

BOOK AGAIN

NEWS LETTER

Sept/Oct 2007

Sheryl's News

It's a girl – **Clara June** – and I'm a proud Grandma! That is my biggest news right now, but I'll let **Joe** (the proud first-time father) tell you more about that in his Folklore column.

As the busy Summer months come to an end, the pace slows down a bit and I can take stock of things, making changes as needed in order to keep providing you with the quality products and great service that you've come to expect from **Book Again**. I am currently in the process of training new helpers, and I know that (just as before) you will welcome and help them through their first days of learning all the ins-and-outs of our system.

And as we welcome our new helpers, we say goodbye to **Chris**, who proved to be a real great help this Summer. Its Fall now, and Chris heads back to school, where he will be busy handling textbooks rather than arranging the books on our shelves.

A special note about our selection of Leanin' Tree greeting cards: this year we will be adding a special selection of **Christmas cards** to our inventory, so look for those in the near future. Also don't forget our **Book Again book bags** (just the perfect size) and **Book Again Gift Certificates** – they both make welcome gifts for any book lover on your list! —Sheryl

HALLOWEEN HALF-OFF SALE!

Friday, Saturday and Sunday
Oct 12, 13, 14 and 19, 20 & 21

**All books inside the store
will be half-off our already
low prices!**

Prices this low are absolutely

SCARY!

This is our best sale - don't miss out!

My Favorite Authors

by Arly

I love a great mystery and a good laugh. Put the two together and you'll get my favorite author, **Janet Evanovich**. Her novels are fast paced action stories with laugh-out-loud moments. Irresistible heroine Stephanie Plum of Trenton, New Jersey, is the Lucy Ricardo of bounty hunters complete with an outrageous cast of colorful characters.

Now I admit that I'm a Jersey girl who went to college with Janet back in the 60's, but you don't have to be from Jersey to enjoy her writing. Start with *One For The Money* then *Two For The Dough*, and you'll be hooked. The latest book, *Lean Mean Thirteen*, involves the disappearance of Dickie, Steph's ex-husband. Since she recently threatened him with bodily harm, she's the #1 suspect. Love interests Joe Morelli, Trenton cop, and Ranger, super

bounty hunter, add to the fun and help solve the mystery.

Maddy Hunter and **Donna Andrews** are two other favorites of mine. Both combine murder with hilarity and oddball characters. Maddy Hunter has Emily Andrews, tour escort for her grandmother's senior group from rural Iowa, discovering murders wherever they go. Begin with *Alpine For You* and *Pasta Imperfect* through *G'day To Die*, and you'll laugh your way through several countries. Donna Andrews' protagonist, Meg Lanslowe, is a wrought-iron artist who encounters birds and dead bodies in every mystery. In *Murder With Peacocks* she returns home to be in three weddings. In *We'll Always Have Parrots* she's at a sci fi convention for her boyfriend's TV show.

On the more serious side, I've recently

enjoyed **James Patterson's** *The Fifth Horseman*. I love all of his thrillers and think that he's a terrific storyteller. In this book *The Women's Murder Club* returns dealing with unexpected deaths at the municipal hospital in San Francisco. *The Last Victim* by **Kevin O'Brien** is imaginative and suspenseful. A serial killer pursues a senatorial candidate, his twin sister and their high school friends who share a terrible secret from the past. I also liked **Tess Gerritsen's** *Vanish*. Dr. Maura Isles discovers a Jane Doe corpse in the morgue who is still alive. This is a tense, powerful story of a hostage situation and multiple murders.

I hope that a few of my favorite authors interest you. I've picked up all of these books at **Book Again** and hope that you will too. Enjoy!

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

Linda's Chile Chicken

3-4 cooked chicken breasts	chopped green onions and olives
1 sm can Ortega green chiles chopped	1½ package jack & cheddar cheeses
2 cans cream of mushroom soup	1 pkg flour tortillas

Put ½ can soup in bottom of dish; **tear** flour tortillas into large pieces and layer tortillas (½ pkg) on top of soup; layer chiles, chunks of chicken, green onions and olives, then shredded cheeses; continue to layer, using all tortillas. **Bake** at 350° 45 min or until heated through.

Folklore

by Joe Nolte

DADDY'S FIRST HALLOWEEN COLUMN

"I am about to relive childhood vicariously through my own child, and I have no idea what sort of adventure that's going to be . . ."

So said I just two short months ago – and Yes! As my mother has already alluded to, it has happened!!! I am at a rather advanced age a brand new father!

My daughter Clara is, for the record, absolutely perfect. (I know all new daddies say that but in this case it's completely true.)

She is also the most beautiful baby ever. (I know all new daddies say that but in this case it's completely true.)

She also looks just like me! (I know all new daddies say that but in this case . . . ah, you know the drill!)

At any rate, she is just three weeks old as I write, and it's already been the most extraordinary experience of my life. I can't wait to share everything with her – to read to her, sing to her, impart my values and ideals to her, all of which she will take to heart –

Until about age two, when presumably she learns the word "no". Then it all goes straight out the window.

Ah well, I trust I shall make at least as many mistakes as every other parent makes, and I trust my child will somehow survive my blunders. That being said, I can't wait to show her my

favorite movies, to play her Beatles and Beethoven and Brubeck, to read her "Winnie the Pooh" and "Goodnight Moon", and so much more.

Oh, and I WILL tell her ghost stories.

Ghost stories???

What kind of a monster AM I???? My goodness, subjecting a child to such horrible things – she's liable to have nightmares!

Ahhhh – not the stories I propose . . .

Truth be told, some of my favorite ghost stories are the gentler ones, those tales written either with younger readers in mind or with tongue firmly in cheek, and usually both. There are so many great stories from my era (mostly the middle of the last century) that are wonderful to read and absolutely dripping with creepiness that are in actuality much more fun than frightening.

One that immediately comes to mind is the great and wonderful "Jimmy Takes Vanishing Lessons" by Walter R. Brooks. A young boy (Jimmy, of course) actually gets the better of the spirit in this one, though not before the reader has shared a chill or two with our protagonist, as the latter wends his way all alone down a long deserted road, toward a very old house that has been shunned by all for years, as it is most assuredly haunted.

Another childhood favorite would have to be James Thurber's "The Night the Ghost Got In", which is a very funny anecdotal account of some mysterious doings in the early 1900's.

I would also include perhaps some stories that aren't strictly GHOST stories, but seem to fit, such as Ray Bradbury's "Homecoming", about a young boy struggling with the fact that he seems to be a normal human in a family of – well, of folks that are not so normal. There are also the great stories of Robert Arthur, one of which, "The Wonderful Day" (which has also seen print as "Miracle on Main Street") is as perfect a work of fantasy fiction as has ever been written. And of course a word must be said for Stephen Vincent Benet's immortal "The Devil and Daniel Webster", and "King of the Cats", Barbee Oliver Carleton's "The Wonderful Cat of Cobble Bean", and John West's "My Displaced Ghosts" (a little known classic – it and many other delights can be found in Red Skelton's 1965 collection "A Red Skeleton in Your Closet", if you can find it).

There are so many others – I promise to return to this list soon. However, I must sign off now, as someone seems to be ready for another bottle . . .

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Joe Nolte