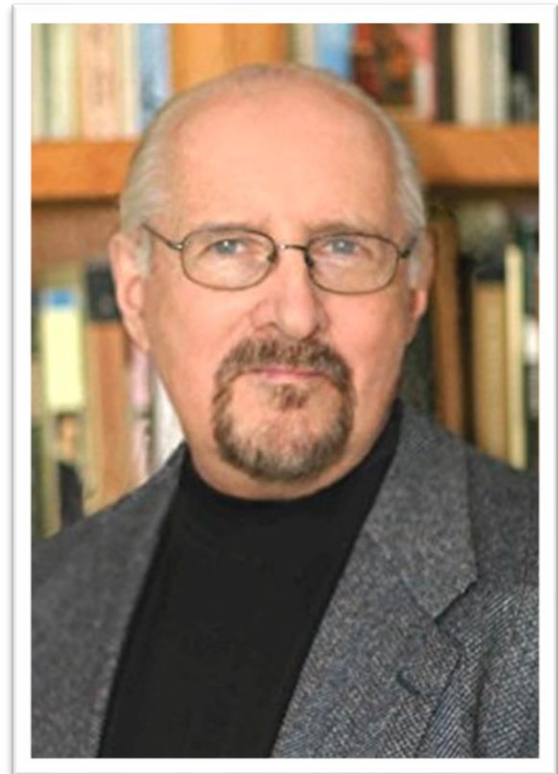


Published Writers of Rossmoor Featured Author for
September 2017 - Richard Devlin

Barbara Kirbach, Featured Authors Coordinator Backup

The Published Writers of Rossmoor (PWR) will again honor Richard Devlin as the Featured Author for the July 2017 publication of his book, "The Grotto: A Novel of Heresy, Holy War and Love." He and his novel will be recognized with displays in the Rossmoor Library and articles in the local media in September 2017.



The novel is the second in the Abraxas Chronicles series. Abraxas was a mysterious cult figure, first praised by Basilides, a gnostic heretic, who lived in Alexandria, Egypt during the second century. Devlin's first book, "The Cult, A Novel of Two Norman Kingdoms," was short-listed for Foreword Reviews' INDIEFAB 2015 Book-of-the-Year Award in Historical Fiction, winning an Honorable Mention.

"The Grotto" begins with the murder of a young guard in Normandy. The book's story then traces the fascinating lives of three major characters: Elise, Edmond and Martin. Despite having married other persons, Elise and Edmond remain deeply in love with one another. Edmond risks his life fighting with King Richard's forces in the Third Crusade. Martin, a scholar living in Norman Sicily, finds out that the dangerous Abraxas cult has resurfaced in Sicily. Devlin's second Abraxas novel describes the spread of the cult's chilling path from Normandy to Sicily, then to Cyprus and finally to Malta.

The background for both "The Grotto" and "The Cult" is in 12th century England and Arab-Norman Sicily. Although these two books describe the same main characters, each volume is self-contained and can be read either separately or sequentially.

Devlin was initially trained as a painter. This artistic predisposition is evident in his two books about the Abraxas Chronicles since many of the written phrases seem to *illicit* realistic visual images in the reader. In Richard's own words, the author said: "Ultimately, my idea for these two historical novels was inspired by the marvelous art and architecture I saw in Sicily in 2001. Several years later I had the idea of writing a novel that would explore medieval Sicily's fascinating multi-cultural heritage - a mix of Norman, Arab, Greek, Christian, Jew and Muslim."

Devlin moved to the San Francisco Bay Area from his former full-time academic position as the Chairperson of the Art Department at Carlow University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His teaching responsibilities included classes in studio art and art history. As a professional artist and published art critic he has had 15 one-person exhibitions of his paintings in the eastern and western United States.

At this time, Richard is a member of the PWR club and the Rossmoor Writing Group.

More information about the author can be found on his [Amazon](#) and [PWR](#) webpages.

Both "The Grotto" and "The Cult" are available through [Amazon](#) as a soft-cover book for \$12.95 and as a Kindle e-book for \$2.99.