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Featuring Literary Carousel

by April Givens

Middlebury Library and Middlebury's Then and Now Committee have partnered to bring a new, exciting, and fun event to the town of Middlebury.

With the creation of the Middlebury Literary Carousel, we bring families, children, teens and adults, together in a fun and enjoyable atmosphere while emphasizing the importance of literacy for lifelong learning. This event also fills a void left by the discontinuance of the Young Authors Conference previously held for children. "We want to promote literacy. Reading is a base for all further education. The idea of the Literary Carousel is that literacy is not just reading with your eyes, it is also being literate speaker, getting hooked on the idea through story-telling or music. It leads to the creation of a stronger, vibrant community." Victoria Gutschenritter, Media/Programming Librarian

Bring your pencil or pen and a notebook to sample the joys of reading and literacy at the Carousel's programs. The Carousel starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends late afternoon. You can find the schedule on the library's website and at various Middlebury locations. Sessions, classes, and presentations throughout the day will be approximately an hour long. Everything is free except for Dinner and a Book with a nominal fee.

The first Middlebury Literary Carousel is planned for Saturday, May 5th, 2018, with sessions and activities appealing to all ages in a variety of interests, for Middlebury, and all of Elkhart County residents.

You can begin this adventure on the Carousel at the library. Philip Gulley, a Quaker pastor, writer, and speaker from Danville, Indiana, will be one of the authors. He is the author of 21 books, including the Harmony series recounting life in the eccentric Quaker community of Harmony, Indiana, the best-selling Porch Talk essay series, and the new Hope series.

Bruce Langton is an internationally known contemporary artist from Granger, Indiana. He has illustrated six books and designed a series of wildlife stamps for the USPS. He will be providing, "Learn to Illustrate" classes for all ages.

Marc Tyler Nobleman, author of books for all ages including *Bill the Boy Wonder: The Secret Co-Creator of Batman*, *Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman*, *Fairy Spell: How Two Girls Convinced the World That Fairies Are Real*, appeals to comic lovers and superheroes.

The Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America will provide a panel of local romantic discussion authors to answer questions on how to write and get published.

A local author meet and greet will also be a site to see. Come meet your neighbor who may have written a book!

A bookmark contest, sponsored by First State Bank, will be fun for all. Templates and contest guidelines, provided by the Middlebury Community Public Library and First State Bank, will be available in late March.

The Boys & Girls Club kids will be writing and reading their own, original stories. If you have an elementary student who would write a story and want to read a portion of it at this session, feel free to participate.

Hop back on the carousel and take a spin to the Krider Gardens where Shari Wagner will be providing a poetry writing workshop. She is Indiana's fifth Poet Laureate and the author of two books of poems. Her workshop, open to the first twelve people, is two hours long. Attendees will create a completed poem that is nature-based.

Step outside and have some fun with Chalk the Block. Sections of the sidewalk at East and Memorial Parks will be marked off for you to draw your own book cover right there on the sidewalk. A local artist will oversee it.

Back on the carousel, your next stop, at the Museum, will host the Genealogical Society of Elkhart County session on developing your family history as a narrative or story. There will also be a photo preservation and journaling segment, assisting you in maintaining and recording your family's events. Richard Smith will also tell local stories at the Museum.

Take another spin on the carousel to stop by East Park under the tent, where Lou Ann Homan will tell Northern Indiana stories.

The last stop of the Carousel adventure will be a WNIT "Dinner and a Book" session with Gail Martin at the library. She will prepare and share how to make church supper type food while talking about *Home to Harmony* by Philip Gulley. You will receive samples of the food and it will cost \$5 to participate. Keep watch on the library's website to learn how to reserve your seat!

With inquiries from as far as four hours away to hear some of these authors, we know that this will be a great event for the community.

"We couldn't have done all of this without the grant support, the donations, as well as the cooperation from the local groups," explains Victoria Gutschenritter, Media/Programming Librarian.

The Carousel committee consists of the Middlebury Community Public Library director, Terry Reinheimer, Victoria Gutschenritter, and Kim Clark, Middlebury Then and Now Committee volunteer. Several local organizations have collaborated with the Middlebury Community Public Library and Middlebury Then and Now Committee to make this event a reality. The partners to-date include: Middlebury Community Historical Museum, Middlebury Parks and Recreation Department, Friends of Middlebury Parks, Friends of the Library, Middlebury Community Enrichment Council, Greencroft Communities, Das Dutchman Essenhaus, First State Bank, and Harding's Markets. Donations and

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