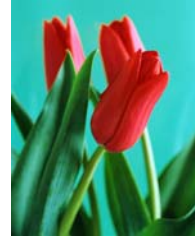


ygm MARCH 2009



For further information about Merida and the Yucatan please visit our friends at –

www.yucatanliving.com www.yucatanoday.com

Conversations with Jay Buell and Georgia Charuhas –

Saturday, February 28th ay 11 a.m.

Hope to see you there!!

MELLO Nite continues to occur on the **THIRD Friday of each month**, with the March evening being March 20th. The event is open to all with a cash bar and free botanas (appetizers). Bring friends. The event starts at 7:00 pm and ends at 10:30 pm. As always, donations of appetizers are appreciated!

MELLO Nite *continúa ocurriendo el TERCER viernes de cada mes, con la tarde de marzo siendo el 20 de marzo. El acontecimiento está abierto a todos con una barra de efectivo y botanas libres (aperitivos). Traer a amigos. El acontecimiento comienza en el 7:00 P.M. y los extremos en el 10:30 P.M. ¡Como siempre, las donaciones de aperitivos se aprecian*

2009 HOUSE AND GARDEN TOURS – What's behind those unassuming fronts?

These tours begin at MELL at 9:45 am and last about two hours. Cost is still 200 pesos per person. We accept USD equivalent at 20 USD per person. Join Keith for some new houses this year! Tours end at Casa Frederick Catherwood in Park Santiago. NO reservations are necessary! Wear comfortable walking shoes.

At the end of your tour...NEW...Lunch at Iguana Blanca / Almuerzo en Iguana Blanca (Casa Catherwood)

We are now serving lunch on Wednesdays, from noon to 2 p.m. at Iguana Blanca.

We are, of course, open for dinner, Monday through Saturday, 5 p.m. to midnight.

And if you need to see our current menu, click on the link below:

<http://casa-catherwood.com/bistro.html>

See you at lunch every Wednesday after the MELL House and Garden Tour!

2008-9 SYMPOSIA SERIES – MARCH SERIES

Monica Hernandez returned for more about **ORGANIC GARDENING** in the Yucatan.

The next symposium will be held Saturday, March 21st at 11 am. We have **TENTATIVELY** scheduled another Conversation with Jay Buell. Details will follow...

BRIDGE ANYONE?

After numerous requests we are going to attempt to start a Monday afternoon SOCIAL Bridge Club. The first 'meeting' will be Monday, March 2 at 4 pm. After the first meeting, the group will decide when is the best day and time to play again. Please bring cards as we have none at MELL!

NEW BOOKS OF NOTE FROM OUR MEMBERS

Stuffed by Patricia Volk

Gringolandia by Stephen Morris

Ethical Assassin by David Liss

6th Target and 7th Heaven by James Patterson

Birds of Prey by JA Nance

Road Show by Gary Jennings

Tin Collectors by Stephen Cannell

Sins of Our Sons by Sonny Girard

Forever by Judith Gould

Winter's Heart by Robert Jordan

Crashing Darkness by Robert Crais

Don Quixote by Cervantes

Yummy Mummy by Polly Williams

Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill by Mark Bittner

NEW AUDIO BOOKS –

Amy Tan – Saving Fish from Drowning

Catherine Coulter – Lyon's Gate: a Sherbrooke novel

Dan Brown – Da Vinci Code

MELL STORE

Next time you are in check out the MELL Store. Here you will find not only the very good NEEM botanical products, but also our T-shirts, aprons and book bags. All are very reasonably priced and make great souvenirs for your friends and families. This just in.....

MERIDA FABRIC SHOPPING BAGS @ 50 PESOS!

Let's start shopping smart and stop using plastic!!

PAUL'S CORNER BOOKSHELF

Earthly Powers: The Clash of Religion and Politics in Europe from the French Revolution to the Great War, Michael Burleigh, 2005. The author is a history professor, resident in London. Documents in detail the rise of secular ideologies in the 19th century that challenged or supplanted the religious support for the state in Europe. Nationalism, socialism, fascism, labor movements all originated in this period and brought an end to the confessional state. The writing here is learned but lively, and exposes many details of the ideological struggle you may not have known before. In particular I found interesting the roots of terrorism in the revolutionary factions, and the details of national liberation movements in Italy, Greece, Poland and Ireland. Recommended for serious history students.

The Road to Reality: A Complete Guide to the Laws of the Universe, Roger Penrose. The author is a gifted teacher of higher mathematics and a mathematical physicist. If, like me, your education was seriously deficient in mathematics, there may be a third to a half of this book you will skip over because of the exotic and dense mathematical notation. That still leaves a highly intelligible account of quantum physics, where it comes from, what it does that is so essential to understanding energy, particles and the cosmos, and where it is headed. Many mysteries and contradictions are treated, and Penrose has that essential component of all good teaching—limitless curiosity and enthusiasm for the subject. I will not sugarcoat the fact that this is a difficult book, but that is because it confronts head-on some of the ultimate questions about our universe and reality. You may at times be stumped, but you will not be bored.

Double Tap, Steve Martini, 2005. The author's eleventh courtroom drama featuring attorney Paul Madriani, several of which are already on the Library's shelves. The murder of a software executive leads to underhanded government projects aimed at spying on citizens' private digital information: medical, financial, and everything else. You'd like to see the responsible parties (at the Pentagon, for example) brought to justice, but even in the real world, that is a losing ambition. The murder is solved and some justice obtained anyhow. Chapters are short, the drama is skillfully managed, and I enjoyed it.

THE LONE RANGER'S BOOK REVIEWS

John Birmingham

Weapons of Choice, Designated Targets and Final Impact

Fans of alternative history and World War II should love this three book series. I had not read John Birmingham before I picked up *Weapons of Choice* (book one of three). What a treat!

The series starts with a 21st century U.S.-led naval group being jarringly transported into the pre-Pearl Harbor Pacific war. For me, the most creative element of this sweeping depiction of the clash of modern technology and society with the WW II era, especially in the United States, are Birmingham's explorations about how people in that era would deal with women, minorities and social changes mores from today's world. How about an aircraft carrier named after *Hillary Clinton*! Try reading the series in order.

John Le Carre

Absolute Friends and Mission Song

In 2003 the Iraq war was raging despite President Bush's declaration that the "mission" had been accomplished. In the U.S. most of the media and national politicians were still uncritical of the war, its impact on the US and Iraq, and the devious means upon which it was sold to the American people. Those who did take positions against the war were in some quarters considered unpatriotic (think Fox TV and their commentators).

When *Absolute Friends* hit the stands later in that year it was praised by serious readers as one of Le Carre's finest. Le Carre, however, was not a supporter of the Iraq war and that undoubtedly impacted the popularity of this complex work. In *Friends*, Le Carre combines his mastery of the tradecraft of espionage

with a good look into European leftist politics of the 1960'/70's, the role of "cultural" work at British embassies, and a delightfully sinister story of the "war on terror."

With *Mission Song*, John Le Carre takes a different tact on the world of secrets. While the undercover world of spying lurks around the edges, this fascinating work is woven around a translator's search for truth at a secluded, high-level political negotiation. Le Carre takes time to build the character of Bruno Salvador, whose search for meaning in his life amid a tangled upbringing in East Africa, leads to an explosive outcome that could easily be a headline in today's news. I wonder if Barack Obama ever read or enjoyed this book.

Robert Wilson

A Small Death in Lisbon, The Company of Strangers, Instruments of Darkness, The Blind Man of Seville and The Vanished Hands

Upon reading *A Small Death in Lisbon* I knew immediately that I had found an author whose ability to tell a wonderful mystery story would hook me forever. Not only did I believe that Wilson's grasp of part of the European experience of WWII was an informative look at history, but his complex and twisted characters, with ties to modern day Portugal, opened another country to me. I love detective fiction and when combined with history, politics and some really bad murders, this book goes beyond your average who dunit. Wilson's books are not for the faint of heart.

The *Company of Strangers* again finds us in Europe during WW II where we experience the undercover world of spying in Portugal. What I really liked about *Strangers* were the connections to the Portuguese Revolution, a now forgotten footnote of the turbulent 1970's, when Portugal lost its African colonies and underwent a short-lived, radical Socialist revolution.

The first in a series set in modern West Africa, *Instruments of Darkness*, introduces Bruce Medway, a British expat who lives by "fixing" things. (I once drank and gambled in a bar in Carmel, California with a man whose business card offered services just like Medway.) Having spent a number of weeks in Benin, where Medway is based, while my wife was there as a Fulbright teacher, I can attest to Wilson's grasp on the people, the vibes and the politics of that hot and humid region.

Contemporary Spain is the backdrop for Robert Wilson's *The Blind Man of Seville*, a deeply personal look at the life of Inspector Javier Falcon, a city detective with many unresolved issues of his own. I've not yet had the opportunity to visit Spain (it's high on my travel list!) but I am certain that once again, Wilson has captured *la Vida* of that old Spanish city. Neither the villains nor their many adversaries, including the detectives, lead simple lives. *Blind Man* is full of twists and turns, many psychological. Another great read from an awarding winning, "detective "master.

Again in Seville, *The Vanishing Hands* finds us in a contemporary Spain with suicides, the Russian Mafia, pedophilia, and things that go bump in the night in upscale neighborhoods. What I liked most was Wilson's depiction of the everyday life of Spanish police detectives. Relationships between men and women are a big part of this work, as well as how the Spanish judicial system works, or doesn't, in criminal matters. The Boston Globe described it as "a multilayered portrait of survivors and perpetrators, each consumed by rage, guilt or depression." Claro!

Once again Wilson returns to modern day Seville and inspector Javier Falcon in this thriller, *The Hidden Assassins*. This time Falcon is plunged into the tension between Islamic immigrants in Spain and Spain's national concern over terrorism. A mosque is bombed and Falcon must sift through the rubble, literally, to find out if the mosque was a storage facility used by terrorists, domestic or foreign! If that was not enough, Falcon must cope with the aftermath of his divorce since the lover of his ex-wife is a powerful magistrate who has jurisdiction over his investigation. You can feel this happening in today's world.

DONATIONS THIS MONTH

Marianne Kehoe, Ellyne Basto, Sue Auerbach, Kathleen Lasher, Ros McAllister, Steve Beyer, Mary Cunningsworth, Shelle Sholtzow, Deanna Lagroix, Sharon Teel, Lynn Spaulding, Victor Zorrilla, Susan Rathke, Gordon Carson, Nigel Cundale, Jim Duignan, Melissa Moore, Pete Fabregas, Tom Clifford, Heather Wyant, Morningstar Borzoni, Jaromey Menshal, Sharon Newell, Debbie Colley, Al Caron.

Thanks to all of you!

AMAZON.COM AND MELL- Heading South to Merida?

We are often asked what titles we are looking for at MELL. To this end we have created a MELL WISHLIST on Amazon.com that our members can visit. If you click on the site shown you can see the complete list. If you wish to buy a title for us, that would be wonderful!! MELL does not buy new if there is a good quality used book for purchase. If you do purchase a title online it is best if you have it shipped to your US or Canadian address and then brought back with you in the future.

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/341NP8BYEE4H7>

Used books are generally much cheaper, but normally you pay shipping to the original seller. AMAZON often provides free shipping to a US address.

EXPIRATIONS AS OF February 28, 2009

If we have erred, please contact us immediately so that we may check our receipts....our apologies...

Agnes Barton, Catherine Beattie, Elizabeth Berke, Peggy Bowes, Carlos Cepeda, Melissa Curley, Thalia Doerzbacher, Kevin Donegan, Bill Engle, Ron Fry, Valerie Grimsley, Marilyn Hawkes, Hugh Jenney, Julia Miller, Jerry Moomaw, Nancy Parsloe, David Pritchett, Patricia Sava, Jack Soderham, Deborah Ullrich, Jairo Villanueva, Gina Watson, Joe Watterson, Trudy Woodcock

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT RECEIVING YGM ON A REGULAR BASIS? If so, we may not have their correct email address. Please have them call us if they are not getting YGM Monthly! 924-8401

NEW membership rates went into effect on **January 1, 2009**. The rates reflect the increased costs of books and other library materials which are borrowed by the members. The current rates have been in effect about 5 years. The new rates will be as follows –

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS – 350 PESOS

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS – 250 PESOS

STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS – 100 PESOS (must provide a valid school card)

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB THIS MONTH – In March, they will be reading **The Hummingbird's Daughter**. Contact Dorothy Andrews at chelem_2000@yahoo.com for more information. The meeting will be Thursday, March 12th at 11:00 a.m. at the Library.

ADMINISTRATOR'S RAMBLINGS

With all of the accounting done, the 2009 Chili Cook Off was a huge success! After expenses we netted approximately 40,000 pesos. In 2008 we netted almost 25,000. Much of this year's success goes to our sponsors – Yucatan Today, as well as the other media. A huge thank you to Mitch Keenan for chairing the committee. Are you ready for next year Mitch???

The previous YGM mentioned the fact that there would be an auction of two paintings by Alberto Castillo, a well known local artist. MELL has submitted a bid in hopes of acquiring one of the paintings for the Judd Dolle Room. This particular painting is a Madonna and Child. If you would like to make a donation in support of our bid, it would be appreciated. We desperately want to keep this particular painting in Merida as a reminder of Alberto's contributions to the community.

We are looking for a volunteer to help out on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call us if you are available!

2008 - 2009 MELL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Surratt Williams

Members – Dr. Roberto Guzman

Vice Presidents – Malena Peon & Mitch Keenan

Lic. Fernando Castilla Patron

Secretary – Paula Sievert

Treasurer – Carlos Arias Perez

Honorary - Karen Martin, US Consul

Emeritus - Jay Buell

Grant Spalding (Retired)

MELL COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

March 2 – MELL SOCIAL BRIDGE CLUB – 1ST MEETING...4 p.m.

March 6 – SOHO Galleries – see attached flyer!

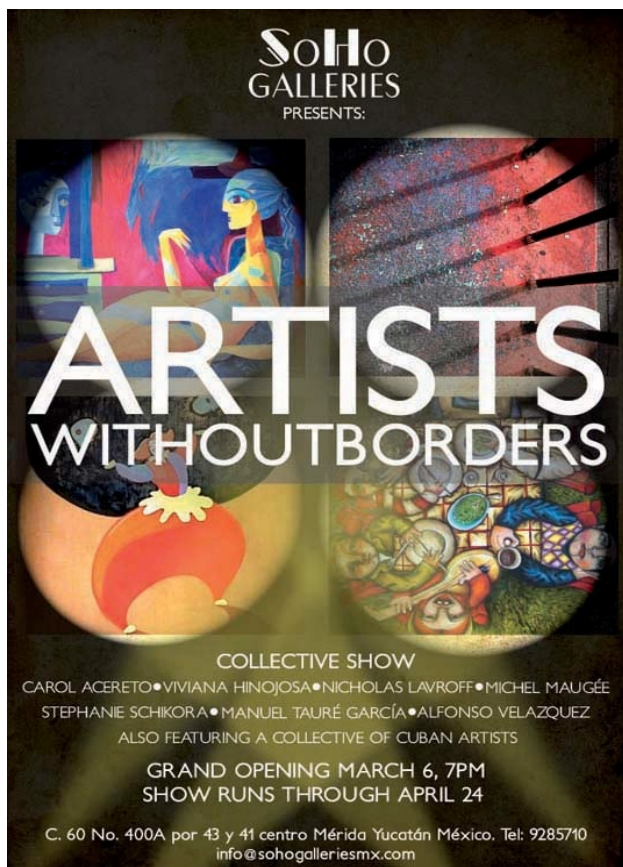
March 13 - BRAZOS ABIERTOS – CABARET with LISA PAIGE

March 20 – MELLO NITE 7 P.M.

March 20 – 25th – The Mayas and Cosmic Time – see flyer

March 21 – Conversations with Jay Buell...TBA 11 A.M.

March 28th and 29th – Second AANY Art Show (see below)



SoHo GALLERIES
PRESENTS:

ARTISTS WITHOUT BORDERS

COLLECTIVE SHOW

CAROL ACERETO • VIVIANA HINOJOSA • NICHOLAS LAVROFF • MICHEL MAUGÉE
STEPHANIE SCHIKORA • MANUEL TAURÉ GARCÍA • ALFONSO VELAZQUEZ
ALSO FEATURING A COLLECTIVE OF CUBAN ARTISTS

GRAND OPENING MARCH 6, 7PM
SHOW RUNS THROUGH APRIL 24

C. 60 No. 400A por 43 y 41 centro Mérida Yucatán México. Tel: 9285710
info@sohogalleriesmx.com



Brazos Abiertos, INC.
PRESENTS

Lisa Paige
Cabaret Singer
from Atlanta, Georgia, USA
w/Patrick Hutchison and Dik Holland

BENEFITTING OASIS SAN JUAN DE DIOS, A.C.

Friday,
March 13, 2009
9:00 pm Showtime
(Doors open at 8)

In the home of
Terrence Price
Calle 27 # 153x34
Col. Buenavista
Merida, Yucatan 97125

UNDERWRITERS: Brazos Abiertos, Terrence Price,
Arq. Henry Ponce, Allan & Mary Anne Dunlop,
Bob & Sally Winthieser, Jose Solis,
Grant Spradling & Clifford Ames,

Advance Purchase Only: \$300.00 pesos each
Ticket includes complimentary snack and one beverage
Seating limited - Cash Bar

She's Coming Back!!!

To purchase advance tickets, contact one of the following people:
John Truax: 924.70.68 o 999.233.93.05 Suzanne Larimer: 924.51.87 o 999.148.70.24
Ellyne Basto: 923.84.84 Sam Woodruff/George Fischer: 999.163.50.48 o 999.127.84.33
website: www.hivyucatan.org



**SPRING EQUINOX WITH MAYA ELDERS & SHAMANS
THE MAYAS & COSMIC TIME: MARCH 20-25, 2009
MERIDA, YUCATAN, MEXICO**

Fri. March 20

10am Crystal Skulls and Mayan Wisdom
Star Johnsen-Moser, Mayan Fire Woman,
Solar Initiate, spiritual healer, director of
Cahokia Mysteries School for Cosmic
Education.
www.cahokiamysterieschool.com
starseed_4@hotmail.com

Sat. March 21

5am Departure to Lol Be Maya Ceremonial Center.
Equinox sunrise ceremony to honor Father Sun at
the sacred Maya Pyramid Arch, with music and
burning copal as we seek communion of our
spirits with the Universal Creator.
9am Fruit breakfast at Lol Be.
Continuation of initiatic work and teachings by
Itza Maya Elder Hunbatz Men.
www.themayas.com.mx
1pm Return to Merida.

Sun. March 22

8am Departure to Chichen Itza for equinox ceremony
and to watch the Serpent of Light descend the
Pyramid of Kukulcan.
Maya mysteries teaching by Elder Hunbatz Men.
1pm Lunch in Piste.
Return to Chichen Itza for spiritual-scientific
work in groups or individually.
4:30pm Descent of the Feathered Serpent Kukulcan on
the north stairs of the pyramid.
5:00pm Departure to Merida.

Mon. March 23

8am Departure to Uxmal (Ucmal, "Eternal Moon").
Teachings by Itza Elder Hunbatz Men to access
memory of our creator Hunab K'u and the
mystical significance of number 7 (Uc in Maya).
2pm Lunch in Uxmal.
Return to Uxmal to continue our initiatic work, in
groups or individually.
5pm Return to Merida.

Tue. March 24

5am Departure to Lol Be Maya Ceremonial Center
to meet with Shaman/H-Men guests. They will
conduct the ritual to Mother Earth called *HEDZ*
LUUM to heal the damage we are causing her.
10am Fruit breakfast at Lol Be.
11am Departure to Izamal (Itzmal) for ritual conducted
by the Shamans to honor the spirit of the teacher
K'inieh K'ak'mu, ancient bringer of civilization
to the Mayas. On the great pyramid of K'inieh
K'ak'mu we will invoke the spirits of nature.
3pm Lunch in Izamal.
5pm Return to Merida.

Wed. March 25

8am Departure to Dzibilchaltun for solar initiation
and ceremony to the Great Spirit, requesting to
learn how to live in oneness with all life,
especially among human beings.
2pm Lunch in Progreso.
Free time on the beach to enjoy the energetic
"Mexican Caribe" waters.
5pm Return to Merida.
9pm Farewell dinner in Merida (optional).



Hunbatz Men, Shaman and Daykeeper
Maya Itza Tradition, Merida, Yucatan, MX
(999) 982-58-24 mavan20@prodigy.net.mx

You can enroll for all or half of this program.
6 days from \$610 USD, 3 days from \$305 USD
Enrollment details for Merida locals, call or email
Lennie Martin (999) 929-86-16, Cell 044-999-154-7178
lenniemo7@yahoo.com



SECOND ANY SHOW – MARCH 28TH AND 29TH.

40 Artistas/ Artisanos selected because of creativity and excellent use of materials

You're invited to the semi-annual sale of Artistas/ Artisanos Nuevos de Yucatan –

Saturday, March 28th, 10 am to 9 pm

Sunday, March 29th, 10 am to 5 pm

Lion's Club (Club de Leones)

Ave. Colon #198A x 14 Y 16, Garcia Gineres

Parking entrance on C. 23 x 14 y 16

Please bring used eye glasses for the Lion's Club eye glasses program in local villages.

Funding for this show by Mrs. Elly Friedman, Asheville, NC and Dr. Jose Luis Araujo, Star Medica.

Special thanks to Aady Rose, Director, Museo de Arte Popular and Sandra Pass, Fomento Cultural de Banamex for endless assistance and arranging for transportation.