

"You've Got MEL!"

**What's happening at YOUR Library?
JULY 2007 – Issue #7**

TGIF– Friday, AUGUST 3, 2007

Mark your calendar for Denis Lafoy's TGIF at Fiesta Americana Hotel. Bring your friends and meet both nationals and internationals in the bar. Botanas are provided. The event starts at 7 pm.

MEL WEBSITE www.meridaenglishlibrary.com

If you are having difficulty reading this please go to our website where it should be posted within 48 hours. Thanks to Ellen and Jim Fields as always! By the way, they also graciously donated a new computer desk to MEL.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Dream...

The dream is to provide an air-conditioned reading room, create his and her bathrooms, refresh the library facilities, landscape the patio and build a pavilion at the back of the patio. Architect/designer and board member, Henry Ponce, has contributed a beautiful master plan. Come by the library and look over the concept.

Good news! We will accomplish much of what we have planned this summer.

However, building the pavilion will take place next summer. The reason for the delay is quite simple. To paraphrase our funding appeal, it is a matter of black and red. Building the pavilion this year would put the library financially in the red. We expect to raise enough money to be able to complete our dream by next summer.

MEL administrator, Reg Deneau, will be on vacation July 27 through August 30. Thanks to MEL's stalwart volunteer, Greg Fryer, the library will remain open while Reg is away.

Hallelujah! Even during the dog days of summer MEL volunteers keep the doors open so that we can find a good book to help us lazily loll away the hot afternoons.

Oh, by the way, if you have not gotten around to responding to our annual fund drive, don't be surprised if a volunteer or I give you a phone call to explain MEL's need for just a little help from you.

Grant Spradling, President.

2007 FUND RAISING DRIVE ...21366 pesos and climbing.

By now, you should have received an email about our Annual Fund Drive – GREAT EXPECTATIONS In Black and White! We are counting on YOU, our membership, to continue the momentum, which we have built up these last few years! Funds are gradually coming in. If it is more convenient for you who are outside the country, we will accept a PLEDGE, payable when you return. Just drop us a line and we will record your pledge. Cheques should be made out to MERIDA ENGLISH LIBRARY. Our goal is 100,000! In order to accomplish this summer, those things outlined above, it is very important we have your support!

Donors to-date include –

Harriett Riggs	Paul Hartley	Sean and Colm
Bob & Paulie Williams	Lorna Gail Dallin	Sam Razzaque
Lennie Martin & David Gortner	Grant Spradling*	Theresa Serafin
Barbara Huhtalo	Ellyne Basto	Lane Gallagher
Ron Jackson	John Parker	Jim Ellison
Dan Ninburg & Ronnie Bush	Jean Grant	Raymond Barnham
Cheryl and Jim Caddy	John Calman	Larry McIntosh
Bob & LeAnn Roberts		
Prof. Phil and Surratt Williams		
Rafael & Cletus Podilla		

My apologies if I have missed anyone....

Won't you add your name to this illustrious list?

PLANT SALES

With summer upon us, it is time to get on with your planting. The Library has a myriad of plants for sale at just 15 pesos each! These are great plants even though we cannot tell you their names...LOL. Many thanks to Lynn Roberts and Luis Abdala for keeping us stocked with plants all year round.

NEW LOGO MERCHANDISE and NEEM PRODUCTS

The first T-shirt has been completed and approved by the MEL Board. In September, we will start selling these, in sizes large (white) and extra large (taupe). We will follow these up with aprons and book bags. Drop by and take a look. Place an order if you wish. The 'expected' cost is 100 pesos. These will make a great souvenir of Merida for any guests whom you are expecting this fall and winter.

Don't forget that we still carry a line of NEEM products. The Botanical Outdoor Oil is now in stock, as well as a new talc for those humid days.

PAUL HARTLEY'S BOOK REVIEWS

I apologize to readers that last month's review of Knights in Black and White, while it reflected some thoughts aroused by the reading of this book, it failed to do the most essential job of any review, to tell enough about the book for you to decide whether to read it. Following is a better review:

Time is 1095, just after Edessa, Antioch and Jerusalem were taken by armies of European knights. A small group of these knights formed the Knights Templar, the first time the Church had authorized an order of armed monks, for the protection of pilgrims to the Holy Places in Palestine. There are nail-biting adventures, a treasure hunt beneath Temple Mount, and some outstandingly slimy villains. The origin story of the Templars given here is plausible, though most unlikely, as a pre-Christian brotherhood. The story has been refined and taken over by the Masons, and you might recognize certain features in common with Masonic practice. First of a series.

The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, Vol. 1 (of 20) A-Bacilly (1980). Just this one volume has been donated to the Library, and I have spent 3 enjoyable weeks reading in it. It lists composers, performers, instrument makers, conductors and musicologists. A genealogical table shows 88 musical Bachs. Theory articles that nobody who thinks seriously about music should miss are Aesthetics and Analysis. Country/region articles start with a concise ethnography of all the tribal or linguistic groups with their own instruments and musical traditions. Wonderful!

Sex Lives of the Famous Gays, Nigel Cawthorne. The author has done Sex Lives volumes for English kings, popes, composers, and US presidents. This one includes biographical essays on Wilde, Liberace, J. Edgar Hoover, Isherwood, Noel Coward, and others. Research seems careful, and the humor never departs. I think anyone would enjoy this book, though it does leave you feeling a little ashamed for taking a prurient interest.

Bride & Groom, Susan Conant (author of Dogfather). Another mystery from this Alaskan malamute fanatic. Even among dog people, there are villains, and this is a tight and delightful mystery about some of them. Lots of fun.

NEW ACQUISITIONS FOR MEL

Thank yous to Grant Spradling, Sally, Ellyne Basto, George Fischer, Elizabeth Dunkel, Jerry Varga, Rita and Larry Harrison, and Steve Davis for the following -

FICTION -

Bloodlines: A Horseracing Anthology
Straight Cut
The Cave (Saramago)
Grass Hay (Capote)
Between, Georgia (Jackson)
Last Quarry
Straight Cut (Bell)
Call me by your name (Aciman)
A respectable trade (Gregory)
Titanic (Movie version in text and photos)

NON-FICTION – In the latest YGM, the donor of these books was not shown. Apologies and thank you to Estela Keim.

Andy Warhol: a Retrospective
French Painting 1774 – 1850
Velasquez: His Work and His World

Additional NON-FICTION

Our lives are the rivers (biography of Simon Bolivar's mistress)
Selected Poems of Tennyson
Mother Theresa – A Simple Life
Ulysses
Roberts Rules of Order
Ambivalent Conquests – Maya and Spaniards in the Yucatan 1517-1570
Design Motifs in Ancient Mexico
Arts in Latin America 1492 – 1820
Serenity to Go (calming techniques)
Kitchen Classics
George Balanchine
Omnivore's Dilemma
Columbus and the Conquest of the Impossible

DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR 30 NEW LARGE PRINT BOOKS!

TALKING BOOKS

Many of you personally knew Maria Louisa Arroyo de Fischer, mother of Jorge. In her memory, Jorge has donated these talking books, which Maria Louisa enjoyed –

Brown, Sandra – Envy (CD)
Brown, Sandra – Seduction by Design (cassettes)
Brown, Sandra – Not Even for Love (cassettes)
Rivers – Leota's Garden (CD)
Patterson – Sam's letters for Jennifer (cassettes)
Niffenegger – Time Traveler's Wife (cassettes)

It's five o'clock somewhere...Cocktail Time!

NEW DVD'S AT MEL –

We are compiling a list of DVD's, which will soon be available for your reference....

COMMUNITY NEWS!

The International Women's Group Calendar can be accessed by following this link – www.calendar.yahoo.com/merida_iwc

The IWC is also looking for volunteers to teach English to children on a regular basis. If you want more info, please call the Library.

The Men's Group meets at 9:00 am the first and third Tuesday of the month at Bistro Kaapej (above Benedetti's Pizza) at the corner of Calle 29 and Prolongacion Montejo. Contact Roger at 924-6792. All are welcome!

STARBUCKS...now brewing in Merida!

Casa Frederick Catherwood, Calle 59 #572, at Calle 72 (west of Church of Santiago). Enjoy a Starbuck's coffee...on the terrace, take it with you, or

buy a pound to make it at home your way. Take time to check out the wonderful Catherwood lithographs while you are there! Shop for unique gifts and soy candles...

For the month of September, anyone showing the MEL/CASA CATHERWOOD note at the end of this newsletter will receive two receipts for their TOTAL purchases, including the gift shop. At the end of September, Louis Nevaer will donate 10% of those receipts to MEL. Bring the second copy of your receipt to MEL. Enjoy your purchases and help MEL...sure beats a coffee and a donut...LOL

ADMINISTRATOR'S RAMBLINGS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are always looking for more volunteers, whether to staff the desk during the week, Conversaciones on Monday nights, story hours on Saturday mornings, Chili Cook Off, etc.

Time is a great way to help MEL!

Starting September 21st, the Library will host a monthly social event – MEL-O NITES, the THIRD FRIDAY of every month at the Library. (This is similar to the old NAFTA events).

We are in serious need of a committee of volunteers to set up, sell tickets, purchase supplies, clean-up, etc. It is anticipated that there will be a rotating schedule, so no one person will work every month (unless you want to). We will continue to hire a bartender.

Call today at 924-8401 (MEL) or you can reach me by cell 999 149 3048 anytime if you want to be a part of the team or for any other volunteer opportunities.

I know we have many capable people amongst our members!

STARBUCKS AND MEL!

Cut out this piece of the newsletter and take it with you to
CASA CATHERWOOD –Calle 59 #572, near Calle 72

10% of your total purchases will be donated back to MEL at the end
of September 2007.

Please save your copy of the receipt.
Thanks for supporting MEL and Casa Catherwood.