

BOOK AGAIN

NEWS LETTER

May/June 2006

Sheryl's News

It was wonderful seeing so many of you during our recent 20th anniversary celebration. We tried to recreate our Grand Opening with special sales, prizes and raffles; and from your feedback, it seems we succeeded in making it a fun and enjoyable celebration for all. A special thanks to those of you who have been with us for all or most of our past 20 years.

For those of you new to our store, I thought this would be a good time to acquaint you with our many sales and specials. On top of our everyday low prices, Book Again offers many sales and specials which can save you even more. One way to save more is to take advantage of our Daily Special, which can save you 50% on selected books! See the whiteboard above our counter for more information, but be sure to check it out **before** you start browsing! You will most likely find yourself spending less for more books!

In addition to our Daily Special, we offer a free paperback with every \$10.00 you spend at Book Again, and all books displayed outside the store are priced ridiculously low: 15 books for \$3.00. We also have terrific sales every 3 months and usually a special during the Christmas season.

And when talking about our specials, its important to note that our store credit is based on a trade basis and does not apply to any specials. Gift Certificates, on the other hand, are treated like cash, and can be used towards the specials. They also make a wonderful gift!

If this is more information than you want, just ask us at checkout to help you get the best deal of the day. Here's to our next 20 years of fun and good reading with you.

—Sheryl

Uncle Bob's Parmesan Chicken

Boneless, skinless chicken breasts

Mix together flour, Parmesan cheese, Romano cheese, and garlic powder

Dip chicken in egg then flour mixture; Bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes

Spray PAM on top for crispy texture

Melt butter and **add** red wine and **brush** chicken (keeps chicken moist)

Bake a few more minutes

LAW & ARLY

by Arly

"First, let's kill all the lawyers."

Had we done as Shakespeare suggested, there would be no legal thrillers to entertain us. What would we do without the skilled prosecutors and the dedicated defense attorneys dealing with crime? Fortunately there are many great authors in this genre to sample.

Most of us have enjoyed the excellent courtroom dramas of John Grisham and Scott Turow, but are you familiar with the works of Lisa Scottoline? Set in Philadelphia, the all-female law firm of B. Rosato & Associates (Benedetta Rosato, Mary DiNunzio, Anne Murphy, et al) handles a wide variety of cases. The ladies are tough yet softhearted, and the action is fast paced with sharp, witty dialogue. For local flavor, try Rebecca Forster's "Witness"

trilogy. Her protagonist is Josie Bates, volleyball playing defense attorney who resides in Hermosa Beach. Complex characters and unexpected plot twists make for satisfying reading.

William Bernhardt has Tulsa lawyer Ben Kincaid in the "Justice" series involved in cases dealing with environmental issues, hate crimes and media interference. Steve Martini features skilled litigator Paul Madriani and Robert K. Tanenbaum has New York City D.A. Butch Karp.

I recommend all of these authors for complex plots, colorful characters and exciting courtroom scenes. So brush up on your legalese. You just never know when you might be called for jury duty. Enjoy!

"A room without books is like a body without a soul."—Cicero

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

Folklore

by Joe Nolte

So I was loitering in Book Again the other day, interfering with both the hordes of customers taking advantage of our 50% Off Sale as well as with my mother and her over-worked co-workers as they attempted to help said customers take advantage of said sale. I was, among other things, desperately searching for a topic for the new folklore column, which was due, extremely due, inordinately and very nearly PAST due!

Diana at some point happened to make a comment about how much she enjoyed said columns, especially the ones that dealt with the origins of things.

You therefore have Diana to thank for the following – after all, what is more suitable for a May / June column than the origin of the *names* May and June?

Truth be told, this was intended to be a June-specific piece, but, as I soon learned, the two months are inextricably intertwined. And there are two possible origins for each name. From the best information currently available to us, we suspect that both theories are in part true to some extent, and that a sort of double meaning may actually have been intended, as Origin One pays homage to political movers and shakers of the day (always a useful thing when one is a Roman Emperor trying to keep himself from ending up like Julius Caesar), whereas Origin Two pays homage to the gods, which is always endearing to the common folk.

Now, the months of September through December were merely number derived from the start, back when March was the first month of the year – hence September means “the seventh month”, October the eighth, etc.

Originally July and August followed this pattern, as Quintilis (5th month) and Sextilis (6th). However, after the death of the quickly lamented Julius Caesar and subsequent triumphs of his chosen successor Augustus, the two months were changed in honor of the two: July (for Julius) and August (for Augustus).

Now, the Emperors typically had absolute power, but Rome did have a legislature, and, as there was already an unfortunate precedent of unpopular Emperors finding themselves surprised at coming to rather

unexpected and sudden ends, this legislature had a certain amount of, shall we say, pull...

The two bodies were Maioribus, which meant the house of older men (the Major house), or “Maires”, and the Junioribus, which meant the house of young men (the Junior house), or “Juniores” – much like the original conception of the House of Lords vs Commons, or indeed our own Senate and House of Representatives. In a time when months were being renamed after recent emperors, it is a small step to imagine the inherent logic in naming two after the respective houses of Roman Law: so May for the “Maires” and June for the “Juniores”.

The other theory holds that May was named for Maia, the Roman goddess of Spring, which would be a very natural choice. It is then a very small step indeed to see the logic in deciding that it would only be right and prudent to name the next month after the Number One Roman goddess (who might otherwise feel slighted). Her name was Juno.

Now, Juno was known to the Vikings as Freya, from which we get “Freya’s Day”, or Friday. She was married to Odin, known to the Germans as “Woden”, from which we get “Woden’s Day”, or Wednesday.

And fellow scholars and/or comic book aficionados will recall that Odin and Freya had a son: Thor, from which we get “Thor’s Day” or Thursday.

This column is already longer than it ought to be, but I must leave you with the following bit of June wisdom, from an ancient English rhyme:

***“Who comes with Summer to this earth,
And owes to June her hour of birth
With ring of agate on her hand
Can health, wealth and long life command”***

Happy Birthday, Mom and Mike!

Joe