



Friends to Friends

Supporting and Promoting South County Regional Library

Vol. 1 No. 3

Spring 2005

Tell it to Cynthia at the next "Meet the Author"



Author Cynthia Bercowetz wrote a consumer column—*Tell It To George*—for 40 years.

"How many times have you seen 'We will beat any price' in an ad? I decided to test it. I found a competitor who had the item for half the price of the other merchant."

— Cynthia Bercowetz


"We've extended this amazing magazine offer one more day, and have to receive your money by midnight. Give us your bank account number and we will process your order right away," read the ad.

"Beware such ads" says Cynthia Bercowetz, author of *Don't Get Ripped Off! Get Help! Tell It To George*, who will speak at the First Anniversary meeting of the Friends of South County Regional Library. The March 30 general membership meeting is open to the public.

Ms. Bercowetz learned about Internet fraud the hard way.

"Checking my Visa statement, I found two charges that were not mine. One was for \$300 worth of tea pots and accessories. My credit union sympathized but could only block my card. I called the mail-order company and received the name of the party who had ordered the tea. I even went to his address and left a teabag to show my anger. Turned out that wasn't his address."

Identity theft, phone scams, disreputable contractors and how to avoid paying outrageous prices are among the subjects on which Ms. Bercowetz will give tips.

She will speak and sign copies of her book from 2-4 p.m. at South County Regional Library at 21100 Three Oaks Parkway, just north of Corkscrew Road in Estero. 



From the desk of Claire Hauenstein, President of the Board of FSCRL

March 30 is the First Anniversary of the Friends of South County Regional Library, Inc. A year ago, Articles of Incorporation were certified by the state and the nonprofit corporation was born. In April our By-laws were approved and the first Board of Directors took office. We developed a vision, mission and set of values for FOSCRL. We won 501c3 Tax Exempt Status from the IRS in June. We are a certified charity with all donations tax deductible as allowed by law.

Fundraising in support of our mission has been a primary thrust this year. Through book sales and First Dibs bookcase sales in the Library, our first author's luncheon and the sale of our book bags we've made significant fundraising inroads.

Last April, the board declared 2004 as "Charter Member" year. All those joining the group were designated charter members – at year end there were 145 – far exceeding our expectations! We're currently at 170, and the goal for 2005 is 300!

Through fundraising and membership activity we raised over \$12,000 in 2004. Our expenses, net of startup costs, were approximately 8%. Proudly, we donated \$4000 in equipment and services, including a Dell digital light projector with stand

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Participate in celebrations of reading, listening and discussion



From the desk of
Linda Holland, SCRL
Regional Manager.

“Too much to read, too little time” might be a common refrain of librarians, but we have found a way to narrow down our list of favorite books to share them with the public: book discussions. Sharing a literary gem with other readers or analyzing a particularly challenging work is one of our most rewarding activities.

Along with other librarians, I have had the enviable task for several years of leading book discussions at South County Regional Library. In the 2004-2005 season, for example, we scheduled 19 discussions in eight months. We chose titles late last spring at the request of many seasonal book discussion regulars. They wanted to begin their reading during the lazy days of summer at their northern homes.

Discussion leaders prepared a brochure with a complete book discussions schedule and a brief description of each selected book. The brochures were available in the library by mid-summer, and we mailed one to each reader who gave us an address.

If you'd like to begin your reading early, before the “snowbirds” return and compete for book discussion titles, look for our 2005-2006 brochure by mid-summer.

Give one of our three April discussions a try: *Little Children* by Tom Perrotta April 6, *The Book of Illusions* by Paul Auster April 12, or *A Distant Shore* by Caryl Phillips April 28.

Although the discussions are lively and everyone's opinion is welcome, some participants choose to sit back

and listen. It's always interesting to observe how differently individuals react to the same book.

For those of you who participate in reading groups outside of the library, The Lee County Library System now offers book discussion kits, which resemble carry-on travel luggage and contain as many as 14 copies of popular discussion titles. Most of the kits include at least one large type copy of the book, as well as a book on CD or an audio cassette.

The kits can be checked out by one individual, and the contents shared with members of the discussion group. Each kit checks out for four weeks with one renewal for two weeks. Peruse our list of book discussion kits before deciding on your reading group's selections for next year. Find a complete list of kit titles by entering the words “book discussion kit” as a subject search in our catalog. Or ask a librarian! 📖

A few of the titles available as book discussion kits:

Bel Canto
by Ann Patchett

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
by Mark Haddon

The Hours
by Michael Cunningham

Peace like a River
by Leif Enger

To Kill a Mockingbird
by Harper Lee

Congratulations

Carolyn Piscitello
Jack McCarthy
Gordon Max
Donna Geller
Beverly Baitz
Norman DeWolfe

The FOSCRL Board of Directors recognizes these six people as Honorary Members of Friends of South County Regional Library for 2005.

This is to recognize their volunteer service to FOSCRL which exceeded 100 hours during 2004.



Bring books and more to SCR Library

Attend the next *Friends of SCRL* Book Sale on April 2



Carolyn Piscitello, our tireless book sale queen, caught holding the “literary basket” donated by Kay Howard and raffled off to raise \$163 at FSCRL’s February 3 First Annual Luncheon. Donations from the 109 guests brought in another \$909.

Thanks to over 40 members of the Friends of SCRL who helped make our February 5, 2005 book sale such a success. The 373 attendees spent \$1167. It takes many, many people to get ready for and then run a book sale. We are having our final book sale of this season on April 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. As always, you’ll find a wide selection of fiction, nonfiction, children’s books, videos, audio books and puzzles.

Be sure to purchase from and tell your friends about our “First Dibs” bookcase just inside the library. These books are great on trips, the beach or even at home, and you don’t have to return them, unless to donate them to the next book sale.

To fill our next book sale, please donate children’s and adult books, CDs, DVDs, videos, puzzles, etc. You can also help by asking your neighbors, friends, and family for book donations. The library staff accepts donations during regular business hours. 📖

— Carolyn Piscitello
Board Director at large

Book bags are big hit at Friends of SCRL events

FSCRL Treasurer Gretchen Schmidt (left) selling our classy book bags at our First Annual Luncheon at the Estero Country Club February 3rd. Those attending bought 21 bags. Another 18 were sold at the February 5 Book Sale. Get yours at March 30 or April 2 Friends of SCRL events. 📖



Make money for Friends of SCRL by shopping online

At www.iGive.com/foscrl (it will say “Friends” at the top), enter your email address to register. At the top of the page, click on “shopping.” View the list of 585 merchants with amounts of rebate to be earned. Or enter the product you want to buy, and the stores that carry it will be listed. Once purchase transaction is done, the rebate amount is credited to Friends of SCRL. Every time \$75 in cumulative rebates have been earned from all supporters who’ve signed on, a check is sent to Friends of SCRL. If you’re going to shop online anyway, go to www.iGive.com first. **Shop ’til SCRL gains.** 📖

“Anniversary” cont. from page 1

and microphone system to the library. We have also established a Long Range Fund starting with an allocation of \$1500.

Our programs and speakers have been well received. We’re eagerly working on next season’s program. In our efforts to be a presence in the community, we participated in the Estero Centennial Celebration, hosted the Village with A Vision Program at the Library, joined the Estero Chamber of Commerce and are members of the Estero Council of Community Leaders.

Let me express our most sincere appreciation and thanks to the tireless Board of Directors as well as the dedicated members who have given of their time and money in support of our goals. None of this is possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of folks like these! 📖

Friends to Friends

South County Regional Library
21100 Three Oaks Parkway
Estero, Florida 33928

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Friends of South County Regional Library, Inc.

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Board of Directors

Claire Hauenstein, *President*
Charles (Cas) Obie, *Vice-president*
Karen Rockenbach, *Secretary*
Gretchen Schmidt, *Treasurer*
Carolyn Piscitello, *Director at large*
Fred Calatyud, *Director at large*

Linda Holland, *SCRL Regional Manager*

Ann Clark, *SCRL Head of Reference*
Attorney Lee Carney, *Legal Advisor*
Dave Hauenstein, *Newsletter Editor*
Errol L. Clark III, CPA, PA, *Financial Advisor*



*Your recipe
will make the
FOSCRL
cookbook a success*

Send your recipes to FOSCRL@aol.com
or bring to the library staff.

Members of the Public Welcome to Meetings and Events

All are held at South County Regional Library
unless stated otherwise.
See inside newsletter for more information.

March 30 "Meet the Author"
Consumer Writer Cynthia Bercowetz
See front page for details.

April 2 BOOK SALE 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
See page 3 for details.