

Friends-to-Friends

Supporting and Promoting

South County Regional Library, Inc.

January 2008

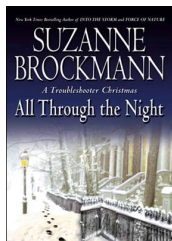
Winner of Friends and Trustees First Place newsletter award of the Florida Library Association

Bestseller Suzanne Brockmann and husband/former criminal lawyer Ed Gaffney share their exciting lives at February 12 authors luncheon



First I asked Suzanne to assess her husband as an author.

“Ed’s a wonderful writer, with a strong, fresh voice. He’s particularly good at ‘bringing the funny,’ which is something a little different in the genre of mostly-dry legal thrillers. I love books with well-defined, appealing characters — another of his strengths. I think Ed rocks.”



Suzanne Brockmann is the *New York Times* Bestselling, Rita Award-winning author of the *Trouble Shooter* series and the *Tall, Dark & Dangerous* series, both about U.S. Navy SEAL Teams. Among her 45 books are *Force of Nature*, *Stand-in Groom* and *Time Enough For Love*.

Among Suzanne’s many appealing characters, who’s her favorite?

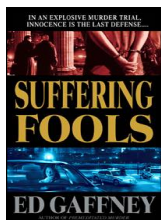
“At this point, it’s probably a toss up between Charles Ashton from *The Unsung Hero* and Jules Cassidy, featured prominently in *Hot Target*, *Breaking Point*, *Force of Nature* and *All Through the Night*. Most of my readers are Jules Cassidy fans. I get more email about Jules than any other character. I love that an openly gay man is one of my most popular characters. I have many gay friends as well as a gay son whom I love, and completely believe that he is, like everyone else’s sons and daughters, a child of God.

See “**Suzanne**” page 2

Ticket information at bottom of page 2



“Attorneys Zack Wilson and Terry Tallach — friends, partners, and complete opposites — have perfected the recipe for legal disaster. Begin with a fool for a client, a man who can’t even testify convincingly to his own name, much less to an alibi. Add a couple of determined private investigators and a brave, beautiful police detective whose work only confirms that your client is impossible to defend. Then go to trial. Welcome to the real world of criminal law, where the truth is out there...maybe.”



Suffering Fools is a meticulously plotted, fascinating glimpse at the real justice system...a first rate, fascinating mystery.

— *Romantic Times Book Club*

Ed Gaffney took ten years of work as a criminal lawyer, added an overactive imagination, and came up with a new career as a novelist. His fourth book, *Enemy Combatant*, will be released early this year. Publisher’s Weekly called his third book, *Diary of a Serial Killer* “the legal thriller equivalent of a James Bond Flick.” He’s already at work on his fifth book, *Habeas Corpus*.

“*The following is not legal advice, nor is it intended to be legal advice, nor is it intended to be used as legal advice. It is intended to entertain you. If you need legal advice, please speak to a lawyer. Good luck.*” — Ed Gaffney

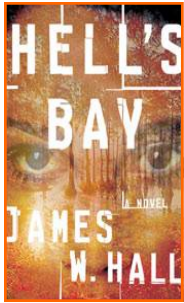
“As gruesome as it sounds,” The

See “**Gaffney**” page 2



Tickets on sale for author appearances at two 2008 luncheons

Florida's master detective novelist tells his story at March 11 author luncheon



Tickets on sale

Hell's Bay is James W. Hall's 15th and latest novel (due out in February) and the 8th featuring Thorn, his best known character.

Magic City (Miami) is Hall's 14th novel which a Library Journal reviewer called: "a gripping tale of dirty politics, love gone wrong, murder for hire, and international intrigue that is impossible to put down." Good mystery fiction writers know that the untrue must appear to be true. Hall is a master of this art.

The March 11 author luncheon is being generously underwritten by Betty Browning (bettybrowning@stock-realty.com) and Mary Kaye Coriano (mkcoriano@stock-realty.com) Realtors with Stock Realty in Estero.

See and hear for yourself authors Suzanne Brockmann, Ed Gaffney (both on February 12)

and James W. Hall (March 11) at the next two delicious luncheons put on by Friends of SCRL.

See how to get your tickets at the bottom of this page.

"Suzanne" from front page

I love the fact that the world I've created in my books — a diverse American world filled with the same variety of people who live in my urban American neighborhood — has been so enthusiastically embraced by readers.

Another character I adored writing is Jamaal Hawkes from *Heart Throb*. Of the Navy Seals from *Team Sixteen*, my favorite character is Kenny 'WildCard' Karmody...but Izzy Zanella may be on the verge of giving him a run for his money!

Suzanne was also a founder and volunteer organizer of Natick's Appalachian Benefit Coffeehouse, raising money to rebuild housing for the poor, elderly and disabled in West Virginia.

Suzanne and Ed live together with their Schnauzers west of Boston.

"Gaffney" from front page

'Thin Skull Rule' makes quite a bit of sense. The basic idea: When you are responsible for an injury that someone else suffers, you are responsible for the *entire* injury, no matter if the nature or the extent of the injury is unexpected.

The original example of the Thin Skull Rule: Person A foolishly but playfully smacks Person B on the head because Person B is acting like an idiot. Unfortunately for all involved, Person B is not only an idiot, but he has a dreadfully thin skull. Person B's head breaks, and everyone loses. Person B has a broken head, and Person A may not defend the inevitable lawsuit with the statement, 'But I didn't mean to break his head, I just meant to smack him because he was an idiot,' because of the Thin Skull Rule. Person A will be responsible for paying to Person B whatever the jury believes to be the value of a broken head."

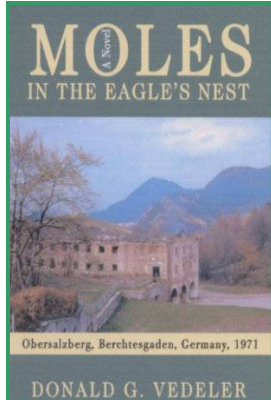
FEBRUARY 4th, reservations close for tickets to the Suzanne Brockmann/Ed Gaffney author luncheon!

MARCH 4th, reservations close for tickets to the James W. Hall author luncheon.

All FOSCRL author luncheons are at 11:30 at The Club at Grandezza, Ben Hill Griffin Parkway, Estero. Each ticket is \$28. That includes a \$7.60 donation to Friends of SCRL.

To have lunch with any of the authors on this and the front page, mail a check (payable to Friends of South County Regional Library, Inc.) 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.



Don Vedeler gives a “book talk” on his novel Thursday, January 17 at SCRL in Estero at 10:30 in the morning.

After Don’s half hour talk, he will be selling and signing copies of *Moles in the Eagle’s Nest*.

A portion of the proceeds will go to Friends of SCRL.

January 17th one of our Friends book sale volunteers takes us inside the making of a first novel ... his

Author Don Vedeler was an army chaplain for 34 years, two of them on active duty in Germany where he has set this realistic, “today’s news” story. His protagonist, Chaplain (Major) Eric Lovejoy, stumbles into a world conspiracy being developed in a maze of tunnels near Berchtesgaden where Adolph Hitler ruled 30 years before.

Vedeler fills his pages with detailed and penetrating physical and psychological pictures of his characters.

Vladimir tells his controller, Hans, what he has done so far:

“When he has finished, Vladimir Petrovski, mediocre Soviet spy, loving husband, doting parent and terrified citizen, rests his arms on the bridge rail and prays silently to the God he does not believe exists.”

When the enormity and hopelessness of the situation envelopes the characters, your heart will sink with theirs:

“He crawls through the snow, looking now left, now right. He has veered up the slope to avoid the man he glimpsed ahead. Stopping to listen, he hears voices closer now, below him. Like a trapped animal, the instincts of the hunted take over and lead him under hanging evergreen boughs, behind rocks and bushes, through hollows and depressions in the slope. And still the voices come to him from all sides, now close, now farther away. Or is it the wind that makes the voices near, then far? Or is it his fear altering reality into a

nightmare? *Am I actually alone on the mountain slope imagining the voices?”*

The most painful challenge is absorbed by Chaplain Lovejoy whose very beliefs are relentlessly attacked. Will his prayers be answered?

What prompted Vedeler to write *Moles in the Eagle’s Nest*?

“When I was stationed in Germany in 1970 I visited Berchtesgaden several times, touring the World War II tunnels under Obersalzberg. The tunnels intrigued me, and my imagination did the rest.”

Vedeler is working on his second novel based on one of the characters in *Moles of the Eagle’s Nest*.

“That’s *Tainted Hero* about Dave Huffnor, a dedicated U.S. Army Chaplain who has somehow become ‘tainted’ by something(s) he did? And did that lead him to try to rescue someone related to his temptations? *Tainted Hero* is due out in the fall of 2008.”

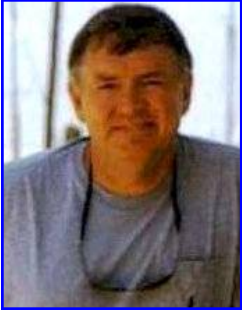
Vedeler served as a hospital chaplain at Fort Devens, Massachusetts where a major part of *Tainted Hero* takes place.

In New Hampshire Vedeler was a school teacher for 17 years, pastor of several rural churches, and worked in industry and business for eight years. He and his wife, Linda, have lived in Estero since 1994, the last three years as full-time residents.

Vedeler is a member of the Friends of SCRL, Inc. and volunteers at FOSCRL book sales.



Les Standiford speaks out at FOSCRL annual meeting January 30



Les Standiford brings his story to South County Regional Library January 30 at the 2 p.m. meeting. The public is invited.

Les Standiford is Director of Creative Writing at Florida International University in Miami, called one of the ten best writing programs in the country by The Dictionary of Literary Biography. He has written 13 novels, including *Black Mountain*, *Deal With the Dead* and *Bone Key*, and three non-fiction books.

Standiford edited *Miami Noir*, a fiction anthology of mystery and detective stories by James W. Hall and others.

He has contributed a chapter to the national best-seller *Naked Came the Manatee* along with James W. Hall and other writers.

He is co-author of *Bones of Coral*, a screenplay based on the novel by James W. Hall. Standiford wrote the screenplay adaptation of his own novel, *Spill*, which was released as a feature film on *Showtime*.

Does that mean you've been bitten by the Hollywood bug?

"Modern readers (and writers) have been undeniably shaped by film. I suspect that on the whole, novels are more lean and suggestive. The film is at heart about what happens, the external world. But any novel worth its salt is, in the final analysis, about the inner world of its characters.

"As to my own Hollywood experience: Not only are those the biggest checks I've ever cashed but I learned a great deal about how to make stories work. The writing of a screenplay is a lot more intellectual than inspirational, more crossword puzzle than poem, but it is not without its own pleasures."

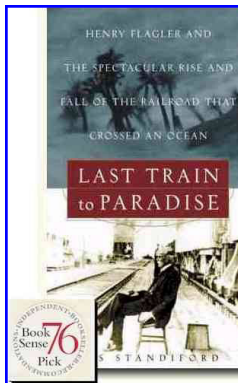
*You and James W. Hall * are two among many Florida mystery writers.*

"I think that the mystery/suspense genre is the perfect vehicle for bridging the gap that sometimes threatens to divide the so-called 'high' road and the 'low' road in literature. No question that mystery/suspense is charged with telling a cracking good story, but from Poe through Hammet down to LeCarre, the field has a long honor roll of practitioners who can combine that ability to tell a compelling story while also focusing on characters and moral issues of the greatest possible significance."

You're more than only an author.

"Depending on your point of view, you could say that I've tried a number of career paths or that I've quit a lot of things. (I've managed a French restaurant and a 100-bed extended care nursing facility, among other jobs.) But it's not really surprising to me that most writers give long lists of former occupations — some say it's because we're out there gathering material, and I suppose we are, in an incidental way. But I think it happens because so many writers are quintessential outsiders, people who have a difficult time fitting into any organization, really.

The university has been a wonderful place for me, in that regard. It's one place where one-eyed cats are tolerated, even celebrated at times, and I find it hard to fully express the gratitude I feel for having landed here, among so many fine fellow writers and excellent students."



Last Train to Paradise: Henry Flagler & The Spectacular Rise & Fall of the Railroad that Crossed an Ocean, a non-fiction narrative by Les Standiford.

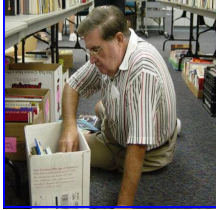
The Annual Meeting of Friends of South County Regional Library, Inc. is being held at 2 p.m. on January 30, 2008. Les Standiford's talk will follow a short business meeting.

*James W. Hall, that other great Florida mystery writer, speaks to the Friends March 11. See page 2. And look for a long, detailed story on Hall in your March Friends to Friends newsletter!



Help comes in many forms

The last one was so successful, we've scheduled the next 2 - day + 2 - hour Book Sale for January 31st and February 1st and 2nd



Steve Shandor (above) and Dorothea Meldner (at right) are two of more than 80 Friends members who have helped make our Book Sales happen.

A total 575 people spent \$3,660 at the November 29 - December 1 sale, said Book Sale Chairman Carolyn Piscitello.

Carolyn thanked "all the workers who helped with set-up, working a shift at the sale, and clean-up. Special thanks to Dorothea Meldner and her team for sorting/boxing the many donated books received over the summer."

Book sale patrons are asked to donate more books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles and then go shopping on the next book sale days. →

All book sale workers, present and past, are invited to a "Book Sale Volunteers Recognition Coffee Hour" January 17 at 9:30 a.m. at SCRL.



Dorothea Meldner at work

Members-only Preview is January 31, from 3-5 p.m. and the Open Sales are February 1st & 2nd from 9 a.m. to 3 pm.

at South County Regional Library on Three Oaks Parkway in Estero.



Don Martin congratulated by Beth Nitch in front of "Florida Seascapes."

Artist at work enlivening our library ... again

Don Martin, who painted the "Florida Seascapes" mural in SCRL's Youth Services area last spring, has begun work on "Teen Scene," a mural for the Young Adult section of the library. Teens at an Anime Club meeting chose their favorite from among designs submitted by Martin.

Muted rainbow stripes will form the background of the mural that will be painted on side walls and across the top of the window area. Sketched in black on this colorful background are a computer keyboard, i-box computer game, cell phone, musical instruments, including a piano keyboard and guitar, books, CDs, a skateboard and sports. Martin will also paint part of two partitions, a post and border trim around the ceiling with the same colorful rainbow stripes matching the background of the mural.

We greatly appreciate the Friends of SCRL sponsoring these two projects.

— SCRL Regional Manager Beth Nitch

Don's murals are part of SCRL's Gallery Project. To become a project sponsor, go to www.friendsofscrl.org and in left column, click [Be a Sponsor](#).

Thanks to Barnes & Noble at Coconut Point for the space and materials for gift wrapping

Thanks to the FOSCRL Friends who volunteered their time in December

One volunteer recalled the gleam in a soon-to-be dad's eyes as she was wrapping a prenatal care book he had just purchased for his expectant wife.

One of our wrappers so enjoyed the atmosphere of the store that she filled out a job application.

Most of the 24 volunteers seemed to enjoy the experience whether wrapping books or just spreading the word about the library we support. More than the needed number of workers volunteered.

FOSCRL gained \$121 in tips for wrapping and lots of good will.

— Jimmy & Joyce Eichbauer
Wrapping Project coordinators



Grab a handful of these library shows — Just Register in advance

EVENT-FULL library season shows underwritten by Friends of SCRL

2008 Concert Series

Saturday, January 19 at 2 p.m. *American Folk Trio*, SW Florida's legendary strolling Bluegrass band, "plays everything under the sun." Enjoy music of America on acoustic instruments: stand-up bass, guitar, fiddle and mandolin. In the SCRL community room.*

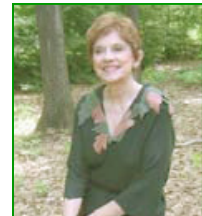
Saturday, February 23 at 2 p.m. *The Night Train Band*. Gather outside SCRL's front entrance to enjoy jazz of the 30's and 40's, rock and roll of the 50's and 60's and Classic Country. This fantastic band of keyboard, guitar, bass, drums and vocalist will keep your feet tapping. **No registration to see this hot outdoor act.**

Tuesday, March 4 at 7 in the evening, *Cypress Lake Middle School Steel Drum Band* will warm your heart with a variety of Caribbean and popular music favorites inside SCRL. The steel drum (or "pan") is a rich sounding instrument growing in popularity in school programs.*

* **To register for programs on this page**, as soon as a month ahead of the event, come to the library front desk or call 390-3200, option 3 or go to www.lee-county.com/library and then click on the "programs & events" link, then click on "adult programs" where underlined programs are those that require advance registration.

2008 Historical Dramatizations

Thursday, January 17 at 2 p.m. *Off to Never-Never Land with Marty Martin* performed at SCRL by Damaris Peters Pike. Marvel at how she dramatizes women in music. With a Master of Music degree in Voice Performance, Pike renews our fond acquaintance with *Sound of Music*, *South Pacific* and *Peter Pan*. Also see her Gershwin program at the SCRL February 26! *



As Mary Martin

Monday, February 18 at 7 in the evening, *This Old Hat: Patriots of Liberty* by Patty Carver. She brings to life women who helped shape our country. From Betsy Ross to Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Amelia Earhart, Carver uses music and dialogue to inspire and delight audiences.*



Tuesday, February 26 at 7 in the evening. *Women of Note with Damaris Peters Pike*. She will transport you to one of **George Gershwin's 1920's parties** by becoming his sister, Frankie, who sings several of his best-known songs and reminisces about her famous brothers, George and Ira.* Pike, from Hiram, Ohio, also enjoys reading, crossword puzzles and spending time on Sanibel.

As Jackie Gershwin

2008 Storytelling Programs

Monday, January 14 at 2 p.m. *The Life and Times of Will Rogers*, a true American icon, presented by Dick Magee at SCRL. He was this country's most popular entertainer and a cowboy philosopher of astounding influence. Get reacquainted with an unforgettable original.*

Monday, February 4 at 2 p.m. *The Day they Stole the Mona Lisa* presented by Dick Magee. The 1911 theft of the Mona Lisa from the Louvre in Paris was one of the most clever, daring, improbable capers of the century. Here every twist and turn of the story.*



Let's hear it for the South County Regional Library staff



Andrea Carter



Ann Clark

SCRL staffers earn "Shining Star" awards

Andrea Carter received the "Shining Star of the Month" award for November, 2007 and Ann Clark for October, 2007 from the Lee County Library System.

The "Shining Star" award is given to an employee who "has made a significant contribution to the community; exceeds expectations of courtesy and helpfulness in customer service; makes a positive impact within the library through leadership; or gives effort/initiative that significantly improves efficiency, or increases productivity, beyond their expected job duties/goals."

Ann Clark always volunteers to take on extra projects. She is known throughout the library system for keeping morale at an all-time high no matter where she's posted, and she's worked in almost every branch in the Lee County Library System throughout her career. She came up with the idea for the "Brag Board" for staff members to write or post compliments received from the public. Ann enlisted the help of the staff to host an all-day E-Resources Fair called "Lost in eSpace?" last August. It introduced 30 people to the library's webpage databases. Ann also demonstrated the databases to groups outside the library last year.

Some of the SCRL staffers entertaining at the December 11 Staff Appreciation Luncheon, funded annually by FOSCR, were "Santa's Reindeer Singers"



Left to Right: Martin Penney, Robin Hays, Dave Wagley, Marge Marino, Tina Preston, Andrea Carter, Janice Beever, Candy Bucher. Front Row: Susan Roseberry, Ed Atkinson.

Andrea Carter, in addition to her already full schedule of responsibilities, volunteered to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee where she organized a group of long-term employees to create an historical organizational timeline to assist our new director and our consultant. Andrea spent personal time studying statistical data to be able to contribute to the planning process. She continues to work with WGPU on the Oral Histories Project, "Florida Lives Remembered II," about Dunbar residents' experiences during the Great Depression.

Andrea Carter and Ann Clark are charter members of Friends of SCRL.

Bank of America partners with our Friends group

Bank of America is partnering with Friends of South County Regional Library, Inc. to offer their Customer Referral Program. Those interested in opening a new checking account with Bank of America will receive a \$25 deposit to their new account, and our Friends group will receive a \$25 donation from Bank of America. To take advantage of this, use the specially marked referral card enclosed with this newsletter and take it to the Miromar Outlet Office on the south side of the Mall parking lot and ask for Mitch Mills, Banking Center Manager. The referral card also can be used at other branches if it's more convenient for you. With any questions, please call Mitch at 992-5403. One of the benefits of having a Bank of America account is that they have branches all over the U.S. for those of us who are snowbirds. This is a painless way to help our Friends group raise funds while meeting your own banking needs.



HAPPY NEW YEAR from/to FRIENDS OF SCRL



Friends to Friends

Published three times a year
November, January, March

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Circle March 5 on your calendar for



The 4th anniversary FOSCRLL
member covered dish luncheon.
Help celebrate 4 years of service.
Details to follow in an email
"Broadcast Message."

March 15 brings the "9th Annual Southwest Florida Reading Festival" at the Harborside Event Center, Ft. Myers

A few of the many authors who will be there are

Stuart Woods, Jim Born, Tim Dorsey, Alison
Larkin, Jaime Manrique, Wendy Markham, Mary
Kay Andrews, Lisa Lutz, Brenda Jackson, Carla
Neggers, Melissa de la Cruz, Tony Abbott.