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The Newsletter of Gustavus Library Associates | Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library

Spring 2010

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A Minnesota Treasure Sue Leaf is Author Day guest by Steve Waldhauser



On January 31, 2010, a spokesperson for the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library, lead sponsor of the Minnesota Book Awards, announced that Sue Leaf's memoir, *The Bullhead Queen: A Year on Pioneer Lake*, was a finalist for the award in the category of Memoir & Creative Nonfiction. Winners of the eight categories of Minnesota Book Awards will be revealed on April 17, so those who are present for Leaf's appearance at GLA's Spring 2010 Author Day on April 21 may be able to celebrate with her!

Sue Busch Leaf grew up in Roseville, Minn., and graduated from Gustavus in 1975 with a degree in biology. It was at Gustavus that her "double vision of nature"—science and religion—began, under the tutelage of religion professor Robert Esbjornson and biology

professor Charles Hamrum. She describes the conundrum at the time as being "a fish out of water," neither a strict scientist nor a conventional believer. The duality has only deepened through the decades as she took a doctorate in zoology from the University of Minnesota, taught environmental science, served on the church council, wrote nature notes for a local newspaper, taught Sunday School, led birdwalks for Audubon, and sat on the worship and music committee at her church. These days, she oscillates between singing in the choir at Chisago Lake Lutheran Church in Center City, Minn., and serving as president of the Wild River Audubon Society.

A freelance writer, Leaf is the author of *Potato City: History, Nature, and Community in the Age of Sprawl* (2004) and *The Bullhead Queen: A Year on Pioneer Lake* (2009). Her essays have appeared in *Minnesota Monthly, Utne Reader, Minnesota Conservation Volunteer,* and *Architecture Minnesota*. She is married to Gustavus grad Tom Leaf ('75) and the mother of four Gusties: Andy ('05), Katy ('07), John ('09), and Christina ('12). She and Tom live on Pioneer Lake near Center City.

Leaf's latest book is a collection of engaging meditations on the places she sees every day on Pioneer Lake. Acknowledging the influence of the church on her view of the natural world, she guides the reader through a year on the lake by featuring the changes of the seasons through nature and through the liturgical year as celebrated by nearby Chisago Lake Lutheran Church. "She has much to teach us with her informed observations of the seasonal changes experienced by plants and animals," GLA member Elaine Brostrom observes. "In her account of a year on Pioneer Lake, we sense and share her wonder and delight in the order she has found in nature and in her faith."

Sue Leaf's guest appearance at Author Day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, at the Edina Country Club, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Make your reservations by calling the Office of Marketing and Communication at 507-933-7550 or visiting the GLA website at gustavus.edu/gla. •

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Associates promotes
learning, literature,
and the Folke
Bernadotte Memorial
Library at Gustavus
Adolphus College."

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From Your President...

Let me tell you a story. Or rather, let me tell you about a story.

Having coffee with a friend one day, I was telling her about GLA and the work it does to support the campus library, and we drifted into talk about how congenial a place a library is and how much we like libraries. She told me of a friend of hers who has a daughter in law school. Facing a big test in the next day or so, the young woman had told her mother she was headed off to the campus library to study. Her mom said, "Why go out? You have your own space here in the house, it will be quiet, I can bring you coffee . . ." The daughter replied, "Thanks, Mom, but I want to be in the library. That's where it's happening."

Not long after that, I listened to a thoughtful discussion among readers who were commenting on the diverse novels they had all read. They noted with interest that one thing the stories had in common was that the setting was very important in all of them. Every story has to have a setting—that's a given. But sometimes what writers call "a sense of place" can be almost as important as character and plot in telling a good story.

Suddenly, two unrelated conversations coalesced into a thought. If I were a novelist, I might call it the germ of an idea, or the seed of a story. Imagine this: The campus library is the setting, or place; the students are the characters; and the daily challenge of getting an excellent four-year liberal arts education constitutes the plot.

Having a little free time while on the Gustavus campus one day, I dropped in at Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library to look around, curious about this notion of library as *place*. Head Librarian Barbara Fister was kind enough to take a break from her duties to give me a tour. Here's a little of what we saw, and what you might see if you stopped in to find evidence of what your involvement in GLA is supporting:

- The stunning sculpture, A Knowing Woman, created by Gloria Tew in memory of Fran Engelsma, who was a Gustie parent, a GLA founder, and a lover of learning. This gleaming figure, her head bowed in reflection or concentration, gazes into a book. What an inspiring message to all who enter there! (Barb says the statue sometimes sports garb appropriate for whatever holiday or special occasion is coming up, courtesy of the students.)
- A large, open space in the center of the main floor, which Barb says is the social area, a place where students can see and be seen; a quiet study area on the lower level; and a really quiet area up on the third floor. In all these spaces, tacit agreement about how to use them is self-enforced by the students.
- Octagonal tables where students can work together on research projects or meet in informal study groups, supporting each other in their pursuit of knowledge. Most nights, the space is buzzing with quiet talk, humming with minds at work. Sometimes, laughter bubbles out.
- A reference librarian and a student deep in conference, with each other and a computer, for a long time. What an asset for a student trying to write a paper, or to work on—or even start—a research project!

continued on next page

This newsletter is published three times during the academic year by the Office of Marketing and Communication, Gustavus Adolphus College, under the supervision of Dean Wahlund, director of communication services and special events and executive director of GLA. For further information about Gustavus Library Associates membership and activities, contact Wahlund or Dana Lamb at 507-933-7550 or e-mail marketing@qustavus.edu.

- A computer lab, with tables, chairs, and computers, brightened by a couple of vibrant, creative bulletin boards displaying book covers. Just the thing to catch your eye and spark an idea, or arouse curiosity about a book, as you look up to take a break from the keyboard or screen.
- Students lounging in the comfy chairs and sofas, lost in their reading, in the GLA Reading Room, a little space carved out beside the big windows that overlook the campus to the west. This space, Barb says, is always full, because "kids like nooks, and they say it's cozy here."
- A student engrossed in his work, when suddenly a young woman walking by stops and gives him a little shoulder rub that speaks volumes: "Hey, how's it going?" or "Hi. Haven't seen you for a while" or maybe just "I'm here, too." (A story could develop from this!)
- The Hasselquist International Studies Room, a clever architectural space-within-a-space suggesting a house, with free-standing walls, an arching "roof," and "windows," definitely a haven, a homey space from which to look out into the larger world. Students have been known to take late-night study breaks to present puppet shows, using the open window spaces as impromptu proscenium stages.
- A writing tutorial room, staffed three nights a week to help students work on their papers.
- A vibrant display of books on Mexico, the focus country for school year 2009–10, around which guest lectures, classroom projects and studies, and the Reading in Common book (Enrique's Journey, by Sonia Nazario) have been offered during the academic year.
- And so much more: Books everywhere! Comfortable chairs nestled between aisles of stacks. Magazines, journals, newspapers. More books. And plans, always new ideas in the works among the library staff about how to make this place more useful, more accessible, more attractive, more meaningful to students.

Well, that's the setting—a place to anchor the characters and the story, the place where it all happens, where the connections occur. With a little thrown in about the characters, and the plot.

But what about the theme, the underlying meaning, the message behind the story? That, of course, can vary from person to person, or from one day or night at the library to another, and it can be many things in the course of a school year. At our campus library, I think you might be able to discern any or all of these themes (and even more):

Life belongs to those who show up and do the work.

I get by with a little help from my friends.

We stand on the shoulders of giants.

Many hands make light work.

Want to know something? Ask a librarian.

The world is at your fingertips.

For all you do, as GLA members and friends of the library, to help create the place where this timeless story unfolds, I thank you and encourage you to keep up your good work. •

Mim Sponberg Kagol

Coming Events

Saturday, March 6 | 9:30 a.m.

Easter Bunny Breakfast

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church

Minneapolis

(Call 507-933-7550 for information or
go to gustavustickets.com to register)

Wednesday, April 21 | 9:30 a.m.

GLA Author Day with Sue Leaf '75

Edina Country Club
(Invitations to follow; call 507-933-7550
for information or go to gustavustickets.
com to register)

Wednesday, April 28 | All Day 30th Annual MAYDAY! Peace Conference: "Imagining Peace" Keynote Speaker: Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer

Gustavus Adolphus College (Call 507-933-7550 for information)

Thursday, May 6 | 3:30 p.m. **Gustavus Author Tea:** celebrating books written by the faculty Courtyard Café, Jackson Campus Center Gustavus Adolphus College

Tuesday & Wednesday, October 5 & 6 46th Nobel Conference: "Making Food Good"

Lund Center Arena Gustavus Adolphus College (Visit gustavus.edu/nobelconference for more information)

Call the Office of Marketing and Communication at 507-933-7550 for reservations or more information about the above-mentioned events.

In the Spotlight

Book Recommendations by the staff of the Gustavus Book Mark

- Mudbound, by Hilary Jordan, is a tough and masterfully written story that will keep you spellbound. I predict that years from now, when the details have faded, you will still remember the power of this prize-winning novel. One of the best books I have ever read.
 Mary Koch, gift buyer
- What a fun read! The first in a series, Dog On It, by Patrick Quinn, is a mystery written from a dog's point of view about a down-on-his-luck P.I. named Bernie and his faithful canine sidekick, Chet, who always manages to point to the solution even though he makes many side trips to more "interesting" smells.

 Karen Zins, manager
- Beautifully written, Astrid and Veronika, by Linda Olsson, is a concise and compelling story of the friendship that develops between two women who need to relearn how to live. In my top five.
 Diane Peterson, office and art supplies buyer
- The Last Song by Nicholas Sparks. I really enjoyed this novel. One of his best books yet. Megan Mielke, student worker
- One of my New Year's resolutions was to challenge myself to learn a new skill every month. January's skill was learning to bake bread. After leafing through Artisan Bread in Five Minutes a Day, by Jeff Hertzberg and Zoe Francois, I was motivated to give it a try. The recipes are easy and straight-forward. The tips and techniques were a great help to a novice like me. It is like being bitten by a bug—you try one recipe and you can't wait to try another.
 Karri Anderson, publicity/webmaster
- If you liked *Gone with the Wind*, then *Roses*, by Leila Meacham, is a book for you. *Roses* follows three families in Texas. It begins just before WWI and continues for about seven decades. A great read!

 Bonna Gostomczik, cashier

2 St. Lucia Luncheon

GLA St. Lucia Day Luncheon organizers Sheryl Johnson and Lynn McGinty wished that Alumni Hall was "twice the size!" The 2009 luncheon was again a sell-out, the 350 guests in attendance savoring the Scandinavian buffet and the opportunity to meet the 2009 St. Lucia, Jennifer Fox '11, and listen to the smooth vocals of Neal & Leandra.





3 Gustavus Library Associates Reading Room Unveiled!

In recognition of Gustavus Library Associates' dedicated support of the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library over the past three decades, a special reading room was opened last fall on the main floor of the library.

When you happen by the library in the days ahead, take a few moments to relax in the comfortable chairs and maybe enjoy a little reading!



HIVE/Augustic





4 A Royal Affair Photo Collage

Gustavus Library Associates' biennial gala and fundraiser attracted nearly 600 guests to the Minneapolis Convention Center last fall. Guests at SHiNE * A Royal Affair, benefitting the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library, enjoyed a fine filet of beef dinner, a 500-item silent auction, and a live auction that included two chocolate Labs named Shiner and Lucia, who quickly became the stars of the evening. Proceeds from the event were designated for the GLA library endowment, which currently exceeds \$2.5 million.

5 Keeping Up

Sue Leaf '75 (see front page) and Kevin Kling '79, Author Day guest in spring 2003 and Lucia Luncheon guest in 2008, were both named as finalists for a Minnesota Book Award in the same category, "Memoir and Creative Nonfiction," on January 31—Leaf for The Bullhead Queen and Kling for Holiday Inn. MBA winners will be announced on April 17.

Poet (and Gustavus professor) **Joyce Sutphen**, an Author Day guest last spring, had her latest book of poems released on January 1, 2010, by Red Dragonfly Press. The poems in *First Words* focus on her childhood on a family farm and her years of young motherhood.

An updated version of **Thomas Friedman's** latest book, *Hot, Flat, and Crowded 2.0:* Why We Need a Green Revolution—And How It Can Renew America, was released in a trade paperback edition in November 2009. Friedman appeared at an Author Day in the spring of 2004.

The late **Bill Holm '65**, a two-time Author Day guest (in the winter of 1991 and the spring of 2002), has left us a valedictory in a posthumous collection of new and selected poems, *The Chain Letter of the Soul*, published by Milkweed Editions in October 2009.

6 Authors-in-Residence

The Gustavus English Department will host three Minnesota authors in March, April, and May.

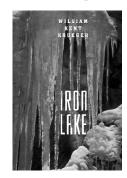
Poet Freya Manfred (Swimming With a One Hundred Year Old Snapping Turtle), memoirist Sue Leaf (The Bullhead Queen and Potato City), and writer Nicole Helget (The Turtle Catcher and The Summer of Ordinary Ways) will visit classrooms during the day and give public readings in the Melva Lind Interpretive Center at the Linnaeus Arboretum in the evening. All are welcome to attend.

Thursday, March 4
Freya Manfred | 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 15 Sue Leaf | 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 4 Nicole Lea Helget | 7 p.m.

7 Mystery Writer William Kent Krueger to be GLA Guest



Minnesota mystery writer William Kent Krueger, author of Heaven's Keep, Iron Lake, and other Cork O'Connor mysteries, will be with us this

fall for Author Day on Tuesday, October 12, 2010. The time and location for this event are still a "mystery"!

Celebrating Membership in GLA

Since its beginning in 1977, Gustavus Library Associates, a special friends-of-the-College organization, has promoted learning, literature, and the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library. This preeminent academic library-support group has built an endowment in excess of \$2.5 million dollars, providing nearly 25 percent of the library's yearly acquisition budget.

The 2010 membership year is June 1, 2009, to May 31, 2010. To date, there are 245 active memberships in GLA. New members welcomed this year include . . .

Jacque Brunsberg '81 Mendota Heights, Minn. Shawn Grygo '09 St. Peter, Minn. Susan Munson St. Peter, Minn. Linda Olson '67 Backus, Minn. Susan Owen St. Peter, Minn. Melissa Perron North Mankato, Minn. Marisa Schloer '09 Minneapolis, Minn. Kristine Straumann '07 St. Peter, Minn. Sonja Timmerman '98 St. Peter, Minn. Rachel Vagts '93

New and renewed memberships are welcomed until May 31, 2010. You are invited to join online by visiting gustavus.edu/gla. Please know that, whatever membership level you choose, the entire amount (100%) goes directly to purchasing books, technology, and other academic resources for Gustavus students and faculty.

Decorah, Iowa

The Librarians Are at the Gates!

Barbara Fister | Head Librarian

The GLA board had a chance to meet a distinguished Gustie librarian at our summer retreat. Lois Langer Thompson '83, who loves books, wants to find ways to help the world, and in her spare time manages a system of 41 libraries with more than 900 employees. The Hennepin County Public Library system (recently merged with Minneapolis Public) has among the highest circulation of books and other items per capita in the country. It is known for innovative service and offers a lively website that can be browsed in English, Hmong, or Somali. You'd never know from her sunny smile last June that she was working on cutting \$7 million from her budget without shorting essential and heavily-used services. She makes it look easy, and she makes it clear that it matters.

Our students must be on the same page, because in the past two years we've sponsored several internships and career explorations for students who are interested in librarianship as a career. We're not quite sure what has made our profession suddenly so tempting, particularly when the job market for public and academic positions is as bleak as it has been in years, but we're happy to give students a chance to get some experience under their belts while helping us accomplish various projects.

Interns choose the amount of time they want to devote, from as little as 10 hours a week to as much as 30, and choose areas that particularly interest them. They conduct interviews with librarians and staff so they can get to know everything from archives and acquisitions to library technology, shadow us in the classroom and at the reference desk, read a selection of articles on the discipline, and write reflective essays. They also conduct projects under our direction, such as updating our website, creating exhibits, and evaluating our Victorian literature collection. So far, though our expectations are pretty demanding, interns have been positive about the results. And we hear regularly from graduates who are in the field, working in all kinds of libraries.

Of course, one of the things the library hopes to do is instill in our students a passion for lifelong learning. It's nice to know that some of them will take that passion into libraries all over the country, where they can serve other lifelong learners of all ages. •

Gustavus Library Associates invites you to

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

A morning filled with food and fun!

Saturday, March 6, 2010 | 9:30-11:00 a.m. | Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
5025 Knox Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Featuring music by Will Hale

Will Hale offers fun entertainment for kids and families! Kids are the rock stars when they clap, dance, and sing with Will Hale, the king of rocking air guitar. Will Hale and the Tadpole Parade create a fun atmosphere filled with plenty of audience participation, excitement, and energy.

Order tickets online at: www.gustavustickets.com

Tickets: \$9.00 (age 2-adult), Free (under age 2)

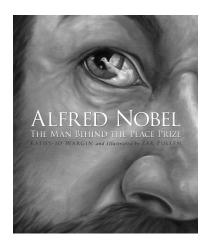
Tickets will be mailed. No refunds. General admission seating.

For questions or phone orders, please call 507-933-7550 or e-mail dlamb@gustavus.edu.

VISIT OUR BAKE SALE—PROCEEDS BENEFIT GLA. DON'T FORGET YOUR CAMERA!

The Man behind the Peace Prize: Alfred Nobel

by Kathy-jo Wargin | reviewed by Kris Ohle, GLA board member



Did you know that Alfred Nobel read his own obituary? His obituary was mistakenly written when it was actually his brother, Ludvig, who died. That pivotal event initiated the dream and planning for his legacy—the Nobel Prizes. Nobel wanted his discovery and refinement of dynamite to be used for construction and peace, not war. After visiting Sweden, one is visually aware of the necessity to blast through rock for construction purposes using dynamite. His discoveries made him one of the richest men in Europe at the time. He made known to the world, through his will, his dream to recognize individuals who have made great contributions to humankind.

Anyone interested in learning more about the life of Alfred Nobel can read this wonderful children's book, *The Man behind the Peace Prize: Alfred Nobel*, by Kathy-jo Wargin. The author lives in Minnesota and wrote the book about Nobel's childhood, family, discoveries, dreams, and legacy with the permission of the Nobel Foundation. On our recent trip to Sweden, my husband, on behalf of the college, presented a signed copy of this book to Dr. Michael Sohlman, the executive director of the Nobel Foundation, Stockholm, Sweden.

The author wrote the following foreward in the book: "To all children who carry the vision, the dream, and the willpower to make our world smarter, healthier, safer, and a more peaceful place to live for all people. We need you." Her words speak not only to children but all people. This book provides a wonderful opportunity to share the life of Swedish-born Alfred Nobel. Gustavus Adolphus College is fortunate to be linked to Alfred Nobel through the College's Swedish heritage, the Nobel Conference, and the College's ongoing relationship with the Nobel Foundation. Who knows, maybe one of our children, grandchildren, a Gustavus student, alum, parent, or friend of the College will be the recipient of a Nobel Prize.

The book is beautifully illustrated by Zack Pullen. I especially appreciate the cover, a detail of one side of the face of Nobel with a dove image overlaid in his eye as a symbol of his vision of the Nobel Prizes and his desire for peace in the world.

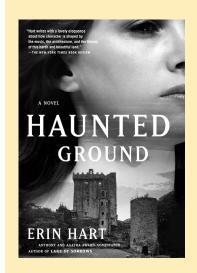
Copies of the book are available in the Book Mark, on campus. GLA members can use their onetime 50 percent discount coupon from their new membership benefits. Enjoy sharing this book with others. •

St. Peter Community Reading Program Welcomes Novelist Erin Hart

Saint Peter Reads welcomes
Minnesota novelist Erin Hart
to the community on Tuesday,
March 16, 2010. Haunted Ground
and Lake of Sorrows are her
first two books in a planned
crime series featuring American
pathologist Nora Gavin and Irish
archaeologist Cormac Maguire.
The long-awaited third novel,
False Mermaid, is due in March.

An evening reading event is planned at Trinity Lutheran Church beginning at 7 p.m.; it is open to the public at no charge. Hart will share the evening with her husband, Paddy O'Brien, and his Irish music trio, Chulrua.

Saint Peter Reads is now affiliated with the Friends of the St. Peter Public Library.



Ex Libris is committed to sharing book-related information throughout the coming year. Please e-mail your contributions and commentaries to halverson@embarqmail.com.



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800 West College Avenue Saint Peter, MN 56082

New This Year... the Black and Gold GLA Membership Card

All paid-up members of Gustavus Library Associates should have received the GLA membership card by mail in December 2009. Also introduced last fall was the GLA Rewards Program, providing members with access to special discounts and promotions at selected St. Peter establishments. Several members have already taken advantage of the following introductory offers:

Swedish Kontur—15% off storewide on non-discounted or sale items (Orrefors and Kosta Boda excluded).

Whiskey River—\$5 off your guest check of \$30 or more.

Richard's Restaurant and Pub—10% off your luncheon check; a free dessert with every dinner entrée.

Gustavus Book Mark—One-time 50%-off coupon on the purchase of a book.

So, the next time you are visiting St. Peter, just present your membership card at any of these participating Rewards Program venues.

