

MITCHELL KAPLAN

While you may know Mitchell Kaplan as the owner of one of the premier bookstore in the country, Books and Books, did you know that he is also co-founder of the cultural institution called the Miami Book Fair International which was birthed in 1983? He still serves as Chair of its Board of Directors. He serves on the steering committee of the Florida Center for the Literary Arts, Miami-Dade College's literary center. Mitchell recently served a two-year term as President of the American Booksellers' Association, And, he also serves on the Board of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression.

As a librarian, I love research. So I dug deep, and way back to a 1987 Tropic Magazine profile in the Miami Herald crafted by *JOEL ACHENBACH*.

That stated: He reads more than all but a few of his customers. At Kaplan's house are about 10 loaded bookcases, He's a salesman who can look you in the eye and say, hey, this product is so good I use it myself.

Kaplan is in the vanguard of independent booksellers in the United States. He considers his store to be in the subcategory of "literary bookstores," of which you can usually find only a precious few in even the country's largest cities.

Books & Books: is not only possibly the finest bookstore in the country, at the least, it seems the most dynamic, if such a word can be applied to a place that aspires to serenity.

In the profile Mitchell said "We encourage people to get lost, to browse," That was in 1987 – turn the page to 2011, and his model of a bookstore survives, thrives and new stores are opening. Today, we're going to learn how.

We're lucky to have this very busy S. Florida icon here today! Please join me in welcoming Mitchell Kaplan.

Naomi Wilzig, one of the art world's more remarkable women in such diverse fields as erotic art, Judaic studies and even healthcare.

Miss Naomi is recognized as a leading authority on the subject of erotic art, and has published five books on her personal collection.

One of six children born in Newark, New Jersey in the mid 1930's to H. Jerome Sisselman, known as the Hackensack Meadowlands Czar because of his successful real estate developments. In 1953 Naomi married Siggie B. Wilzig, an Auschwitz survivor, who lived to become a founder of the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. and CEO & President of *The Trust Company of New Jersey*, a major N.J. bank until his death in 2003.

Numerous organizations have benefited from Miss Naomi's insight and service. Such as the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, Israel, the Wilzig Hospital Center in Jersey City, N.J. and many other philanthropic institutions.

Miss Naomi has penned an award winning script on Jewish identity and the Holocaust. Her books about her personal erotic art collection include Forbidden Art: The World of Erotica, Visions of Erotica, Erotic Secrets, Erotic Treasures, and Erotic Wonders.

Wilzig is most recently the Founder and President of the World Erotic Art Museum in Miami Beach, Florida.

Of all of her many accomplishments, Ms Naomi is most proud of being mother to three successful children and a devoted grandmother.

Today we're fortunate to hear about this grandmother taking on landlords, taking on the press, taking on city hall. We're in for an earful about censorship. You can compare how we, as librarians, are trained to respond to challenges against books. We actually expect this from the public and have ALA support. But this woman didn't have the ALA, she was an individual fighting for an entire collection of art. This story would make a good movie!

Please join me in welcoming...Naomi Wilzig.

DIANA SILVEIRA

Diana – this intro may sound familiar to you because I gathered the tidbits about you from emails written by your old boss, Charlie Parker - Executive Director, TBLC notifying your colleagues of your departure from Ask A Librarian and from two librarians who wrote about how they admired your work. Debra Bogart, Library Director from Keiser University Tampa and Debora Stewart, *Reference Librarian*, Warren Library at Palm Beach Atlantic University

In January of this year, and this happened to be on my birthday, Diana! Diana Silveira, manager of Ask a Librarian, Florida's collaborative virtual reference service, left one cutting edge technology position to develop her own cutting edge consulting business.

Diana came to Tampa Bay Library Consortium during Ask a Librarian's formative days 8 years ago to get the service up and running. The current service's success is a testimony to her vision, ability to keep up with rapidly changing technology, and the ability work with others – lots of others, in a collaborative environment both face-to-face and in a virtual online world.

One of Ask a Librarian's greatest accomplishments is the building of a network of over a thousand librarians from 120+ different libraries. Because of the buy-in of those institutions and library staff, Ask a Librarian has matured and thrived.

Diana brought to the project an approach one would expect in a private sector technology company – marketing, promotion, evaluating technology platforms, and web design. She is always on the lookout for the next thing.

She has contributed to Ask a Librarian's aggressive marketing campaigns and the positioning of FL's virtual reference program even on a national level. Debra Bogart, MLS, Library Director from Keiser University Tampa wrote that She has represented TBLC in such a positive way, the program grew under her guidance.

I love this quote from Warren Library, PB Atlantic U: Debora Stewart, *Reference Librarian/Learning Resources Consultant*, Warren Library at Palm Beach Atlantic University wrote She has been a driving force behind the success of the statewide virtual reference service. As the consummate professional, she built a strong team and provided the needed encouragement and professional development opportunities that enabled those of us at various institutions all over the state to feel like we were part of something quite extraordinary.

Please join me in welcoming Diana Silveira!

What's going on with DCLA?

Our shiny new logo

Our website - dclmiami.org includes blogs on Worldwide Library News, Local Happenings and Events, Library Politics and Budgets

Easy access to [LINK TO JOBLISTINGS](#)

ALA JobLIST	13	
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But there's so many ways to improve and that's where YOU come in. We're looking for content for the website. It's only been up for two months and We're looking for a Joomla expert who wants to create a more vibrant website. Coming down the pike will be RSS feeds, online membership application, and whatever we can dream up...

We've got a Facebook page, a Twitter page. We want to use DCLA to link us together.

Silos defines entities that work independently and without interaction. DCLA wants to bridge silos.

Next up: the Luncheon on Friday, May 20th

Our Keynote speaker for that event will be Alecia Zuckerman – check your flier.

If you are familiar with the show WLRN show Under the Sun it airs on Thursdays during NPR's Morning Edition and All Things Considered. It's all about US and our lives in S. Florida.

Alicia asked us to promote a challenge to you!

Under the Sun is collaborating with [Lip Service](#) to produce a live event Saturday, April 23 at the Miracle Theatre in Coral Gables, and your story could be the star of the show.

Your story has to be true, it has to be about you, and it has to tell us something about life in South Florida. So if you have a 1000 word or less story that you want to share with a live audience, as well as a radio audience, send it our way. The event will be recorded for broadcast on WLRN. Tickets for the event go on sale on March 23.

submissions@lipservicestories.com. <http://wlrnunderthesun.org/2011/02/tell-your-south-florida-story-out-loud/>

The board members and I wish to offer our deepest thanks and gratitude to Juan Zarigoza and Carlos Albizu University for providing this venue with no cost and being exceptionally devoted to DCLA and wonderful hosts.

A huge thank you to Costco Wholesale – who is devoted to the community in which they do business. They are both a good employer and a good company.

Thank you all for being here today. Have a wonderful time. See you back here for the Keynote and then the wrap up.