

Friends-to-Friends

Supporting and Promoting

South County Regional Library, Inc.

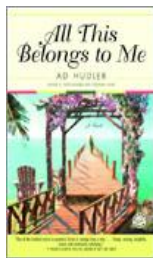
January 2007

Winner of Friends and Trustees 2nd Place newsletter award of the Florida Library Association

“Househusband” author Ad Hudler appears at February 8 luncheon

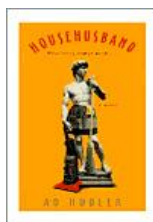


Author Ad Hudler speaks at FOSCRL luncheon February 8. For tickets, see yellow box on page 2.



I suggest you read the bio to the right first because it explains who the people in the photo are. You can match them up with terms like “inner female,” “inner male,” “publisher” and “tour guide.”

In his latest novel, *All This Belongs to Me*, Ad Hudler plays an aging tour guide at the Edison Winter Estate. Or as his editor might say, “Credit-card fraud and loneliness bring together two disparate characters in a story infused with humor and spirituality.” As Ad points out, “Most of the details about Mr. Edison himself and the estate are true. He did indeed have a strange obsession with milk, and he did in fact try to invent a machine that could communicate with the spiritual world.”



In his first novel, *Househusband*, Linc Menner (alias Ad) finds out just how hard it is to be a woman. What did Ad find out about his inner female? He says, “Women are generally more interesting creatures than men. Women are more complex and express themselves better. They are tuned in to subtle nuances. I love women.”

The first draft of Ad’s next book (untitled) just went to his editor, after being read by his wife and his daughter. Ad is prepared to say, “In this sequel Linc Menner finds his inner male which gets him into

See “**Hudler**” in column 1, page 2

How I got a wife, daughter and publisher

by Ad Hudler

I grew up on the High Plains of Eastern Colorado, in a four-generation newspaper family. I started cleaning toilets and sweeping up around the presses when I was nine and started writing for the paper in my mid teens. My mother was the only feminist in Eastern Colorado, and early on she had us boycotting products that were endorsed by anyone who spoke out against the proposed Equal Rights Amendment. My fiction often features strong women, no doubt attributable to my mother's influence.

From there, I studied art history and journalism at the University of Nebraska and, after graduating, got my first job with the Fort Myers News-Press. I was a lowly reporter when I met my wife Carol, the advertising director. Eight years older than me and in management, she was forbidden fruit, but I was inexplicably drawn to her and began to pursue in earnest.

We married, Carol soon gave birth to Haley Joy, and our family began moving across the country (Rochester, New York; St. Paul, Minnesota) as Carol trained for her dream job of newspaper publisher. I stayed home with our daughter and

See “**Bio**” in column 2, page 2



Come be impressed by a crime novelist at the March 22 luncheon



Elizabeth Becka was born in Cleveland, Ohio, the youngest of six children. Now she's a crime novelist. See the box below for how to buy tickets.

"Each person present turned a wary eye to the riverbank, where the supine form lay as white and still as marble."

That's from the first page of *Trace Evidence*, the novel of Elizabeth Becka. See her credentials below.

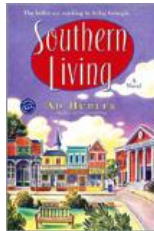
"I majored in political science at John Carroll "U," which left me no marketable skills save typing. I nearly joined the DEA but married instead. I spent 10 years as a secretary, went back to college at Cleveland State, got a degree in biology and dogged the staff at the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office until they gave me a job. I spent the

five happiest years of my life there until my husband couldn't stand the cold anymore and we moved to Florida.

"I do have tangible credentials: I'm a member of the American Academy of Forensic Scientists, the Southern Association of Forensic Scientists, the Florida Division of the International Association for Identification and am certified by the American Board of Criminalistics. I have had over 480 hours of instruction in forensic topics and have testified in court over 40 times. I hope that sounds suitably impressive."

"Hudler" from column 1, page 1

lots of trouble. There are guns and trucks and tool belts—the guy's just out of control this time. Throw in hurricanes and the tumult of adolescence and you've got a tense, hilarious situation.



Ad Hudler's other novel is *Southern Living* about the disparate lives of three women converging in a brilliant comedy of Southern manners like none other.

Ad's full name is Adrian Wellington Hudler. Attend the luncheon and ask him where "Ad" came from.

"Bio" from column 2, page 1

wrote freelance magazine articles. We've since returned to Fort Myers, where we live in a 1951 ranch-style home on the Caloosahatchee. Carol is publisher of the News-Press and I'm still the primary caregiver of the family. I try to get my writing done while my daughter's at school. Fiction writing and housework complement each other well; one is brain-intensive, the other is brain-dead, and after struggling on a paragraph for twenty minutes, folding the white load provides a welcome respite.

All this season's FOSCRL author luncheons are at 11:30 at The Club at Grandezza, Ben Hill Griffin Parkway, Estero. Each ticket is \$28. That includes a \$5 donation to Friends of South County Regional Library. The tickets sales cut off date for the Ad Hudler luncheon will be February 1 and for Elizabeth Becka, March 15.

To have lunch with Ad Hudler on February 8 or Elizabeth Becka March 22, mail a check (payable to Friends of South County Regional Library) to 21100 Three Oaks Parkway, Estero, FL 33928 or use your major credit card at www.friendsofscrl.org where you will find map and directions to Grandezza. Tickets will be mailed to you.

Seating is first come, first served. Groups should book tickets together to assure seats together — seating will be at tables of eight. Please note: Tickets to the January 11 Debbie Macomber luncheon sold out before the ticket sales cut off date.



Follow other book loving butterflies to your next FOSCRL Book Sale

Circle February 2 and 3 for you next FOSCRL Book Sale. Between now and then, bring books for the sale to SCRL at the corner of Three Oaks and Corkscrew Road in Estero.

The 444 people attending the December 1 and 2 Book Sale spent \$3,365. Eight new members signed up and 15 members renewed.

The next FOSCRL Book Sale is on February 2 and 3. Members only are invited Friday, February 2 from 3 - 5 p.m. And everybody is welcome from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on February 3 at SCRL.

Every book, CD, DVD, tape, book bag, Books Are Fun Kids' T-shirt, Book Lovers Calendar and Author Luncheon ticket you buy at the book sale raises more money for South County Regional Library!

See author of two chilling novels at SCRL

Following a very short business session at Friends of SCRL's 2 p.m. January 17 Annual Meeting, Author G.B. Mooney discusses his unusual books and life. There's no charge for the 2 p.m. talk at SCRL.

The Persian Viper transports you into the desperate action of an American team trying to stop terrorists from contaminating U.S. water supply systems.

The Last American Hero is the story of one of more than 200 American Airmen declared Missing in Action after being shot down while on illegal reconnaissance missions over Russia during the Cold War.

Multi-book author Debbie Macomber overcame dyslexia

Read me first

I received answers to these two questions put to author and multi-cause volunteer Debbie Macomber too late to include in the November newsletter.

I hope you were able to attend her "sold out" appearance at the January 11 FOSCRL luncheon.

How did you handle your dyslexia and what advice do you give?

I never did well in school and struggled to learn how to read. I didn't know it was dyslexia because back in the 1950s and '60s teachers didn't even have that word for it. They called it "word blindness." Not until my own children were diagnosed with it did I realize this had always been my problem. There are varying degrees of dyslexia, and never having been tested, I can't say to what degree I am hindered. I will tell you that to this day I'm a slow, thoughtful reader and an imaginative speller. The one bit of advice I would give to those born with dyslexia is that we are usually intelligent and creative people. The mind and body usually have a way of compensating for a lack by

enhancing other skills. With me it's been my creative imagination.

What more could our schools do to teach writing more effectively?

I find this an excellent question. I mentioned earlier that I enrolled in a creative writing class. I took every creative writing class the college offered. When I finished all those, I signed up for English Literature classes. I learned more about technique and style in those classes than anywhere else. My suggestion would be to have students read classic short stories, study the technique the author used to convey the object of the story and then assign the students to create an original piece in a like manner.

— Debbie Macomber



Meet Friends of SCRL's book sale queen, Carolyn Piscitello



Books mean everything to me. I cannot remember a time in my life when I didn't have a book that I was reading.

— Carolyn Piscitello

The total number of registered users for our South County service area is 29,084. That's up about 2,000 from the previous year.

Betsy Colvin, head of Circulation at South County, says that we are circulating over 1,000 items daily.

— Beth Nagengast-Nitch, SCRL Regional Manager

Tell us about your early life.

I was born in Parsons, West Virginia, graduated Trinity College in Burlington, Vermont with a BA in English and then accompanied my Air Force husband on stateside tours of duty, one in Labrador, during which my daughter was born. In Massachusetts where I lived with my in-laws, my son was born while my husband was stationed in Okinawa. When he got orders to Vietnam, I moved closer to my parents in Plattsburgh, N.Y., substitute teaching in elementary schools. After my first husband and I went our separate ways, I volunteered at the Plattsburgh school library which turned into a teaching assistant job for 15 years, doing just about everything needed in a junior high school library. I met my second husband, Ernie, in 1990. Between us we have four children and soon to be eight grandchildren.

So you've spent a lot of time reading and working in libraries.

When I was 11, I started volunteering at a small library in Parsons shelving and repairing books, that kind of thing. After college I worked with the children's librarian and on the bookmobile in Plattsburgh. It's been seven years since we sold our house and moved into a condo in Plattsburg where I volunteer summers in the medical library at Plattsburg Hospital. Winter months in Estero, I spend many hours at South County Regional Library. My husband jokes that my address down here is the library!

What do you draw from your job?

I don't think of being the Chairman of the Friends Book Sales as a job. From the very start I've really enjoyed doing this. It's great that I can put my organizational skills to good use planning the three sales we present each year. I'm also glad to serve on the Lee County Library Advisory Board as an Alternate.

I'm surrounded with a great library staff. They all make me feel so welcome. I thank everyone in the Friend's group, the board and all the workers, for making the book sales such a success. I like filling up the First Dibs bookcase only to find some books already sold when I get ready to leave South County Regional Library for the day. Many thanks to Dorothea Meldner who is book sales co-chairman in the summer.

What does service mean to you?

"Service" to me means helping others in any way that I am able to do! I see myself as a good "helper," a behind the scenes person.

Mark your event calendar

Featured author David Baldacci is among those who will appear March 17 at the all-day Lee County Reading Festival in downtown Fort Myers. He's written 13 best-selling novels.

Among festival events are genealogy booths and panel, writing workshops, ten books every Floridian should read, and *Ring of Emerald Dancers*.

To help out at the festival, contact Deb Czarnik at dczarnik@leegov.com or call 461-7381 about volunteering.



Who are these varmits, anyways ?



2ND ANNUAL SCRL STAFF RECOGNITION LUNCHEON MORE LIKE A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION SHOW

These here cowpokes is named Dusty and Lefty (a.k.a. Beth Nagengast-Nitch and Sally Bissel). One of them runs that good fer everthin South County Regional Library. The other's a reference librarian there when she's not foolin around with the guitar.

The December 13 homespun luncheon, sponsored by Friends of South County Regional Library, Inc., had library staffers laughing. The ladies in the photos led a large staff cast in a Prairie Home Companion skit about two cowboys disguised as librarians. Here are a few of the lines they drawled as only librarian pros could.

Beth: I'd ruther die than wear them black horn-rimmed glasses.

Sally: You look jest fine, like a librarian oughter look. Now take 'em off and let 'em hang on the chain. That's the librarian look. And don't "howdy" people. We're librarians. Just look kind of handgog and preoccupied.

(The cowboys are behind the reference desk, and a customer comes up.)

CR: I have a question—I'm wondering what is the HTML to access the online

interactive tools to download the government digital orthophotoquads relating to Lee County?

Sally: HTMLs—funny you should mention it cause my partner here is one of the top HTML experts in the country.

Beth: Thanks a lot, partner! You know, I can look up those orthaphotopods for you in a minute, but our computer's down.

CR: Oh, I see, When will it be back up?

Beth: Hard to say. Check back, will ya?

Beth: Learned that one from one a them airline ticket agents.

(A customer wants to access the food pornography news group. Beth and Sally send him on his way. But the head librarian gives the cowpokes a talking to:)

DD: We're not censors at the library. We are information providers.

Sally: But the key words he used were nudity and kumquats!

DD: I don't care. I'm demoting you both to the shelving crew.

Hear Celtic chamber concert at SCRL



Musicians from Cypress Lake Performing Arts High School will present the next in our free concert series March 3 from 11 a.m. to Noon in front of the South County Regional Library. Two violins, viola, cello and bass make up the Celtic chamber group.

Thanks to all who made the free December 9 *Sun Coast Brass* concert outside at SCRL a big holiday success.

FOSCRIL 2007 membership renewals are due

A "last notice" to those who have not renewed that dues for 2007 are now payable. Please mail your check to Friends of South County Regional Library, Inc., 21100 Three Oaks Parkway, Estero, Florida 33928 or go to www.friendsofscrl.org and use a major credit card to renew.

Save March 29 for the "3rd Anniversary Members Covered Dish Luncheon" at SCRL in Estero. Watch for details.



Between newsletters, stay connected at our website: www.friendsofscrl.org

Friends to Friends

South County Regional Library
21100 Three Oaks Parkway
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Happy New Year
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Members of the Public Are Welcome to Meetings and Events

Annual Meeting with author G.B. Mooney
 Wednesday, January 17
 Details on page 3

Book Sale
 Friday & Saturday, February 2 and 3
 Details on page 3

Author Luncheon: Ad Hudler *
 Thursday, February 8
 Details on front page

Cypress Lake High School Concert
 Saturday, March 3
 Details on page 5

Lee County Reading Festival
 Saturday, March 17
 Details on page 4

Author Luncheon: Elizabeth Becka *
 Thursday, March 22
 Details on page 2

Final Seasonal Book Sale
 Friday & Saturday, March 30 and 31

* For ticket information, see bottom of page 2