



Taking stock

Atlanta CFOs like Lisa Loften focus on priorities for the future. **STRATEGIES SECTION B**



November 1-7, 2013

www.atlantabusinesschronicle.com

Time Out

With Eleanor Ringel Cater

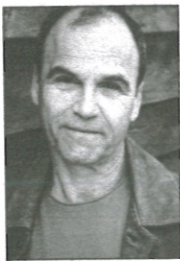


LITERARY LUMINARIES

Everybody knows Woody Allen is Jewish. Adam Sandler, too. Let's toss in Streisand and Midler as well.

But how about ... Mr. Spock (aka Leonard Nimoy), Captain Kirk (aka William Shatner), Kirk Douglas, Goldie Hawn (half), James Caan, Harrison Ford (half), Paul Newman (half), Stanley Kubrick, Spike Jonze, James Franco (mom), Mila Kunis, those nice Gyllenhaal kids, Harry Potter (aka Daniel Radcliffe, also half), Gwyneth Paltrow (dad), Paul Rudd and, yes, Scarlett Johansson (another halfie)?

The reason I bring this up is pretty simple: I couldn't figure out why best-selling author Scott Turow ("Presumed Innocent") is opening the 22nd edition of the Book Festival of the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta. Of course — as is true of Kenny Blank's Atlanta



Scott Turow

Jewish Film Festival — you needn't be Jewish to have your film (book) chosen, but some sort of Jewish theme is expected. And Turow's new book, "Identical," doesn't seem to have a particularly Jewish component.

But duh ... Turow is of Jewish Russian heritage. That's why he's the Festival's opening act. (Well, also because he's really famous and writes really good books.) Tomorrow evening (Nov. 2), at 8:15 p.m., Turow will talk about and sign "Identical," which puts a modern spin on the ancient Greek myth of Castor and Pollux, twin brothers with the same mother but separate dads.

It's a little complicated, but that's how a lot of Greek myths are. Try sorting out the genealogy of the House of Atreus.

The Festival runs for two weeks, ending Nov. 17 with Pat Conroy and "The Death of Santini." Conroy has been married to a Jewish woman (see "Prince of Tides"), but now is with Cassandra King, a formidable writer in her own right. And as MJCCA co-chair Wendy Berman explains, "He (Conroy) is not Jewish, but he was a long-time member of the JCC when the Midtown Branch was open."

I'd say he's a great writer who'd be welcome anywhere.

Just glancing through the schedule gets your book glands salivating. (Is that too gross?) On the one hand, there's Larry Tye, who deconstructs The Man of Steel in his book "Superman: The High-Flying History of America's Most Enduring Hero" (Sunday, Nov. 3, 4:30 p.m.). On the other, there's Harry Rosenfeld and his "From Kristallnacht to Watergate: Memoirs of a Newspaperman" (Monday, Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m.)

Somewhere in between are a pair of local legends: Clark Howard, who talks about "Clark Howard's Living Large for the Long Haul" at 8:15 p.m. on Wednesday, and Cliff Graubart, whose Old New York Bookshop was the closest thing to a literary salon Atlanta ever had. I met Conroy there. And the Great Santini himself. The Bookshop is gone (but never forgotten)

and Graubart's world is still books. He presents his newest work, "The Curious Vision of Sammy Levitt and Other Stories" on Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m.

And the list goes on. If you go hear Cliff, you should stick around for Lily Koppel at 12:30; her best-seller, "The Astronaut Wives Club: A True Story," is being adapted for TV by one of the creators of "Gossip Girl."

Pulitzer Prize-winner A. Scott Berg is back in town to talk up "Wilson" (Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.). and Jeffrey Toobin (as in, The New Yorker and CNN) presents "The Oath: The Obama White House and the Supreme Court" on Thursday, Nov. 7, at 7:30 p.m.

I'll tell you about the second week next time, but here's a tease: The topics range from Downton Abbey to Hollywood's pact with Hitler. (Yes, you read that right.)

For more information, head to the website.