

BOOK AGAIN

NEWSLETTER

Nov/Dec 2006



Our Holiday Gift to You!

During the month of December, Book Again will pay the sales tax on all Gift Certificates!



Sheryl's News

Thanks to all of you who supported our October Sale. Thanks to you, it was a success. I was able to pay the taxes as well as pay for the two new racks of Leanin' Tree greeting cards. Many of you have discovered our new cards, and the consensus seems to be that you love them and want them to continue. I feel the same, and hope that more and more of you will take the time to check them out. As with the books, we need a good turnover to keep them fresh.

It's always hard to say good-bye. Barbara, who has worked here the past 4½ years, has decided to move on. Fridays and Sundays will not be the same, and I am sure that you will miss her, as I will.

—Sheryl

HAVE YOU READ THESE?

Two wonderful books that I just read and loved are *Digging to America* by Anne Tyler and *Can't Wait to Get to Heaven* by Fannie Flagg.

Both books have humor, wonderful characters and much food for thought in these beautifully spun stories. One is about two adopted Korean children and their respective adopted families who meet

first in the airport as they meet their new children. The other book has many surprises as it weaves through the life and mishaps of a town's loved octogenarian. As of the writing both books are at Book Again in hardcover.



BOOKS WANTED:

- ✓ Recent popular Fiction (within 6 months of publication and in good condition)
- Highest price in cash or credit paid!**
- ✓ *Goosebumps* (children's series)
- ✓ Biographies
- ✓ memoirs

"The greatest gift is a passion for reading. It is cheap, it consoles, it distracts, it excites, it gives you the knowledge of the world and experience of a wide kind. It is a moral illumination."—Elizabeth Hardwick

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

Aunt Bobbie's Famous Banana Nut Bread

¾-Cup Margarine

2 Eggs (beaten)

2-Cups Flour

1-Cup Sugar (sometimes

½-Cup nuts

1-tsp. Soda

I mix ½ white sugar

3 bananas (mashed)

½-tsp. Salt

and ½ brown sugar)

(or 2, if large)

1-tsp. Vanilla

Cream the first two ingredients well. **Add** the beaten eggs and **stir**. **Add** the other ingredients in order and **bake** at 350° for 40 minutes or until toothpick is clean when inserted.

Folklore

by Joe Nolte

SILLY JOE

I must make a confession, which I know will shock and startle most of you good readers.

I have been known, on occasion, to behave foolishly.

Yes, yes, I know, it seems difficult to believe – but it's true. Halloween, for example, brings out the child in me – gazing in wonder and delight at every little bat and skeleton adorning the neighborhood, humming spooky little tunes and in general behaving as if I'm a young boy again, dreaming of the hordes of treats in store . . .

Ah, but Christmas Time – the child in me seems to take over – no, it's worse than that – I was never so silly when I was actually young! No, it's a Solstice Stew made up of equal parts infancy and senility, both of which by rights should be relatively distant at this time, with heady doses of jollity, frivolity, and heedless, uncaring, brazen, deliberate Holiday Lunacy tossed in. I break into carols without warning, I jump up and down in delight at the least manifestation of this wondrous Season, I take to the punchbowl and the music books with a vigor that elicits great consternation among my fellows . . .

I become exactly the sort of person that my younger self would have shied away from while proclaiming "I don't KNOW that guy!"

I blame the Romans, of course. I have long simply accepted that the frivolity that accompanies Christmas was in part a result of its supplanting the ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia, with its Lord of Misrule and

general anarchic goings-on. I have always assumed that, unlike other Holiday Switches (such as All Saint's Day supplanting Halloween) which seemed to have an inherent logic to them, it was simply a happy accident that Christmas was able to inherit the spirit of merry making from its Pagan Predecessor.

Now, I think there may be more to it than that.

I think of the concept of the Lord of Misrule – the Saturnalian tradition that the mightiest and weightiest of people during these festivities would cast off their usual mortal masks and become almost child-like with mirth, while the lowest and most destitute would be exalted, and raised up, if only for the season, with the "Lord of Misrule" chosen from among the poorest of the poor.

It is no stretch of the imagination to imagine the applicability of such a tradition to the vision of Ebenezer Scrooge reborn as "giddy as a schoolboy", or poor Tiny Tim raised up, literally and figuratively, out of poverty and presumably an early grave as a result of the preceding transformation.

Or even to envision, say, an infant born to a poor carpenter in a stable, in a remote piece of the mighty Empire of the aforementioned Romans, exalted to the highest conceivable position of them all . . .

And so, to all of you, a Happy Holiday Season, and may you all be filled with the most inspired silliness possible!

Joe Nolte