

SARASOTA MAGAZINE ONLINE

November 2003

Volume 3 Issue 11

Edited by Pat Haire

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MR. CHATTERBOX ...on taking himself literally.

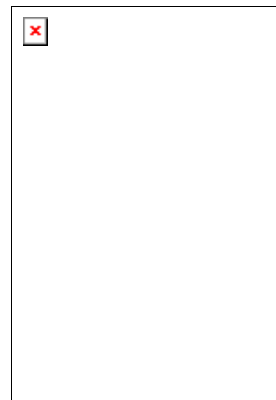
Well, it's time for the annual Sarasota Reading Festival again, and every year the organizers are faced with the same problem: what to do with me. "Oh, him again," I can just hear them say as they once again respond to my constant phone calls offering myself for panel participation or the chauffeuring around of famous authors or attendance at the various parties surrounding the event or even just the directing of crowds. Last year I stood in front of a vacant parking lot and told people they couldn't park there. It was reserved for Caren Lobo. Like I say, I'm willing to do anything to help out the cause.

This year the problem has been solved in a most satisfactory way. You might even say it's a Reading Festival Miracle. Because, as unlikely as it sounds – and I am the first to admit it sounds very unlikely – one of the books being featured at this year's festival is about me. Well, not the whole thing, but a whole chapter. The book is entitled *So Many Books, So Little Time* and it details a woman's life over the course of a year as she sets out to read a book a week. I'm Week 27, or rather my novel *Love Junkie* is.

The author of *So Many Books . . .* is one Sara Nelson and she is the book editor at *Glamour Magazine*, which already sounds to me like she has a lot of spare time on her hands. She is quite enthusiastic about my writing abilities; and her pronouncements about my accomplishments and what the future has in store for me will baffle many of my regular readers, while amusing others. At any rate, it's a must read.

Ms. Nelson has graciously invited me to appear with her on stage during her appearance on Saturday Nov. 1, at 11:30 a.m. in the Peterson Room at the Opera Pavilion. She will discuss her book and modern fiction in general, while I will keep trying to bring things back to my book and me in particular. (That reminds me — I need "plants" in the audience to ask specific questions. If interested, call me here at the office.)

This career recognition thing is starting to happen more and more frequently. Like that Jonathan Yardley guy from the *Washington Post* who compared me to Mark Twain. True, he compared me unfavorably, but still . . . What do you think this means? Obviously I'm no Mark



Twain. Mr. Yardley's point was that the competition was so bad that I was the only one in remotely the same ball park, but I sense a deeper meaning: He just doesn't like Mark Twain.

Another highlight at the Reading Festival will be Mary Higgins Clark at 9:30 a.m. I love her mysteries; they're the perfect books for a rainy Sunday afternoon. Also, don't miss Thomas Sanchez at 10:30 a.m., who will talk about his new novel that takes place in Cuba in 1957. And of course, Barbara Bush. I hear through the grapevine that's she coming on the condition that she has nothing to do with me. She's just flying in and out. Last time she was here I peppered her with all sorts of personal questions about Millie the Dog and she made it clear she doesn't want to go through that again

HOT TICKETS! ... from Kay Kipling

The fall theater season is up and running, so far with mostly light and pleasing fare. Case in point: **Florida Studio Theatre's** revival of the musical revue, ***The World Goes 'Round***. It's a reminder of how many great tunes composer John Kander and lyricist Fred Ebb have put together over the years, and it's choreographed and directed in clever style by Dennis Courtney. The five-member cast is all talented, but standouts are Kilty Reidy, mostly playing a lovable loser on songs like *Mr. Cellophane* from *Chicago* and the yummy *Sara Lee*; and Forrest Richards, who conveys the story behind the songs on numbers including *Colored Lights*, *How Lucky Can You Get* and *Ring Them Bells*. Oh, and her duet with Gayle Samuels on the delightfully vulgar *Class* is bound to get laughs. Onstage through Dec. 5; call 366-9000.

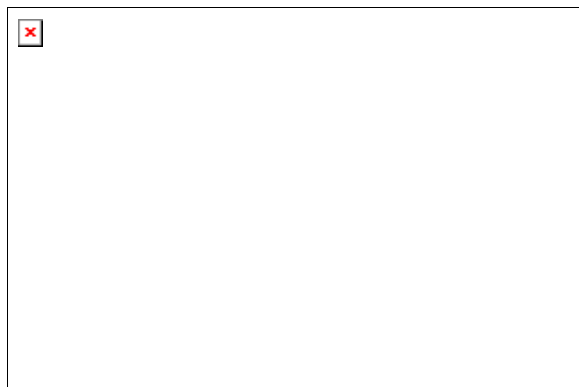


Photo: Gayle Samuels, Christopher Vettel, Elisabeth Van Duyne, Kilty Reidy and Forrest Richards appear in the Florida Studio Theatre production of *The World Goes 'Round*. Photo by Alan Ferguson

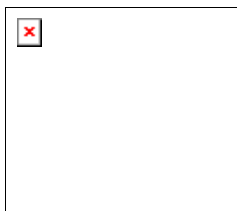
Down south at **Venice Little Theatre**, it's comedy classic time with a production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, offering those lovable serial killers Abby and Martha Brewster (played to near perfection by Esther Martin and Lynne Buhle). Decades

after its premiere, *Arsenic* can still make you chuckle, especially every time beleaguered nephew Mortimer (Steve Dawson) reacts to a startling new discovery about his sweet but murderous maiden aunts. Onstage through Oct. 25; call 488-1115.

And last but not least, another classic, ***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer***, in a relatively new adaptation by ***Lend Me a Tenor's*** Ken Ludwig (with music and lyrics by Don Schlitz) at the **Manatee Players Riverfront Theatre** in Bradenton. Although hewing pretty faithfully to the highlights of Mark Twain's original, the book is actually weak at times here, drifting along from scene to scene without much cohesion. But the cast shows lots of spirit under the direction of new artistic director Rick Kerby, who also choreographed; and Drew Foster as Tom and Dylan H. Jones as Huck are a well-cast pair of young scoundrels. Onstage through Oct. 19; call 748-5875.

SHOP TALK... Buys and buzz from Marsha Fottler.

Talented interior design professional **Treanne Michel** has left Robb & Stucky to start her own firm out of a studio on Siesta Key. Due to wed artist **David Steiner** (who will also have his studio on the barrier island property) in January, the two are collaborating on the redesign and artful decoration of their home



and work spaces. But Tre will again be involved in the **Designer Showcase**, a showhouse project which raises money for the **Florida West Coast Symphony**. This time around the Showcase pros will tackle two new condominiums at Sea Grove on Siesta Key. You'll be able to tour them in February and March. All the rooms in one of the condos will be traditional, the other residence will go imaginatively modernist. Tre has signed up to do the dining room in the modern dwelling.

Shirley Seidman, a well-known and respected name in the design industry, is single again, has moved to University Park and has given up her successful interior design business to try something new. Shirley has joined **Christe's Classic Furnishings** (2030 Harvard St., Sarasota), a company that excels in drop-dead gorgeous all-wood traditional furniture in mellow rich woods with lots of carving details. So now when you see Shirley she can advise you on what to buy for furniture and then she can suggest exactly where to place it and what to do for the window and wall treatments to perfectly showcase your Christe's furniture finds..

WHAT'S COOKING...Food, product and restaurant news from Marsha Fottler

Cafe Epicure is now doing breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. A nice opportunity to sample a frittata or Mediterranean pastries and strong coffee. This bistro-style restaurant and deli is the darling of folks who live in the downtown condos and have needed a breakfast spot (besides the justly popular **First Watch**) of high quality, fair prices and relaxed ambience. Even if you don't live downtown, a Cafe Epicure meal is worth the drive. (I'm addicted to their marinated white anchovies, which you can get to go. What a Caesar salad they make). The place is located at 1298 N. Palm Ave. (corner of Palm and Main). 366-5648. Cafe Epicure is going to be expanding soon. More offerings and less time to wait for a table. Foodies can surely applaud those goals.

Sean Murphy's new culinary venture in Palmetto, **Mangrove Grill and Bar**, is set to open in November. The firm of Tidmore-Henry & Associates Interior Design is responsible for the ambience, and advanced word is that the stunning decor meets the high standard that Murphy sets for his menu and food preparation. It's the same distance to Palmetto as it is to Murphy's **Beach Bistro** on Anna Maria Island, but food groupies know the reality always exceeds the expectation when you're dealing with a Sean Murphy establishment. You know you'll end up taking that car ride, so call another couple or two and make a party of it.

Italians love jazz, particularly American jazz. So **15 South Restorante Enoteca** on St. Armands Circle is having a grand time with its Straight Up Jazz Bar, which hosts different groups nightly, such as OMNI, Democracy and Dulce Scot Blum. To get the weekly schedule call the restaurant at 388-1555. Good menu and appealing wine list, too.

If you love food and movies about food, the **Colony Beach & Tennis Resort** has just the event to drive you off a diet. From now through March on the first Tuesday evening of every month you can enjoy a food-related film and dinner organized at the Monkey Room Patio. While you dine under the stars you can watch stars in films such as Big Night, Tortilla Soup, Dinner Rush and more. No cover charge. Popcorn provided. Seating is limited, so reservations are strongly suggested. For more details call Liza Kubik at the Colony at 383-5558. I love this concept, which Liza is calling Beachside Meals & Reels.

Can a city have too much good ice cream? Of course not. The newest to find space in the frozen desserts section of Publix, WalMart, Albertson's and Winn-Dixie supermarkets is **Blue Bell**, a brand that comes from Brenham, Texas, and was started in 1907 by dairy farmers of Polish and German descent. Originally the company made butter, too, but farmers stopped that production in 1958 to concentrate solely on ice cream and frozen snacks from the milk of Jersey cows. Today, a company that once hand-cranked two gallons of ice cream a day produces more than 250 products including a rotating menu of 45 different flavors of Blue Bell Ice Cream. Two of the newest are chocolate cherry pecan and Key lime pie ice cream. The company's most enduringly popular flavor is homemade vanilla. Blue Bell sells for about the same as Breyers but less than Ben & Jerry's

THE SNOWBIRD REPORT....Local News Updates

Local newspaper makes headlines

The Sarasota Herald-Tribune made national news with its decision to remove all gun sale advertising from its classified pages. Publisher Diane McFarlin made the call after a man who purchased a gun through such an ad used it to kill his wife.

If you build it, they will jump...

The new, fixed-span John Ringling bridge was barely open a week when it got its first jumper. Forty-seven-year-old David Frazier survived the fall, but faces criminal charges, since jumping off bridges is illegal.

Sarasota Herald-Tribune

More bridge news...

The new bridge is already a huge success for bicyclists, who are assailing its steep grade on a daily basis. Some love the climb, but are concerned about expansion joints that can swallow their tires. Bridge contractors say the builder is working to eliminate the problems. Meanwhile, demolition has started on the old drawbridge, which will be carted into the Gulf to create a new artificial reef.

2003 ASID Designer Showhouse - A virtual tour

Twenty-five ASID designers participated in this year's showhouse, a historic St. Armands home that belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Leigh. Some of the region's top designers contributed their talents to a stunning transformation of the home. Thousands visit the showhouse in person every year to glean design ideas for their own homes. If you weren't able to attend, click here for our virtual tour of this spectacular home.

[CHECK OUT THE VIRTUAL TOUR](#) (you must have a java enabled browser)

COMING ATTRACTIONS ... What's next on the newsstand?

Our **November Season Preview**, your sneak peek at the hottest tickets of the year. Plus, magnificent ballroom fashions, book clubs, and behind the scenes of Sarasota's artists' colony.

LIKE WHAT YOU'VE SEEN SO FAR?

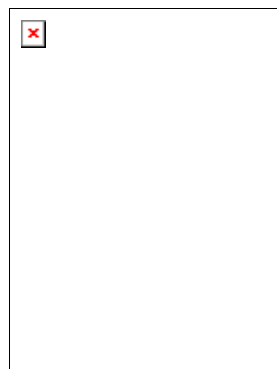
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