

Friends-to-Friends

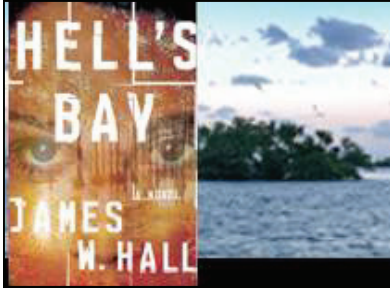
Supporting and Promoting

South County Regional Library, Inc.

March 2008

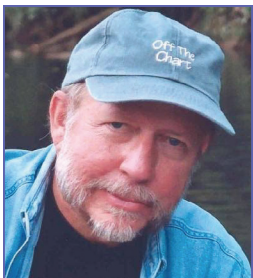
Winner of Friends and Trustees First Place newsletter award of the Florida Library Association

Act now to meet Florida author James W. Hall at March 11 luncheon



On Hall's website it says, "In James Hall's new novel, *Hell's Bay*, you'll find yourself on a houseboat isolated in the middle of the wilderness where Hall's enduring protagonist, Thorn, and a handful of others are targeted for murder. Under siege from an unknown killer whose motives only gradually become clear, and unable to trust the other crew members onboard, Thorn must summon all his survival skills to make it through the next 24 hours. No phone, no radio, no contact with anyone back in civilization. This is Thorn's ultimate test."

That's right; after being left out of Hall's last two novels, Thorn is back. Hall calls him "a loner like I am, someone who spends a great deal of time in a room crafting small beautiful objects (fishing flies) that only a few people in the world truly appreciate. In the 15 years prior to creating Thorn, I'd been writing poems, which are small beautiful objects that only a few people appreciate, so I could identify with that part of him."



James W. Hall.
The lettering on his cap reads: Off The Chart.

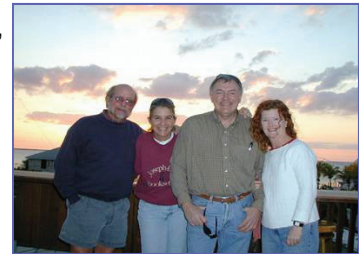
Hall is a character of fascinating contrasts

Those who heard Florida author Les Standiford explain the creation of his *Last Train to Paradise* to the Friends January 30 will want to read what fellow Florida International University writing teacher James W. Hall thinks of his friend, Les Standiford.

We've worked on some screenplays of my novels. Les is a trained screen writer. I'm not. So I learned a lot from working alongside him on these projects. Mainly I learned that I don't like screenwriting. I like language too much to spend too much time doing that kind of work. Also, Les and I read and critique each other's work. He's been very helpful to me over the years as I think/hope I have been for him.

I've been amazed and very impressed with his transition from fiction to non-fiction (*Last Train to Paradise*). We talk a lot while we're working on the early stages of conceiving a new book and we've given each other some major help in that way too. I don't know what I'd do without Les.

Left to right, Hall, his wife, Kimberly, Les, his wife, Evelyn.



On your website, I saw a photo of you and Les, and your wives.

We always have a great time together. We've gone to Mexico a couple of times to a writer's retreat/spa thing and had a wonderful time. We've been to New York as a group several times and had a blast.

Your new novel, *Hell's Bay*, starts with "an idyllic cruise...that turns ugly in a hurry." What else could you say to whet your readers' appetites for this latest Thorn saga?

This is a novel in which the reader and Thorn himself learn a lot about

"Hall Interview" on page 2

How you can dine with this Florida author and help your Friends group help SCRL is at the bottom of page 2.

Ticket-ordering deadline is March 4.



Get your tickets to the James Hall March 11 luncheon before March 4

“Hall Interview” from front page

his past that he didn't know before. A lot of who he is is revealed. There's also a section on the Gulf Coast and phosphate mining and its profound impact on the environment and the local community.



I saw a photo of you in front of a “quickly disappearing Mendenhall glacier.” What's that about?

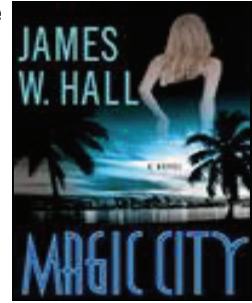
Global warming is real and the consequences immense. Almost all my novels have a strong environmental theme—all involving Florida. I see my job partly as a naturalist, as a writer who sets out to capture verbal photographs of a place I find spectacular and greatly imperiled.

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Do you think it's unusual for a writer to start out writing poetry and then go on to prose?

A lot of very good American novelists started out as poets and failed in that. I'm different because I had a pretty good career as a poet and was publishing my work in a lot of respected journals for years. Writing poetry is like playing the oboe, or pick any other instrument in the orchestra. Writing novels is like playing several instruments at once. There's more to master, and more to keep going, and a lot more ways to screw up.

I read this line from the Miami Sun Post about your 2007 novel, *Magic City*, set in Miami: “Hall's sure good at telling a badass story.” Do you agree?



Well, I try to write well about some badass people. So I guess that much is true. I try not to read too much that's written about me. And when I do read something like that, I just let it go as quickly as possible. It's hard enough to live up to my own expectations and goals...but if I were to start trying to outguess what others want from me, I'd be frozen up with doubt.

Thorn didn't show up in *Forests of the Night* or in *Magic City* although he's back in *Hell's Bay*.

Nine of the 15 novels feature Thorn. The guy is difficult to write about because he's simply so reluctant to get involved in the affairs of the world.

How does your wife Kimberly help you?

She's my first and best editor. She's been a public school teacher for over 20 years, teaching English. She also makes beautiful quilts and appliqué creations.

The March 11 James W. Hall 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.

MARCH 4th, reservations close for tickets to the March 11 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 our invited authors, 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.

Groups should book tickets together to assure seats together.



Getting things done for and at SCRL

Friends treasurer Gretchen Schmidt brings quiet, artistic approach



Gretchen (above) selected the new material (pineapple, the welcome fruit), funded by the Friends of SCRL, for the entrance bench (above).

Princess Draperies of Fort Myers recovered the SCRL bench seat at a special rate to the Friends.



Tote bag and T-shirt logos by Gretchen Schmidt

Gretchen Schmidt is a demure, quiet, classy gal with a dry sense of humor and a ready laugh. She has shared her artistic talent with the Friends in the form of our logo, which appears on our membership cards, luncheon tickets and tote bags. She has even created a T-shirt design. She arranges the Friends glass display case which greets visitors to SCRL. She's been involved in various design endeavors for many years at home in Wisconsin.

As founding treasurer and charter FOSCR member, she has done yeoman duty, recently converting the last four years of Friends records to Quick Books—no easy task. She's responsible for the Friends financial reporting monthly as well as sales and Federal tax returns.

— Claire Hauenstein

Gretchen is the best – especially at keeping our finances straight. She is also very frugal, always a good thing. She does a terrific job coming up with logos and designs for many items ranging from T-shirts to fliers and signs.

— Ann Clark

A perfect treasurer for our group. And whenever I have asked her to do something “creative” for the Friends on her computer she has come back with just what we needed.

— Carolyn Piscitello

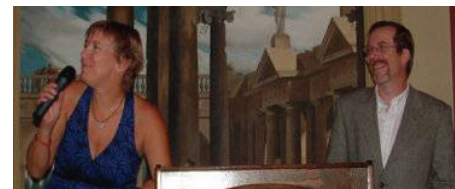


Membership card logo

Winning fun at February 12 Suzanne Brockman/ Ed Gaffney luncheon hosted by your Friends group

Raffle winner was Susan Richardson who went home with the beautiful gift basket made for us by Kay Howard.

Autographed books or tickets were won by Tom Jones, Isabel Ward, Cliff Lorenz, Elaine Nelson, Walter Henry and Doris Jean Keefe.



“I love librarians,” said Suzanne Brockman at February 12 author luncheon.

To get your tickets to the season's final author luncheon, go back to page 2 now!



Good Things Happen at SCRL

Judge these 30,000 books not by their covers but by how much the Friends raised for SCRL in Book Sale donations and purchases



At the January 31 - February 2 FOSCRL Book Sale, 773 people spent \$2,683.

Now for the big bucks. Since the first Book Sale in March, 2004, the Friends of SCRL have raised almost \$57,000 from book sales, First Dibs and Reader's Digest sales as of December 31, 2007. This is split pretty evenly between First Dibs and Book Sales. And yes, 30,000 is the estimate of how many used books our Book Sale Queen Carolyn Piscitello, Summer Book Sale Chair Dorothea Meldner, Friends Assistant Treasurer Steve Shandor, VP Cas Obie and 84 other Friends volunteers have stored,

categorized on shelves and tables for First Dibs and Book Sales and sold... before breaking down tables and displays after every one of the sales.

In its four years of fund raising for the library, the Friends have contributed \$27,000 in goods and services to South County Regional Library and hold a CD for an additional \$25,000 designated specifically for some special future project for the library.

This is especially important at this time when the budgets of Lee County's libraries are being reduced.

The Friends group has raised almost \$57,000 selling books for SCRL.

Take your books, DVDs, CDs and puzzles to South County Regional Library before the next BIG SALE.

Next members-only preview book sale is Thursday, April 3 from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. The Open Sales are Friday, April 4 & Saturday, April 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

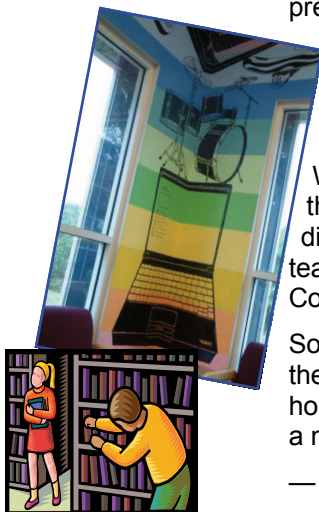
How Tina Preston earned Lee County Library's "Shining Star" award for February

The Young Adult (YA) area at South County Regional Library is getting to be a preferred hangout for teens and other patrons as well, due to YA Librarian Tina Preston's ability to "think outside the box." Complementary to the new mural work of Don Martin (at left), Tina's recent redesign scheme has resulted in a café-like look, calling to patrons in need of a snug book nook or an inviting space for a neighborly game of chess or checkers.

When not contacting magazines requesting giveaways for the teen "Zeem" tent at the SW Florida Reading Festival and soliciting giveaways from manga/anime distributors for the teen anime club held at the library, Tina's busy networking with teachers, school librarians, and leaders of youth groups, or helping other South County staff with technology concerns.

South County's circulation statistics have climbed due to Tina's unflagging attention to the care and feeding of the YA collection. Tina's bi-monthly "OnSite, InSight" homework help program for teens lasts two hours, and gives them a chance to make a new type of connection with the library.

— Joanne Parker, SCRL Head of Youth Services





Meet more than 20 popular authors



9th Annual Reading Festival comes to Fort Myers Saturday March 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Harborside Event Center & Centennial Park



Harborside, Room A1
1:30 p.m.
Mary Kay Andrews, author of the *New York Times* bestselling *Savannah Breeze* and *Blue Christmas*, has

written critically acclaimed mysteries, including the *Callahan Garrity* mystery series, under her "real" name, Kathy Hogan Trocheck. Mary Kay started her professional journalism career in Savannah, Georgia, where she covered the real-life murder trials which were the basis of *Midnight in the Garden Of Good And Evil*. She's a frequent lecturer at writing workshops. Visit her website at www.marykayandrews.com

Harborside, Room A1
2:30 p.m.



Author of nearly three dozen novels and two works of non-fiction, **Stuart Woods** has created three fiction series and several stand alone mysteries and thrillers. His first novel, the 1980 saga *Chiefs*, introduced readers to the recurring character of Will Henry Lee. Woods is also known for his detective series with sexy, debonair Stone Barrington. Inspired by his part-time Florida residence, Woods created Holly Barker, an ex-military police-woman, first featured in *Orchid Beach*. An avid sailor and pilot, Woods lives in Key West, Maine and New York. Visit his website at www.stuartwoods.com

Other authors to meet at festival

Joe Hill,
Wendy Staub,
Tim Dorsey,
James Born,
Nancy Bush,
Cynthia Darlow,
Richard Ferrone,
Lisa Lutz,
Martha Tod
Dudman,
Melissa de la
Cruz.

For more information about this free-admission festival and its book signings, workshops and programs for adults, teens & kids, visit the county library website at www.lee-county.com/library.

Bask in the rich sounds of the Cypress Lake Middle School Steel Drum Band March 4 at 7 p.m. at SCRL



Each year a batch of beginning steel drum students are taken under the wings of the advanced players and given chances to play in public.

Band director, Chuck Flory, started the group in 2001 after hearing the "sound" in the Bahamas. The rest is bright, rhythmic musical history.

Fresh from performing in the Edison Parade of Lights

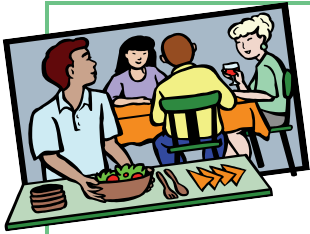


In past years, the band has attended two international steel pan (drum) festivals and played on two cruise ships. Their music has wafted through downtown Fort Myers and Fort Myers Beach.

As with other fun events, their March 4 concert at SCRL is brought to you by your Friends group.



Between *Friends to Friends* newsletters, stay connected to your Friends group at www.friendsofscrl.org



4th Anniversary Member Covered Dish Luncheon

Wednesday, March 5, at 11:45 a.m. at the library

No charge but a Reservation is Required

Plan to bring a covered dish with 6 servings. Table service & beverages provided.

Email: foscrl@aol.com or call Lillian Ames at 948-2936.

"Not to Miss" Program

Author and Friends Member Linda Sebastian will speak about her second book "Reluctant Miracle," a novel to be released in March '08.

Katherine Hepburn, Anne Lindbergh, Mina Edison, Clara Barton. You'll meet them all plus a witty writer who loves to "dis" Martha Stewart in a one-woman show by writer/dramatist Rusty Brown. See her "Encore! Encore!" Tuesday, March 25 at 7 p.m. at South County Regional Library, funded by our Friends group.

Friends of South County Regional Library, Inc.

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More March Events

Sunday, March 9 from 2 to 4 p.m.
Author Prudy Taylor Board will present a **Writing Workshop at the Hampton Inn & Suites**, 619 SE 47th Terrace, Cape Coral. Tickets are \$20. Call 542-0363. This event is sponsored by the Library System Foundation of Lee County, Inc. as part of Southwest Florida Reading Festival activities. *Our Friends group has representation on this foundation's board.*

Friday, March 14 at 7 p.m.
"Sing Into Spring" concert featuring *Spirit of the Gulf*, the Florida State Champion *Sweet Adelines Chorus* along with 140 talented singers performing at **Estero High School**. Tickets at \$20 are available at both Colonial Banks in Estero or by calling 949-0383. Proceeds benefit the Estero Community Improvement Landscaping Project. This is a project of the Estero Council of Community Leaders of which *our Friends group is a member.*