sheryl

TWO FOR ONE SALE!

Buy one book and get the second (same or lesser price) absolutely free

Friday, Saturday and Sunday

January 20, 21, 22 • January 27, 28, 29

This is our most popular sale—don't miss out!

SHERYL RECOMMENDS

Reading books by authors I am unfamiliar with can make me feel almost impatient at times. I sometimes find it hard to move away from the comfort I get when reading a familiar author. Nonetheless, I have been trying a number of new authors of late; finding some that I enjoy.

I now will recommend some of these “finds” to you.

For a good fast-paced mystery that is hard to put down, I like books by Julia Spencer-Fleming. I find them very original and unpredictable with clever twists at the end.

For lighter reading, I enjoy the “cozy” mystery, but I want it to have some substance. For

this, my choices are the coffee-house mysteries written by Cleo Coyle and the Lois Meade Mysteries written by Ann Purser. Lois Meade is a house-cleaner in an English village as well as a wife and mother of three and becomes involved in solving mysteries in spite of her best efforts. Although similar to other “cozies,” I thought this series was well written with excellent characterizations.

My last recommendation is not a mystery but a warm and funny Southern tale—actually several tales—by Dorothea Benton Frank. She wrote *Sullivan's Island*, *Plantation*, and *Shem Creek*.

“New Year's Day is every man's birthday.”—Charles Lamb

STORE HOURS: Tuesday through Sunday 11 am to 4 pm (Closed Mondays)
5039 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503 • (310) 542-1156 • www.bookagain.com

Ginger's Cheesecake

Crust: 18 graham crackers - break up and roll into crumbs and mix with ½ cube melted butter – form crust in pie pan

Cheese Filling: Mix together 4 small pkgs. Cream cheese, ½ tsp. Vanilla, ½-cup sugar, 1 egg. Beat at medium speed until smooth and pour into crust.
Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Cool completely.

Topping: Mix together 1 carton sour creme, ½ tsp. Vanilla, and 5½ tablespoons sugar. Pour topping on cold cheesecake and bake at preheated 450° for 5 minutes.

Cool and refrigerate and enjoy!

Folklore

by Joe Nolte

GROUNDHOG DAY

Or have we done this column before?

We return (not surprisingly) to the ancient Celts, whose Samhain traditions gave us the modern Halloween, who designated the day at the very center of our modern Winter (February 2), as the feast of Imbolc. It was a fertility celebration, though as Celtic Europe became more and more “Romanized” the festival began to be jointly celebrated with the Roman feast of Febru – a purification celebration (and, as you will have surmised, the origin of the month's very name).

As with Halloween and the Winter Solstice (which eventually evolved into the modern Christmas), these festivals were considered magic times, and hence very good times to fortell the future. However, whereas the holidays of fall concerned themselves more with fortelling one's future mate, the February holiday, due in no small part to its place at the very epicenter of the Winter season, was all about fortelling the weather.

As the Catholic Church did with so many other “pagan” feast days, February 2nd's “Imbolic” became the Christian feast day of Candlemas. As with all the other ancient Festival Days, the old rites and rituals survived, so that an early Candlemas songs went:

*“If Candlemas be fair and bright
Come winter — have another flight
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain
Go winter and come not again”*

The original animal used by the Europeans to divine the weather's future was, Europe being Europe, the hedgehog. However, early German settlers to the New World found the native woodchuck, or groundhog, a passable substitute.

It thus became the groundhog's lot to fortell the season's immediate meteorological future – if the weather were “fair and bright,” the animal would see its shadow, and disappear for six weeks. If, however, there were “clouds and rain,” the groundhog would emerge from its hole, signaling a quick end to the storms of Grim Winter.

And yes – it was indeed in Punxsatawney, Pennsylvania (a region founded by a whole mess of Early German Settlers) that the first official Groundhog Day festival was held, back in the late 1800's, which led to the modern folklore associated with both the day and the animal, and took us finally from ancient Celtic fertility rites to the modern celebration known as...

Groundhog Day.

Or have we done this column before?