

Renewals Bookshop

221 Washington Street (at Rush)

Deborah Bell, proprietor

Renewals1@hotmail.com 386.957.3833

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday thru Saturday Closed every September



Books, all KINDS of books, at good prices await those who visit **Renewals**. Before even entering the store, a lovely wrap-around porch invites you to browse shelves, to sit and read. Arrive close to opening, and there's hot coffee to sip as you wander three densely filled rooms: Fiction and Non-Fiction; Romances, History and Mystery; Self-Help and How to Do; books for cooking and crafting, too. All are used, but not all are old: the inventory regularly includes best sellers and other new releases.

It's not hard to find a cozy spot to sit and read. And kids will love exploring their own book- filled nook under the stairs!



RENEWALS opened its doors in 2010: at once an inauspicious time for business and a sign of faith in our community's

future. Owner Deborah Bell has been coming to New Smyrna Beach since childhood, so it only made sense to set the later chapters of her life here. While continuing to live and work in Orlando, she bought the historical downtown home with its current multi-use in mind (she lives above) and began the renovations. It takes a good deal of work to bring a building of this vintage into compliance with today's codes (especially given the commercial requirements for a mixed-use property), but Debbie never considered tearing it down.



Older homes have character: they are places with life worn into them. A long slow approach (2003-2010) allowed doing everything up right, inside and out. Patrons can enjoy the shaded porch on temperate days, or being warmed by the original fireplace on rare colder mornings.



The choice to operate a bookstore stems from Debbie's life-long love of used bookstores and the old, sometimes strange, books they offer. Like old books, and old buildings, each offers unique charm.

Renewals tenders cozy, inviting spaces to browse for books, and to sit and read (to renew). Most of the Inventory comes through scouting yard and estate sales, but Debbie frequently opens the door to find boxes of books folks have left for her. (She donates those that don't suit her needs to charitable organizations.)

Throughout the year there are author readings and book signings, as Debbie believes strongly in community and the connections that can be made through shared enjoyments. An active member in the Canal Street Historic District, she also sponsors a monthly book discussion at the Hub on Canal that brings together a core group of warm, intelligent readers who welcome newcomers and returning snowbirds with enthusiasm. (Full disclosure: the author of this piece attends; check the Hub's website for the upcoming book titles.)