

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 10: NUMBER 5.....MAY, 2015

New Noir

The two decades framing the Second World War were dark times politically and socially for most of the world, but now, more than sixty years on, they have become a rich period for fiction, particularly for author Philip Kerr who has created a new noir echoing the hard-boiled detective fiction of that era with his series featuring German police detective Bernie Gunther.

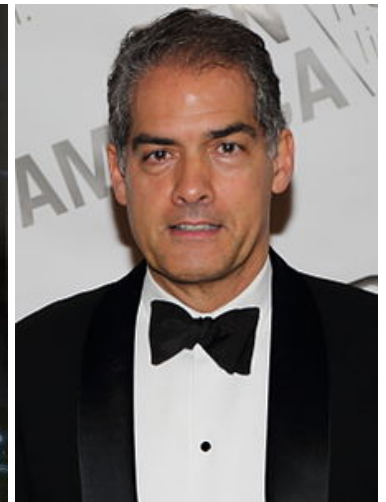
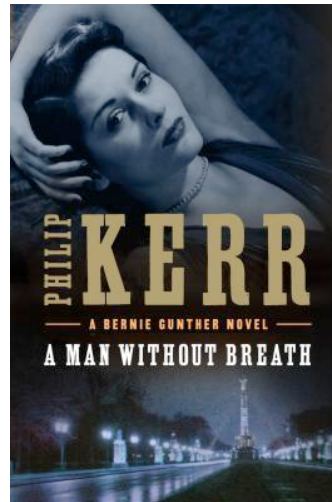
Featured This Month

A Man Without Breath by Philip Kerr

In this ninth novel of the series, the former Berlin police detective, Bernie Gunther, is now a very reluctant and decidedly subversive captain in the German army. It is 1943 and the German offensive into Russia has been stopped at Stalingrad with catastrophic losses; Rommel's vaunted tank corps is retreating across North Africa; the Americans are pouring into Britain and planning the invasion of Europe. Almost everyone, except Der Fuhrer, of course, can see that the jig will soon be up.

Bernie has been assigned to the Wehrmacht War Crimes Bureau. The irony of this posting is not at all lost on wise-cracking, cynical Bernie, but it appears there is a genuine case to be investigated. Word has come of the discovery of a mass grave in the Katyn Forest near Smolensk, a massacre of thousands of Polish soldiers, and Bernie's superiors, notably Joseph Goebbels of the Nazi Propaganda office, see an opportunity to drive a wedge between the Allies and deflect the coming condemnation of their own activities if it can be shown that the killing was done by the Russian NKVD. Bernie is dispatched to "dig up" the truth --if it's advantageous to the Party.

Bernie's arrival in Smolensk is not welcomed by the German command there, a bunch of old school Prussian officers whose families are intertwined and who are at last realizing that Hitler has stolen from them their generations-long patriarchy and led the



country once again to the brink of ruin. They have a plan to shorten the war and sue for peace before they are totally defeated and subject to the harshest terms of surrender. Bernie discovers their plot, but while he is no Nazi inside his uniform, neither is he a fan of the German aristocracy that raised Hitler for their own purposes and then lost control of him.

Meanwhile, as if the war didn't involve enough death, some German soldiers are brutally murdered in what may be an effort to keep certain information away from the Berlin investigator and indeed, Bernie himself may be a target.

Kerr is not only an excellent story teller but an able historian, basing his Gunther novels on actual events of the Second World War and intertwining the personal stories of his engaging fictional characters with real figures from that era, giving the reader a taste of what it might have been like to have lived a piece of that terrible but fascinating history.

Review by Mary Anne Ciancia

Notes from the Library Board

Many thanks to all those who participated in the **Hillsboro Community Library 2015 Book Fest** -- authors, attendees, and volunteers --all who made it such a successful and enjoyable event!

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New at the Library

Fiction

Blue Turquoise, White Shell by Virginia Nosky
The Law of Nines by Terry Goodkind
Tears of the Jaguar by A. J. Hartley
Comanche Moon by Larry McMurtry
Rock Bottom by Erin Brockovich with C.J. Lyons
Snowbound by Blake Crouch
Pitch Dark by Steven Sidor
Caravan by Dorothy Gilman
The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho
The Blue Bistro by Elin Hildebrand
The Virgin's Lover by Philippa Gregory
Silent House by Orhan Pamuk
There Was an Old Woman by Hallie Ephron
We All Fall Down by Michael Harvey
The Darker Side by Cody McFadyen
The Given Day by Dennis Lehane

Nonfiction

Passionate Nomad: *The Life of Freya Stark* by Jane Fletcher Geniesse
Restless Souls: *The Sharon Tate Family's Account of Stardom, the Manson Murders, and a Crusade for Justice* by Alisa Statman with Brie Tate
The Strange Last Voyage of Donald Crowhurst by Nicholas Tomalin and Ron Hall
The Wilderness of Ruin by Rosanne Montillo
The Dog Who Could Fly by Damien Lewis
Gulp by Mary Roach
Essential Atlas of Fossils and Minerals by Jose Tola Anaya, Juan Estevan, and Denise Chavez
The Art of Natural Building, 2nd Edition by Joseph F. Kennedy, Michael G. Smith and Catherine Wanek

Mystery

Arsenic and Old Paint by Hailey Lind
Dead Zero by Stephen Hunter
The Devlin Diary by Christi Phillips
Shock Wave by John Sandford
Soft Target by Stephen Hunter
The Hit by David Baldacci
Suspect by Robert Crais
Wicked Business by Janet Evanovich
Crossfire by Dick Francis and Felix Francis
Dead Heat by Dick Francis and Felix Francis
Even Money by Dick Francis and Felix Francis
The Great Leader by Jim Harrison
True Detectives by Jonathan Kellerman
The Boy in the Snow by M. J. McGrath
Gideon's Sword by D. Preston and Lincoln Child
Murder at the Opera by Margaret Truman
Murder inside the Beltway by Margaret Truman
Rode Away Hard, Put Away Dead by S. Browning
The Calling of the Grave by Simon Beckett
The Chemistry of Death by Simon Beckett
The Typhoon Lover by Sujata Massey
Endangered by C. J. Box
Rizzoli & Isles: Last to Die by Tess Gerritsen
Where Angels Rest by Kate Brady
False Mermaid by Erin Hart
A Hard Death by Jonathan Hayes
Darkness, Take My Hand by Dennis Lehane
Moonlight Mile by Dennis Lehane
Live by Night by Dennis Lehane
Rain Gods by James Lee Burke

Library Hours:

Sunday & Monday: closed
Tues. 3:30 - 5:30pm Wed. 1:00 - 4:00pm
Thurs: 3:30 - 5:30pm Fri: 10:00am - 1:00pm
Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, May 20

Hillsboro: 1:00 - 2:00 pm Kingston: 2:30 - 3:30 pm

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit
<http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com>

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