

on the bookshelf

The Ultimate Key Lime Pie Book and a New Publishing Company

“The Ultimate Key Lime Cookbook” by David L. Sloan (Phantom Press, \$19.95)

“Some people were enraged at the mere mention of a Key lime pie cookbook,” writes David Sloan in a “Just Desserts” page at the back of his latest, locally published book. “Your variations are an abomination!” “This is sacrilege!” But he went ahead anyway and this Key lime pie masterpiece is now available.

The book cites 150,000 pie variations in its 182 rectangular pages. Sloan is clearly an exemplary aficionado — that’s “fan” — of the Key lime and has managed, somehow or another, to accumulate everything you’d ever need to know about the history of the pie, how to make the crust, the filling, the topping in an unbelievable variety of ways, all the nutrition facts, all the tips and tricks and even a crazy collection of trivia on the



ROB O’NEAL/Solares Hill

David Sloan in action.

life of pie (for example, that 6 million men between the ages of 35 and 54 have eaten the last slice of pie at a party *and denied it*).

We counted 132 subheads within his seven chapters, meaning he has covered all the bases. There has never been a book quite like this before and there will likely never be one again.

That might also be said of this writer’s other books. David L. Sloan is a most

talented and friendly fellow and another quote of his worth sharing in addition to his “people were enraged” above is this one: “I went insane in 1996 and a little voice inside my head told me to quit the corporate world and move to Key West.” He became the founder of Ghost Tours here and the author-publisher of numerous publications including “Quit Your Job and Move to Key West,” “Don’t Do It! 101 Reasons Not To Marry Her” and, with Christopher Shultz, “The Hangover Survival Guide: Key West” and, with Matthew Casey, “Haunted Key West/Strange Key West.”

Good luck, David, and many great limes to you always.

— Reviewed by Mark Howell

Book News: Key West Publisher Launches New eBook Company

Readers of Sunday’s Solares Hill and Thursday’s Paradise in The Key West Citizen know Shirrel Rhoades as the film critic whose weekly Front Row at the Movies column and Top 10 movie lists keep us up to speed on the movie scene in town. He’s long enjoyed a career as a publisher, working with some of the nation’s biggest book and magazine



companies (Scholastic, Atlantic Monthly, Marvel Entertainment) before semi-retiring to Key West. He was last with the book and home entertainment division of Reader’s Digest.

Eschewing paper for digital, Shirrel this week, along with attorney Albert L. Kelley and computer technician Charles A. Newman, has launched a virtual book publishing company. This new enterprise exists only in cyberspace, where it publishes ebooks for the Kindle, Nook, iPad and other such e-reader devices.

Starting off with more than two dozen new books, Absolutely Amazing eBooks plans to publish 200 or more titles a year. The book genres range from mysteries to romance, science fiction to self-help, travel to young adult, even photography collections.

The company’s main

focus, we’re told, is discovering new writers who haven’t been able to break into the closed shops of mainstream publishers. “It’s absolutely amazing how many good writers out there aren’t getting published,” Rhoades said last week. “We decided to offer an alternative publishing environment for them.”

Among the local authors appearing at www.AbsolutelyAmazingEbooks.com are Brewster Chamberlin, Jane Dawkins, Randolph Becker, Brooke Babineau, Reef Perkins, Lura Gorman, Robert Green, Leah Benner, Elissa Bishop-Becker, John L. Guerra and photographer Richard Watherwax. Others come from all over the globe, including popular writers like William R. Burkett, Jr., Marjory Sorrell Rockwell, Maryjane Elizabeth Jones, Renee Kumor and Barthélemy Banks. Readers will also encounter rare or little-known works by noted authors Ray Bradbury, Isaac Asimov, John W. Campbell, Jr. and Dashiell Hammett.

And no title is priced at more than \$3.99.

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— M. H.

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