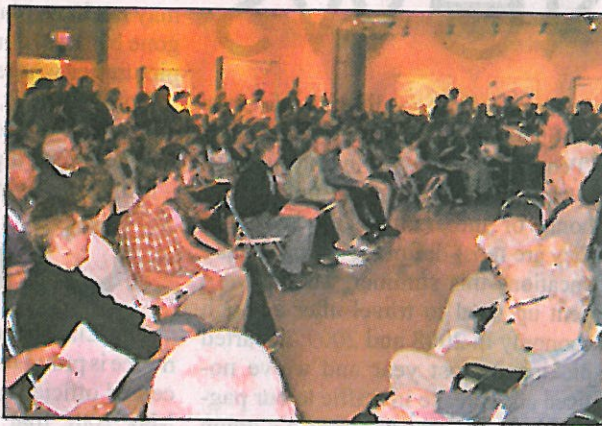


Reception held for SV Writers Project

Smoky Valley Writers celebrated the completion of their World War II published book project Wednesday evening, May 18, at the Sandzén Memorial Art Gallery. Nearly 250 family and friends came to hear the stories, honor those who collaborated with them, and view each writer's book, memorabilia from their war experiences, as well as letters from Bob Dole, who endorsed the project.

The writers, many who are World War II veterans, met weekly at U.S.D. 400's Vision_Tek computer center January through April to write about their experiences. Twelve Lindsborg Middle School sixth graders partnered with the twenty writers, inputted the stories on computers, and scanned accompanying photographs. At Wednesday's reception they read excerpts from each writer's stories before presenting a book to each writer.

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Ann Parr addresses the large group of honorees and guests at the Smoky Valley Writers reception in the Sandzén Gallery.

Reception held to honor Smoky Valley Writers Project

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Sixth Graders and Partners

Alyssa Patrick read from Dawn to Sunrise by Jeanne Ahlers. Jeanne's book describes her experiences as a six-year-old, December 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor through her presence at the ceremony at Sendai, Japan, April 28, 1952, when Japan became an independent, sovereign nation again.

Just Doing Our Job by Angel Andrewson wrote a collection of profiles from eleven community veterans compiled from interviews. Angel read an excerpt from her book.

Teri Loder-Arnhold, step-daughter of Willard Carlson read from World War II written by Willard Carlson. The text came from a biographical journal Willard created before his death this past December.

The Dahlstens' Story: 1940s, by Edna Dahlsten, (excerpt read by Ann Parr) recalls her experience of living in New York City during the war while her future husband, Lambert, served at an Air Force base north of London.

Maxwell Howe read from V-mail to E-mail by Don Ferguson. Don told his life as a radio operator in New Guinea, the Philippines, and Japan. In Manila, he established communications, received, and copied a message from the Japanese agreeing to the unconditional surrender demanded by the Americans and other Allied Forces.

Delaney Johnson read from The One We Call Hero by Kathryn Frantz. Kathryn recalls the story of her husband, Carl, his presence at Normandy July 1944, his being seriously wounded, and his miraculous recovery.

Bethany College students Emily Taggart and Emeryld Wills read from (and helped write) Rebuilding: Debris and Rubble, a story about Emory Frost's presence in Germany after the war, dealing with the cleanup and rebuilding after repeated bombings.

Emily Jones, Bethany College student, read from I Was a POW. Emily wrote Glen Funk's story of being shot down and captured in Romania while on a bombing mission from Italy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Glen lives in McPherson.

Marla Elmquist shared an excerpt from A Military Experience by Don Heline. Don expressed his thoughts about the benefits of serving his country in the U.S. Army. He did basic training at old Camp Funston, now Fort Riley, and was stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, doing communications work.

Katie Patterson read an excerpt from Being a Navy WAVE During World War II, Jo Holmquist's story of training at Hunter College in New York City and her PBX communications assignment in San Diego. Jo served as hostess to social events for soldiers preparing for overseas duty.

Lindsey Johnson read from All Aboard! by Mary Holmquist. Mary described her work in the aircraft industry, first doing woodworking at Cessna in Wichita followed by employment at Curtiss-Wright in Columbus, Ohio, where she worked with aircraft blueprints.

Rilee Carson told about Wilma Larson's book, Stories of World War II. Wilma Larson relays her work at the Boeing plant in Wichita as well as home front duties helping her father on the farm.

Yohannes Apel read an excerpt from Dots and Dashes: Navy Radioman in Ireland and Beyond by Mar-

vin Lundquist. It's Marvin's story of being in Ireland during the war, his gratitude for the experience and how it set him on a path for his life work as an agronomist. Marvin lives in McPherson.

Marla Elmquist read from Aubrey McNalley's book, The Memoirs of Aubrey McNalley. Aubrey is a McPherson resident, attended Oklahoma A&M before being drafted, and served in France and Germany.

Halle McClure shared portions of My Life as a World War II Nurse, the story she helped Alice Nelson write. Alice's first assignment was at Fort Carson, caring for soldiers from the Battle of the Bulge.

Joel Weide, Bethany College graduate, created a book, An Infantryman's Letters and Recollections about David Nutt, former Lindsborg resident. David served in Western Europe.

Emily Jones wrote I Suppose you Thought I Was Never Going to Write Home Again, the story of George Osborne, Jr., gathered from recently-found letters he wrote home. George, from Inman, died January, 2010.

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Meredith Galloway's reading of My Memories of World War II by Elaine Ragan gives a picture of home front life during World War II, and a snapshot of a military family's life. Elaine's husband was involved in the occupation of Japan, was in Germany during the building of the Berlin Wall, and served in Korea and Viet Nam during his military career.

Jacob Bryan shared from Jack Turner's book, World War II: War in Kansas. Following basic training at Jefferson Barracks in Missouri, Jack was sent to Sherman Field, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Photography training prepared him to document airplanes arriving and departing Sherman Field and prepared him for a lifetime of picture-taking.

Abby Rishel read from Warren Webster's book, World War II: A Personal Story. Warren chose the Navy, where he served in the Armed Guard. He traveled the globe manning the guns which armed merchant ships.

Eighth Grade Writers

Syd Dippel's middle school eighth grade language arts classes joined the project, enhancing their curriculum study of American History and English. Fourteen students paired with Bethany Home residents, veterans of World War II.

Yeremiah Apel wrote Fred Westfahl's story

Kirk Barnes wrote Hank Swartz's story

Keni Campbell wrote Jo Holmquist's story

Clayton Couchman wrote Bob Gordon's story

Michaela Heart wrote Lowell Miller's story

Wesley Johnson wrote Elaine Ragan's story

Hannah Lemen wrote Royer Barclays' story

Nils Peterson wrote Wally

Drevitts's story

Cole Norberg wrote Willis Olson's story

Morgan Roets wrote Alice Nelson's story

Moneka Rodriguez wrote Pip Nelson's story

Crystal Walker wrote Don Heline's story

Danyl Van Blaricon wrote Marie Nelsons' story

Benton Van Der Wege wrote Walt Schmidt's story

Contributors

Rebecca Van Der Wege presented grant funds from the Smoky Valley Community Foundation, followed by the presentation of certificates of appreciation to the following contributors: Bethany Home, Scott's Hometown Foods, Farmers State Bank, Lindsborg State Bank, Home State Bank, Don Ferguson, and Don Heline. After funding is covered for this project, any additional funding is applied to future projects. A set of twenty books was presented to the Lindsborg Community Library and soon will be available for checkout.

Ann Parr, project coordinator, and Marla Elmquist, director of Vision Tek computer center where project meetings took place, acknowledged U.S.D. 400 teachers and administrators for their efforts preparing students and arranging for their presence at meetings; Carolyn Gibson for designating the Lindsborg Senior Center as a sponsoring agency; project staff Holly Lofton and Mary Swenson; and the Sandzén Gallery for hosting the event. More public events will feature the writers and partners, including a snack and read night at the McPherson Public Library, Thursday, May 26, 6-8 p.m.

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