



Frances Halpern's son Michael is a nautical archeologist who lives in Meze, France



James Rollins turns out six pages a day when he's writing a new novel; he's finished nine so far



Fred and Joyce Lukas offered their elegant home for this year's Celebrity Authors Cocktail Party

Celebrity Authors

This year's CALMA Auxiliary Celebrity Authors Cocktail Party, which, along with the Celebrity Authors Luncheon, was co-founded by **Sharon Bifano** and **Stephanie Ortale** over two decades ago, was held in the elegant home of **Fred and Joyce Lukas** in Montecito. With its long driveway and Old World charm, the five-year-old manor sparkled like a mirror reflection of the faraway oil platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel within easy viewing from the main rooms.

The cocktail party always presents an opportune venue to hear many of the writers invited to the yearly get-together, and to meet them face to face, even, perhaps, to engage in conversation with a favorite author. For example:

Frances Halpern, whose regularly scheduled one-hour radio talk show airs every Saturday from 2 to 3 pm on KCLU (102.3 FM/ 88.3 FM in the Ventura area), celebrates 11 years on the air on St. Patrick's Day. She hopes to convince her son Michael Halpern to write a "thriller" fiction novel based upon his experiences under the sea. **Michael**, you see, is a nautical archeologist, and lives in Meze, France. He received his Masters in Nautical Archeology from Texas A & M, "which is located in College Station in the middle of, well, nowhere, and there isn't a body of water anywhere," Frances explains with a laugh as we savor a gourmet delight offered us by a passing server (Fresco! catered).

Michael's dives take him down 170 to 180 feet off the coast of Meze, in the Mediterranean, where "most of the old [ship] wrecks are." Her son has written "a bunch of essays on the subject" and Ms Halpern is hoping to help him put them together as a book. "The book may be called 'In Search Of The Wild Coconut'," Frances quips, rattling off the title of the only essay in the collection that has nothing at all to do with nautical archeology.