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Ask for the Scene when you order a Domino's Pizza!
 See Page 57 for details.

Bookin'

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Barnes & Noble (West Side) — 705 Sunland Park. Hours are 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday. Information: 581-5353.

Horror/fantasy writer Lincoln Crisler will sign his book latest book "Despairs and Delights" at 2 p.m. Saturday, **Aug. 23**.

Recurring activities and groups:

- The Sisters in Crime Book Group meets at 7 p.m. Monday, **Aug. 11**.
- Third Monday Reading Group meets 10 a.m. Monday, **Aug. 18**, to discuss "Luncheon of the Boating Party" by Susan Vreeland.
- En la Sombra de Sor Juana Inez de la Cruz bilingual reading group meets at 5 p.m. Tuesday, **Aug. 19**.

Children's storytimes are 11 a.m. Saturdays. Special guest on **Aug. 16** is Chef Jon Paul of the Lancer's Club.

This year's Summer Reading Program for kids entering grades 1-6 focuses on Andrew Clements' "Frindle" and other bestsellers. The Barnes & Noble book fair supporting Community Scholars is Friday through Sunday, **Aug. 8-11**. A percentage of book sales will go towards the program's youth leadership development. Saturday's fair includes a series of presentations and discussions behind the cafe:

- 10 a.m. — Think Clean, Go Green: An Inventory of El Paso's Environmental Issues
- Noon — National Sub Prime Market Crash: Is El Paso Living in a Bubble?
- 2 p.m. — Conducting Success in the Southwest: Bringing Economic "Energy" to the El Paso Region

'Voices and Vision' reading — BorderSenses literary magazine will host a reading from its El Paso Project at 6 p.m. Friday, **Aug. 29**, at the Rio Grande Little Temple, at El Paso Community College Rio Grande Campus, 906 El Paso. Admission is free. Information: bordersenses.com or group@bordersenses.com.

'Rio Grande Review' submissions — UTEP's bilingual literary journal is accepting submissions **through Sept. 30** for the Fall 2008 issue. Writers can submit fiction, poetry, nonfiction, translations, flash fiction, screenplays, memoirs, graphic novel excerpts and interviews in either English or Spanish. Prose should be 5,000 words or less; poetry 10 pages or less. There is no submission fee. Information: 747-7012 or utep.edu/rgr.

Submissions sent to: UTEP, PMB 671; 500 W. University 79968. On-line submission sent to rgr@utep.edu.

The Bookery — 10167 Socorro Road, Socorro. The Bookery, inside the Mission Trail Trading Post about a half-mile past the Socorro Mission, specializes in children's books, storytelling puppets, teachers' resources and regional interest books. Open 7 days a week, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Information: 859-6132 or 859-4066.

The Branigan Book Club — The club meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at Thomas Branigan Memorial Library's Terrace Gallery, 200 East Picacho Ave. The August book is "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan" by Lisa See. Information: (575) 528-4001 or mpendleton@las-cruces.org.

ESL classes — El Paso Public Library and El Paso Independent School District hosts free English as a Second Language classes 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, through May at various branches. Registration is 9 a.m. the first day of class Saturday, **Sept. 6**. Information: 543-5494.

New on the Border Bookshelf

The following are recent additions of interest to El Paso area readers:

"The Socorro Blast" by Pari Noskin Taichert. (New Mexico Press). This continuation of the "Sasha Soloman Mystery" series by the Agatha Award-nominated author centers on the Socorro area. Readers will find many familiar sites including Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge and Very Large Array. Soloman's niece, who studies explosives at NM Tech, finds herself the victim of a potential hate crime. Not familiar the past exploits of Taichert's fiery and feisty public relations consultant (and self-appointed sleuth) protagonist, I couldn't get too attached to any of the characters, not even her "intuitive" friend Darnda or Leo the Cat. I also found the "resolve" a little shallow. The situation itself, however, lends itself to fodder for discussion groups concerning racial profiling, hate crimes and ethnic prejudice in a post 9-11 world. Mixed with some fun and spirited wordplay and off-beat humor, this book can serve as both a "summer reading" mystery or a deeper look into one's own hidden preconceived prejudice.

"The Smell of Old Lady Perfume" by Claudia Guadalupe Martinez (Cinco Puntos Press). This El Paso native's debut novel is a melodic and melancholy tale of a girl's sixth-grade year. The book begins with the high expectations of most incoming sixth graders looking forward to being the top of the food chain at an El Paso elementary school. Chela Gonzalez soon finds her friends leaving her behind in shallow pursuit of popularity. After her loving "Apá" (father) is rushed to the hospital, her mother's mother moves in to help and the air becomes thick with "the smell of old lady perfume, dying flowers and alcohol."

I normally shy away from anything that includes "bittersweet" in the promotional description, particularly when it concerns the fate of a "daddy's girl" and her father, but I found the middle school struggles (and personal triumph) faced by Chela endearing, particularly as a fellow nerd who was continuously put off by the "tween girl hierarchy." Although she now resides in Chicago, Martinez hasn't lost her connection and passion for her border roots, which I hope to see continued in her future works.

— Lisa Kay Tate

Locations: Main Library, 501 N. Oregon; Clardy Fox, 5515 Robert Alva; Doris Van Doren, 551 Redd, and Richard Burges, 9600 Dyer.

REFORMA Conference — The 3rd National Conference for librarians is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Monday, **Sept. 18-22**, at Camino Real Hotel, 101 S. El Paso, Downtown. The 2008 theme is "Bridging Gaps: Juntos@the Border," emphasizing the diversity of issues not only in relation to libraries but the social, cultural and political aspects surround, divide and bring communities together. Events include author luncheons, tours of El Paso libraries and missions and Juarez, receptions, exhibitors and an awards banquet and dance. Registration: \$100-\$250 by Aug. 22; \$125-\$275 on-site. One-day and group rates available. Information: 312-280-1538 or reforma.org.

REFORMA is the National Association to promote library and information services to Latinos and the Spanish speaking.