

Agenda for SBRA Meeting

Wednesday Oct. 20, 2016

At home of Lauren Cole

- **Call to Order: 7:00 P.M.** (We will begin as soon as we have a quorum)
- **Introductions**
- **Approve Minutes** from 9/21/16 board meeting
- **Reports:**
 - Treasurer Alisa
 - Land Use & Transportation Lauren
 - Bundy Mayfield Stop sign
 - Brentwood School
 - Landmark Apts Marilyn
 - 12237 Wilshire Maya
 - October 2017 BSMS Centennial Reunion Laurel
 - Facebook page *10 minutes* Merri
- **Old Business**
 - Tree Removal at 12303 Gorham Avenue Marilyn
 - 2017 AGM Thursday April 27, 2017 Elyse
 - Schedule AGM Committee meeting
 - Speakers and theme
 - 2016 Sponsor report
- **New Business**
 - Fall Festival 2017 Elyse
 - Membership Discussion *10 minutes*
- **9:00 Adjournment**

***Next Board Member Meeting:** November 16, 2016 (Location to be confirmed)

A Review of *Lavender*, written by Friend of SBRA, Jack Godwin

Review of *Lavender ... For You*

Lavender ... For You, a novel set in the ancient Mediterranean, by Jack Godwin, ©2015, is so much fun to read! The author, a distinguished aerospace engineer in satellite telecommunications, with 20 U.S. patents, is also one of our own. Jack is a docent at the Getty Villa, since 2006, and an astute, serious student of ancient history.

The year 63 BCE. hails the birth of three Roman children, two patricians, and one slave. Arcas, the son of a Greek slave, Electra, the patrician granddaughter of Lucius Calpurnius Piso Caesonius, and Octavius (Augustus), heir to Julius Caesar, grow up at the end of the Roman Republic and during the civil war between Caesar and Pompey. This is the story of their parallel and sometimes intersecting lives, but mostly, it is the story of Arcas.

Arcas and his family are field slaves on an agricultural estate in Campania, owned by Lucius Calpurnius Piso. They work winters on the farm and summers at Piso's new seaside Villa in Herculaneum. Arcas is taught by his mother, Chrysanthe, to read and write Greek. He learns to read and write Latin in tutoring sessions each summer with Electra and her siblings at the Villa. Chrysanthe and Electra are smart, strong, women as is Arcas's lover, Kiya in Egypt, and Delphina, his wife in Sicily.

At the age of 14, Arcas boldly asks the overseer to recommend to Piso that he be given as a gift to Julius Caesar. Astonishingly, the request is granted, and Arcas begins his odyssey of adventure and discovery across the Mediterranean world as Caesar's personal slave, and then as a freed man. Within days, Arcas is sent by Caesar as a scout to spy on Pompey's camps to determine the strength of the army, the first of many successful assignments. Arcas travels to Macedonia, Thessaly, Athens, Ephesus, Alexandria, Thebes, Actium, Messina, Sicily, Misenum, and back to Herculaneum.

There are political conspiracies, and love affairs, and fascinating details of everyday life in the ancient world. The author gives such a human context to life at the Villa in Herculaneum, the luxurious Ptolemaic Palace in Alexandria, the farm in Sicily, and the naval base at Misenum. The historic places feel so real and accessible. The architecture, gardens, and cultures come alive. The richness of daily life is only matched by the specifics of military and naval battles and ship building.

Interwoven in Arcas's odyssey is the historical narrative of Julius Caesar's romance with 21 year-old Cleopatra, his long campaign and victory over Pompey, and his assassination, as well as Octavius's rise to power and triumph over Marc Antony at Actium. In addition to auspicious battles and historical events, the author gives insights into the leadership styles of Caesar and Octavius.

Eric Bruehl said, "Jack has accurately described everyday life in the ancient Mediterranean."

Bravo, Jack. *Lavender... For You* is a compelling read with Arcas its wonderful Greek and Roman hero. Jack's book is available, free, in electronic form. Email greenjack@aol.com and indicate whether you like the PDF or Kindle version.

Review submitted by Fontayne Holmes.