

# Writer's Festival Booked Solid



**Hal Gershowitz and Jamie Kabler. Photo by Pat Krause**

**By Pamela Price**

The fourth Annual Rancho Mirage Writer's Festival staged at the Rancho Mirage Public Library January 28-29 was

a bold success on several fronts. According to Debbie Green, Executive Producer there were 50 authors on the program speaking to 1200

readers. The range of books was dynamically diverse this year, from Craig Carlson's author of Pancakes in Paris and Edward Humes, author of Garbology: Our Dirty Affair with Trash to Dave Barry, author of Best.State.Ever (it's Florida) and Travis Mills inspiring book, Never Give up. Never Quit.

The Festival began on Saturday at 9 am with the first fifty-minute presentations staged throughout the Library, with comfortable seating in rooms named for authors (of course) such as the John Steinbeck Room, the Jack London Room, the Anne Rice Room and the Joan Didion room. A highlight of the event is having books signed by the authors, near a pop-up store operated by Barnes & Noble. Jamie Kabler, founder of the event and featured on the

cover of R/M, The Magazine of Rancho Mirage this month was called "A Man of Many Words." Nancy Tapick, attending the program on Sunday featuring Dennis Prager and Bret Stephens, moderated by Hal Gershowitz said the authors presented "in all a good mix, with "something for everyone." Among the ShortTalks was one presented on Sunday, Sunnylands: America's Midcentury Masterpiece, with Janice Lyle. Now known as the Camp David of the West, Sunnylands in Rancho Mirage is a stunning masterpiece of modernism architecture and décor. During the fifty-minute presentation, she discussed stories and photographs about the estate featured in its latest book. If you heard laughter around that same time it was emanating from

the Joan Didion Room where author Carl Hiaasen's hilarious comments on Razor Girl, were less restrained. More comments that are serious were related by H.W. Brands in Walt Disney Room where author H.W. Brands delved into the life of President Ulysses Grant and his "genius for battle" proving there was a book of interest for everyone.

David Bryant, the Rancho Mirage Public Library's Director said, in the event's program, the Festival "honors the value of our books in our American history of intellectual freedom." From the Red Carpet entrance attended to by a bevy of vigilant valets to a staff of conscientious concierges this year's event was, according to friends of Phyllis Eisenberg who attended "another literary lovefest! Read more at [www.rmwritersfes.org](http://www.rmwritersfes.org)

**Pam Price services on the Cathedral City Public Arts Commission**