



Suncoast Information Specialists



SIS INFO

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Vol. 19, No. 3

May/June 2005

June Meeting



When: Thursday, June 2, 2005, 5:30/6-8 p.m.

Where: Viva la Frieda Café y Galaria
5901 N. Florida Ave.
Tampa, FL 33604

813.231.9199

<http://www.>



Eleven members gathered at the restaurant to swap books and give recommendations for fun summer reading. Sorry we missed you. The food was terrific, as usual. Everyone drew a summer-theme prize, courtesy of secretary Jean Andrews.

Book Swap

"BYOB" ("Bring Your Own Book") to swap, give a book talk, or recommend a good book for summer leisure reading. Enter a drawing to win a prize.

Here are a couple online resources for Book Swaps you might find interesting.

- Swapopolis.com (<http://www.swapopolis.com>): Join and trade books, video games, movies and CDs.
- TitleTrader (<http://www.titletrader.com>): An Internet swap club with over 17,000 books, DVDs, CDs, video cassettes to trade.

For further information on meetings, please see the Meeting Schedule:

<http://tblc.org/sis/meeting.htm>



Minutes of the April 6, 2005, Meeting



Minutes of SIS Meeting, April 6, 2005

The April 6, 2005, meeting of the Suncoast Information Specialists was held at eBistros in the Pinellas Business Center

in St. Petersburg. Approximately 20 members and guests attended.

After an hour of informal networking and a light buffet, President Paul Wetmore called the business meeting to order at

6:30 p.m. Following SIS custom, attendees introduced themselves.

Old business: The idea of SIS expressing its support for the county law libraries through a letter and/or resolution was discussed. Betsy King's motion that a letter be sent to the legislative committee responsible for the libraries was unanimously approved. Secretary Jean Andrews will draft the letter, which will be made available on the website for comment before it is sent.

Announcements: A moment of silence was observed in memory of SIS member Madison Mosley, who died March 29. Madison was an active and enthusiastic member of SIS and was director of the Stetson College of Law Library at the time of his death. (Most recently, he had hosted the SIS meeting at Stetson in December.) On a motion by Lexie Schwabel, members voted to honor Madison with a contribution from SIS to the Stetson Library Memorial Fund.

June meeting: The June meeting, on a date to be announced, is currently being planned as an informal event featuring a summer reading book swap. It will be on the Hillsborough side at the bay, possibly at Viva la Frida in Tampa.

There was no additional new business.

Announcements: Carolyn Reed announced that librarians at New College in Sarasota are now included in faculty contracts. More good news: Carolyn has been promoted to assistant librarian. Harriet Tompkins announced that the Talking Books Library is planning a program on June 6 featuring local TV meteorologist Dick Fletcher speaking on hurricanes. Harriet also displayed a copy of a new book that she has co-authored-- *Celebration of Life: A Ten-Step Guide to Planning Your Final Celebration*. It's available through Barnes and Noble or Amazon or by contacting her.

The highlight of the evening was "Living with Terrorism," a program arranged by Anita Lindsay and presented by guest speaker Steve Collins Purl of AAA Investigations and Protective Services, who spent 20 years as an officer with the British police, stationed at the legendary Scotland Yard. Steve commanded the group's rapt attention with his comprehensive look at what constitutes terrorism and terrorists as well as practical advice for everyday security. (See separate story elsewhere in the newsletter.)

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

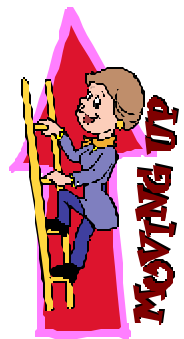
By: Jean Andrews, Secretary

Toot Your Own Horn—Members on the Move



Have you moved to a new job...received some kind of recognition in your current job...or have some news to tell about your library or your life?

We want to help you toot your horn in **SIS-INFO**, our online newsletter. Please call Sandy Hawes, Editor, 1.352.588.8262, with your news or send an email to sandy.hawes@saintleo.edu.



Past SIS president **Harriet Thompkins** has written a new book titled "Celebration of Life: A Ten Step Guide to Planning Your Final Celebration." You can find more information about it at her personal website: <http://www.haroproductions.com>.

Caroline Reed would like to share this news about her friend, Jean Etsinger, who is the Lutheran Disaster Response volunteer services coordinator in Sarasota.



Between last Thanksgiving and Christmas, the volunteer group set up outside the local Barnes and Noble to collect books for the schools and libraries in Charlotte County devastated by last season's hurricanes (see picture). Teachers, librarians, and media specialists created "wish lists" from which customers at the book store could select. Donor name plates were inserted into the collected books.

The volunteers collected and delivered some 700 new and 250 used books to Pine Island, Meadow Park, Neal Armstrong and Peace River elementary schools, and to Punta Gorda Middle School.

Those given to the Charlotte County Libraries were earmarked for outreach to serve the "FEMA Village" in Punta Gorda, a temporary community of 550 mobile homes housing displaced hurricane victims, including more than 200 children.

Contact Caroline, creed@ncf.edu, for further information about contributing to this effort or starting a similar effort at your library.

Jean Andrews, who received her master's degree in library and information science from USF in December, was initiated into Beta Phi Mu, the international library science honor society, at a ceremony in April. Congratulations!

Interesting Research and Resources

Compiled by Sandy Hawes

Here's an interesting new feature of the free Yahoo! toolbar that can be downloaded at <http://www.oclc.org/WORLDCAT/open/how/default.htm>. Once it is installed on your browser, you can run a search for a particular title, click the WorldCat icon on your results page to bring up a list, then enter your zip code. The tool gives you a list of all the libraries with copies of that title and the number of miles away the library is from your zip code area.

Alicia Ellison found this link <http://www.thecollectiblelibrarian.com/index.html> to gamer librarian Heather Wilson's site for game reviews, resources, and links. She found it on Marylaine Block's "Neat New Stuff I Found This Week" Website, <http://marylaine.com/neatnew.html>

Shirl Kennedy reports on behalf of Gary Price's SearchEngineWatch.com that there are some new Florida state databases from the Division of Workers' Compensation. They are to be updated daily and may be queried by county, month, or specific employer. Direct to database: <http://www.fldfs.com/WCAPPS/SWO/SWOquery.asp>

Other Worker's Compensation databases: <http://www.fldfs.com/wc/databases.html>

Also from SearchEngineWatch.com: http://www.highprogrammer.com/cgi-bin/uniqueid/dl_fl and <http://www.zoominfo.com>

For the "visualization of knowledge" folks, there's a new search engine that provides a graphical representation of the results by category. It is in beta testing and works with the Yahoo! search engine. You can try it out at www.grokker.com

From Scotland Yard to Tampa: Security Expert Talks to SIS on Terrorism

From the big picture of the global battle against terrorism to practical tips for personal security in everyday situations, Steve Collins Purl gave SIS members a wealth of ideas to think about when he presented a fascinating discussion of "Living with Terrorism" at the April meeting.



Purl, who is currently a partner in the local firm of AAA Investigations and

Protective Services, served with the British police for more than 20 years, working out of the legendary London headquarters known as Scotland Yard. During that time he was part of more than 1,000 "confrontations," as he termed the various surveillance, protective, and criminal apprehension activities required by his job. From acting as a bodyguard for various members of the British royal family to capturing or otherwise eliminating IRA

terrorists, Purl was involved in a wide range of assignments, many of them exciting and dangerous. Some of these are described in the two books he wrote, *Good Guys Wear Black: Real-Life Heroes of the Police's Rapid-Response Firearms Unit* and *Glory Boys: True-Life Adventures of Scotland Yard's SWAT, the Last line of Defense in the War Against International Crime*. "It's been very satisfying to take criminals off the streets," he said. And although Purl is no longer on the front lines of international police work, his training has never left him: After five years here, he said, it's only recently that he has stopped checking his vehicle for possible bombs and boobytraps.



In his wide-ranging talk, Purl described the various types, motivations, and aims of terrorists, and the structures of various terrorist organizations. He termed

terrorism as "just another crime," whether it's the bully on the playground, bombing of abortion clinics, IRA killings, or the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. He also commented that people in Europe and the British Isles (not to mention most of the rest of the world) have lived with terrorism for many years and are more aware of what's going on than the average American is. "We were bombed in World War II and the Nazis were in Europe, and we know it can happen," he says.

Right here at home, Purl says Florida, with its transient society in which people can easily get lost, has a large number of terrorism-related incidents. And there are plenty of targets right here in the Tampa Bay area, from MacDill Air Force Base to the Skyway Bridge, Busch Gardens and the Port of Tampa, to name just a few.

It's Purl's view that another terrorist attack on the United States is inevitable, and he thinks the next one is most likely to be chemical. While he says that a biological attack is attractive to terrorists, in part because of the fear it causes, many of the most virulent biological agents are hard to obtain and also degrade quickly in sunlight. The "suitcase nukes" that some people fear aren't a likely possibility, he says, noting that the actual size of such a device as more that like that of a truck, and technical support is needed to carry it off. And while he sees a "dirty bomb" using low-grade medical nuclear waste as a more likely scenario, a lot of material is required. Instead, high on his threat list is the suicide bomber.

What can a society do? In the UK, says Purl, taking measures against the

threat of terrorism has become part of the routine of daily life. You won't find litter bins on the streets or in other public places, and you won't see police or military personnel wearing uniforms in bars or pubs: they know that if a uniform is seen in a bar or pub, that place becomes a legitimate target in terrorist eyes. Signs pointing out sensitive locations have been removed. Will this happen here? It's a question he didn't attempt to answer, but various aspects of the issue are already concerning many in the information professions.

On a smaller scale, Purl also touched on personal safety, whether the potential threat is a mugger or a terrorist.

Among his recommendations: Don't sit with your back to the door. Always look for another exit as soon as you go into a place. When you're driving in traffic, be sure you can see the rear wheels of the vehicle in front of you; if you can, you have enough room to make a U-turn if that should become necessary. Look people in the eye when you encounter them on the street; don't give off the aura of a victim or prey. Be aware of what you have on you that you can use as a weapon. Finally, call the police if you feel threatened—and don't be apologetic.

"Most people wander around in condition white, with their brains in neutral," says Purl. Clearly he's not one of them—and hopefully, his listeners won't be either. And at least one SIS member who heard his talk is now making sure she can see the rear wheels of the vehicle ahead of her as she drives I-275!

Steve Purl's Tips for Travelers

- Always use a reputable cab company.
- Have the hotel call your cab.
- Get an alarm that attaches to the door handle in your room. (They cost about \$15.)
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Don't hug the buildings if you have to walk down a dark street.
- Look up.
- Don't wear a name badge.
- In a bar, keep an eye on your drink.
- Look into a vehicle before you get in.

By: Jean Andrews, Secretary

Opportunities to Help



Do you have an idea for a presentation? Do you know someone who would be perfect to speak at a meeting? Would you like to volunteer your services? If so, please contact us by calling 813.622.8252 or 352.588.8262, or by sending an email message to sis@tblc.org or sandy.hawes@saintleo.edu.

Suncoast Information Specialists
c/o Tampa Bay Library Consortium
1202 Tech Boulevard, Suite 202
Tampa, FL 33619

Phone: 813.622.8252
Email: sis@tblc.org
Electronic list: <http://tblc.org/sis/list.htm>
URL: <http://tblc.org/sis/>

SIS Officers 2005

President

Paul A. Wetmore
Hillsborough County Library Cooperative
Charles Fendig Library, Tampa, FL
813.273.3680, adltest_2000@yahoo.com

Vice President

Steven Cannata
Stetson Law Library, Tampa Campus
1700 North Tampa Street, Tampa, FL
813.228.6625, scannata@law.stetson.edu

Secretary

Jean Andrews
University of South Florida
Tampa, FL
727.367.8349, egret27@tampabay.rr.com

Treasurer

Wanda Barrett
Everlove & Associates
St. Petersburg, FL
727.345.8180, wanda@everlove.net

Newsletter Editor (appointed)

Sandy Hawes
Saint Leo University
Saint Leo, FL
352.588.8262, sandy.hawes@saintleo.edu

Webmaster (appointed)

Betsy King and Jacqueline Leskovec
CAE, Tampa, FL
813.887.1658, kingbet@tampabay.rr.com

List Owner (appointed)

Alicia B. Ellison
HCC--Ybor City Campus
Tampa, FL
813.253.7731, aellison@hccfl.edu

Immediate Past President (2003)

Robin Leigh
Safety Harbor Public Library
Safety Harbor, FL
727.724.1525, leighr@tblc.org