



Gifts of Celebration Will Benefit Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library

A gift to Gustavus Library Associates celebrating a friend's birthday, an anniversary, books and libraries, or honoring a loved one will be recognized with a book plate in a new acquisition at Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library on the Gustavus campus.

Memorial gifts are particularly appropriate and appreciated by family, as is celebrating a child's graduation from college. Send your gift, with designation and acknowledgment information, to Gustavus Library Associates, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN 56082; go online at gustavus.edu/gla, or request Gifts of Celebration envelopes by contacting Dana Lamb (507-933-7550, or dlamb@gustavus.edu).



Gustavus Library Associates
800 West College Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082

MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT.[®]
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE
GUSTAVUS

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE
U.S. POSTAGE
NONPROFIT ORG.
PAID



Newsletter of Gustavus Library Associates

EX LIBRIS

35th Anniversary Year

Volume 19:2 | Spring 2012

INSIDE

- From Your President
- In the Spotlight
- Coming Events
- Nobel Prize Week
- Thoughts on Dickens's 200th

Books in Bloom 2012

MARLYS JOHNSON, Books in Bloom Chair

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

On May 4-6, Books in Bloom 2012 will be showing at the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library on the Gustavus campus. Books in Bloom matches stunning floral arrangements with books, films, journals, and other media.



Placed throughout the Library, the displays will draw attendees into all parts of the Library by engaging them in a visual exploration of the meaning of books and our shared literary heritage. Through bloom sponsorships of \$500 each, GLA also raises funds that will enable the Library to expand the resource materials, in both new and traditional media, that help prepare students for lives of leadership and service.

The poster for Books in Bloom 2012 was designed by Thi Hoang, a student from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. "The design suggests the freshness of spring," says GLA co-president Sheryl Johnson. "The garden of flowers literally blooms out of the book!"

Thi's poster was one of 37 different designs submitted by students of Kris Higginbotham's January Interim graphics design course. "We were overwhelmed with the amazing talent of the students who submitted poster designs," Johnson notes. "We wish them all continued success in their creative endeavors. Selecting one from so many was a difficult task for our committee."

Higginbotham was thrilled to hold her class in the new Beck Academic Hall. "Being able to work in such a gorgeous, light-filled environment with world class computers was a special treat. It contributed to this amazing body of work," she reports.

continued on page 3

2012 GLA BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sheryl Johnson, Eagan (co-president)
Bert Ledder, Edina (co-president)
Katy Bennewitz, Edina (secretary)
Susan Ripley, Plymouth (finance officer)
Miriam Kagol, Deephaven (past president)
Sarah Kostial, Orono (president-elect)
Lois Allen, Bloomington
Ginny Bakke, St. Peter
Deb Johnson, Bloomington
Marlys Johnson, St. Peter
Lynn McGinty, Shoreview
Marisa Schloer, Minneapolis

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Kari Anderson, Eagan
Catherine Asta, Edina
Terry Bloom, Lakeville
Elaine Brostrom, St. Peter
Nacia Dahl, Burnsville
Kerry Dressen, Edina
Barbara Elnes, Edina
Nancy Hotchkiss, Bloomington
June Johnson, Wayzata
Beth Jones, Hopkins
Marlys McDevitt, Lakeville
Annie Michaletz, Chicago, Ill.
Jan Michaletz, Edina
Marlys Nelson, Shoreview
Pam Nelson, Edina
Kris Ohle, St. Peter
Marty Penkhuis, Mankato
Barb Taylor, St. Peter
Ruth Tillquist, North Oaks
Sonja Timmerman, St. Peter
Michelle Twait, St. Peter
Kristin Vlasak, Lakeville
Paige Wilcox, Minneapolis
Susan Wilcox, Edina
Erin Wilken, Carver
Joan Wright, St. Louis Park

EMERITAE BOARD MEMBERS

Margie Anderson, Edina
Donna Beck, Greenwood
Mary Brubacher, Minnetonka
Barbara Carlson, Greenfield
Jane Confer, Minneapolis
Kathy Cunningham, Mendota Heights
Connie Daugherty, Eden Prairie
Joyce Elvestrom, Lutzen
Marilyn Hoch, Edina
Lee Jaeger, Bloomington
Carol Johnson, Minneapolis
Joanne Kendall, Falcon Heights
Patricia Lindell, Edina
Jeanne Lindstrom, Richfield
Evodia Linner, Edina
Sharon Litynski, St. Peter
Miriam Manfred, Minneapolis
Kristin Matejcek, Plymouth
Dawn Michael, Vero Beach, Fla.
Susan Morrison, Maplewood
Mignette Najarian, Minneapolis
Karen Pagel, Wayzata
Susan Peterson, Minneapolis
Marge Pihl, Wayzata
Liz Sietsema, Eden Prairie
Loreli Steuer, Jacksonville, Ill.
Nancy Thorp, Wayzata
Dee Waldron, Kasota
Kristin Welbaum, Edina
Sandy Williamson, St. Paul

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Barbara Fister, St. Peter (college librarian)
Dana Lamb, St. Peter (admin. coordinator)
Dean Wahlund, St. Peter (executive director)

From Your President . . .

"The universe is made of stories, not atoms." ~ Muriel Rukeyser, poet

I am continually reminded that I will soon enter a "new chapter" in my life . . . empty nester. A chapter of joy in letting go, knowing that our children are equipped and ready for their college years. Yet, sad to anticipate missing day-to-day interactions and the closeness of having them at home. New chapters await each of us, and the chapters consist of stories, waiting to unfold. . . .

We are grateful for those who tell stories—personal writings, faith talks, historical essays, letters to a loved one—and we encourage everyone to share the stories of one's life in some meaningful way. What an enhancement to our daily journey, and what an incredible legacy we can leave.

As an artist, the idea of a blank sheet of paper (usually) gives me creative inspiration! Similarly, a single blank sheet invites words, concepts, solutions, dates, emotions . . . and edits. Its intrinsic value should not be underestimated. The thought of students trying to learn in settings where paper is not available is heartbreaking. Fortunately, the spoken word can be powerful and the subsequent stories legendary.

In many ways, Gustavus Library Associates is centered on story. The Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library deliberately compiles stories and documentation, in the broadest sense, and provides resources that benefit and support College endeavors. Thank you for your continued involvement and contribution to our extraordinary library.

Upcoming Gustavus Library Associates events are about stories. The Spring Author Day, May 10, promises to bring out the inner story in all of us. (See article on p. 5.) Also coming up, May 4–6, Books in Bloom will highlight again the incredible variety of "stories" in the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library, with artistically creative companion floral arrangements enhancing the appreciation of each book or library material. (See article on p. 1.) We look forward to connecting with you at these wonderful events. Please join us for both.

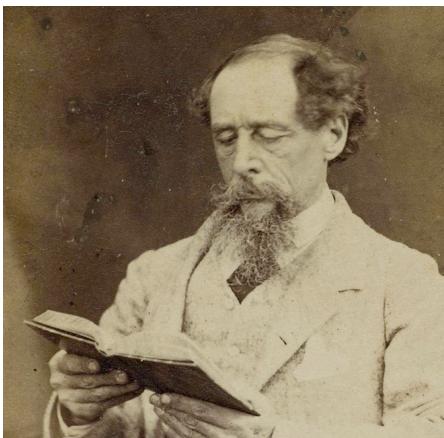
My simple thought today is to encourage you to let your personal stories flow. Document them, as you can. Reflect on them, as you will. Share them, as you choose. Listen to the stories of others. And most of all, enjoy the blessing of living your own amazing story!

Sheryl Johnson
Co-President, Gustavus Library Associates

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@gustavus.edu.

Thoughts on Charles Dickens's 200th Birthday

BARBARA FISTER, head librarian



Charles Dickens

Libraries are among the last public spheres where every member of the community can be part of something communal. We need these loving charitable spaces more than ever.

That abundance has its downside, of course. We feel overwhelmed by choice at times, and deciding what to read next is not necessarily easier with abundance. Over 3 million books were published last year in the United States alone. That's both wonderful and challenging for readers. So many books, so little time.

Another downside to this brave new world in which sharing is so much easier: those who control the distribution platform have new kinds of power over what you can read. Amazon got a lot of criticism when, after realizing they had sold an unauthorized edition of George Orwell's 1984, they made it abruptly disappear from unsuspecting Kindle owners' devices. It wouldn't have been possible in the past for a bookseller to remove copies of a book they'd sold from the shelves of so many personal libraries at the flick of a switch.

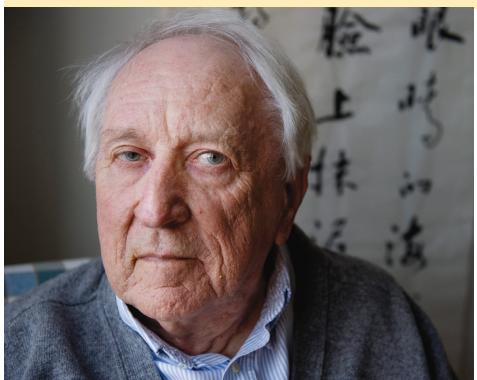
A more recent problem is one that is particularly troubling for libraries and those who depend on them. People would like to borrow ebooks from their libraries, just as they log on to access databases, but book publishers don't think that's a good idea. Today, Random House is the only one of the six major book publishers that will even let libraries have access to their current ebooks, and that's only if libraries pay a high premium for each book.

So if you try to borrow ebooks from your public library and find your favorite authors' works are not available, or that the system for downloading them is difficult, don't blame the library. They are doing the best they can in a world where the rules have changed, they have to pay a lot more for a lot less, and publishers want "this is really complicated" built into the library download system. They think sharing should be hard, if it's going to be allowed at all.

This is a troubling development for books and literacy. Sharing is an important part of what we do with books. We need to ensure that books aren't only available to those who can afford to pay. We need to be able to share because sharing is an act of charity (in the sense of "love," not in the sense of "handout") that is part of who we are as a society. Libraries are among the last public spheres where every member of the community can be part of something communal. In this age of seeming abundance, we need these loving charitable spaces more than ever.

One of the most eloquent and moving defenses of libraries I've read recently popped up on Metfilter, an Internet community that was discussing budget cuts to libraries in California, and the question that almost always follows: Who needs libraries these days when everything is online? An anonymous poster explained why "if you have any concept of a free and equal society, then libraries are still an integral part of that." The whole piece is well worth reading and can be found at <http://bit.ly/w7JEix>. You might want to have some tissues handy, though. It made me cry.

When people are suffering through their worst of times, libraries can make a difference. For those of us who aren't suffering, they make life better, too. Here at the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library, we are thrilled and grateful that you feel libraries are worth supporting. The College's core values—community, excellence, faith, justice, and service—are woven into the library's fabric. Students who go on to use libraries after they graduate will continue not just their learning but also their commitment to community, justice, and service. Charles Dickens would approve.



Notes from Nobel Prize Week in Stockholm

KRIS OHLE, GLA Board Member

"Good poetry is a powerful thing. It can change our picture of the world, making it clearer, sharper, more comprehensible. And forever." ~ Peter England

These are the words of Peter England, permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy, who greeted the gathering for the Nobel Lecture in Literature on December 8 and introduced Tomas Tranströmer, a native of Sweden, the 2011 Nobel laureate in literature. Tranströmer's first book of poetry was published when he was 23 years old. He is said to be one of the few Swedish writers with an influence on world literature. He is noted for his brilliant metaphors often connected to themes of memory, history, death, and nature. England said, "But what makes great poetry great is not only that it clarifies or reveals something already present in our world, but that it has the ability to actually widen the boundaries of that world. Therein lies its power."

Traditionally, the Nobel laureate delivers a lecture in his or her native language. However, Tranströmer suffered a stroke approximately 20 years ago so this year the lecture was a combination of his poetry set to music—both vocal solo and choir—poetry readings by selected professionals, and an earlier recording of Tranströmer reading his own poetry. The laureate and his wife were both in attendance for the event. The evening was a wonderful tribute to a man who joins an elite group of writers.

It was a distinct honor and privilege for us to represent Gustavus Adolphus College at the Lecture in Literature and also at the Nobel Prize Awards Ceremony and banquet two days later, which I shall attempt to describe briefly.

Each year on December 10, late in the afternoon, approximately 350 invited guests dressed in their most formal eveningwear enter the Concert Hall in Stockholm for the Nobel Prize Awards Ceremony. The entire assembly rises for the entrance of Their Royal Majesties and members of the royal family. There is a formal welcome by the executive director of the Nobel Foundation. Members of the selection committees introduce each laureate. The laureate meets the King in the center of the stage to receive his or her Nobel Prize while the entire audience stands in respect. In true Swedish style the entire awards ceremony is steeped in tradition, dignity, and grace.

The City Hall is the location for the banquet, which 1,300 people attend. Women are dressed in jewels and long, flowing gowns, every color imaginable, and men in white tuxes, many adorned with national medals and awards. There is a head table down the center of the banquet room for the royal family, laureates, their families, and honored guests. The tables for the other guests run perpendicular to the head table with about 30 guests at each. All guests rise as the members of the head table enter the banquet room and then descend the grand staircase. The moment is filled with pomp and circumstance. The Royal Dramatic Theatre of Stockholm and Royal Swedish Ballet provide musical entertainment, interspersed between courses. The evening concludes with speeches from several of the laureates and closing remarks.

It is a thrill and privilege to have had an invitation to the events of Nobel Week in Stockholm.

POEM by Tomas Tranströmer

2011 Nobel laureate in literature

Memories Look at Me

A June morning, too soon to wake,
too late to fall asleep again.

I must go out—the greenery is dense
with memories, they follow me with
their gaze.

They can't be seen, they merge
completely with
the background, true chameleons.

They are so close that I can hear them
breathe
although the birdsong here is
deafening.

Books in Bloom
A Gustavus Library Associates Event

Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library

Friday, May 4, 3:00 - 7:00 pm
Saturday, May 5, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sunday, May 6, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Designed by Thi Hoang '15

Books in Bloom 2012 continued

In Books in Bloom's inaugural year (2011), approximately 400 St. Peter area residents, Honors Day guests, students, and faculty toured the exhibit. Of those who responded to the survey made available in the program brochure, 52% came from the St. Peter area, 26% from the Twin Cities, 10% from Mankato, and 11% from outstate Minnesota or out-of-state. The event generated an enthusiastic response, with 88% of respondents marking 5 (on a scale of 1-5) that if the event were to be held again, they would be sure to attend.

GLA's goal is to expand the event this year by increasing the number of blooms from 22 to 25 and by inviting area authors of exhibited books to the event for book-signings. A special reception for all sponsors, floral designers, and GLA members will open the event at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 4.

Books in Bloom is open to the general public on May 4 from 3 to 7 p.m. On Saturday, May 5, the hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday hours are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Gustavus students will provide guided tours, or attendees may

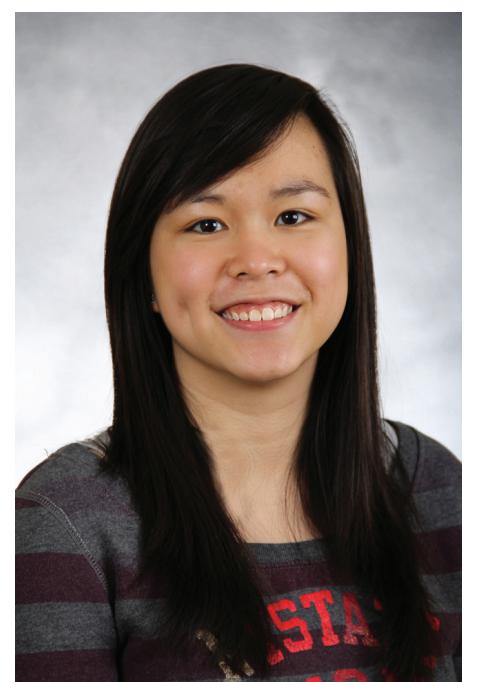
explore the blooms at their own pace. Admission to Books in Bloom is free.

The GLA committee responsible for all aspects of Books in Bloom 2012 includes Marlys Johnson (chair), Bert Ledder, Sheryl Johnson, Ginny Bakke, Jan Michaletz, Susan Wilcox, Mim Kagol, Nacia Dahl, Dana Lamb, Sonja Timmerman, Kari Anderson, Deb Johnson, and Dean Wahlund.

The committee is actively soliciting sponsors, both individuals and groups of individuals, who want to sponsor a book or other Library media. The committee also seeks professional as well as floral enthusiasts to create blooms that interpret or illustrate selected media.

Interested persons should contact either Marlys Johnson at mcjesfa@aol.com (507-934-1878) or Dana Lamb in the Marketing and Communications Office at dlamb@gustavus.edu (507-922-7550).

In hosting Books in Bloom, GLA is carrying out its mission to promote learning, literature, and the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library at Gustavus Adolphus College.



Thi Hoang '15, a student from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, designed the 2012 Books in Bloom poster.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

COMING EVENTS

MUSIC SHOWCASE: The Gustavus Choir, the Gustavus Jazz Lab Band, the Gustavus Symphony Orchestra, and the Gustavus Wind Orchestra
Sunday, March 25 | 2 p.m.
Ted Mann Concert Hall
Minneapolis
Order tickets at gustavustickets.com

LINDAU SYMPOSIUM, featuring Dr. Charles Krauthammer, Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated columnist
Thursday, April 12 | 7 p.m.
Alumni Hall
Gustavus Adolphus College
Open to the public without charge

PUBLIC LECTURE by Sesquicentennial Scholar James McPherson '58, historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author
Tuesday, April 17 | 5 p.m.
Interlachen Country Club
Minneapolis
Reservations with Alumni Relations

OUT OF SCANDINAVIA Artist-in-Residence Jonas Hassen Khemiri, Swedish author/playwright
Monday, April 30–Friday, May 4
Gustavus Adolphus College

MAYDAY! PEACE CONFERENCE, featuring Dilsa Demirbag-Sten, Swedish journalist
Wednesday, May 2 | 10:00 a.m.
Christ Chapel
Gustavus Adolphus College
Full-day event open to the public without charge

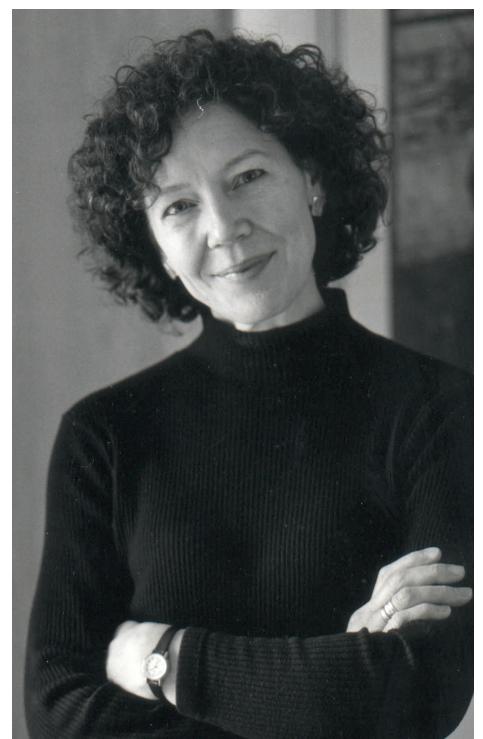
BOOKS IN BLOOM
Friday, May 4 | 3–7 p.m.
Saturday, May 5 | 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Sunday, May 6 | 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library
Gustavus Adolphus College

AUTHOR DAY
Thursday, May 10 | 7–9 p.m.
Melva Lind Interpretive Center
Gustavus Adolphus College
Invitation to follow

Keeping Up

Kevin Kling, a 1978 Gustavus grad and a guest of GLA at its spring Author Day in 2003 and at its St. Lucia Luncheon in 2008, has been busy. His first children's book, *Big Little Brother* (illustrated by Violet Days comic-strip artist Chris Monroe), is a big hit. He signed with MPR to be artist-in-residence at the Fitzgerald Theater for three years. He co-starred in *Of Mirth and Mischief* at the Fitz, headlined *Joy: A Cabaret* at Interact, wrote and performed *A Tale of Twin Cities* at History Theater, did his annual holiday show at the Guthrie, and attended storytelling festivals across the country. His collection of stories and poems, *Come and Get It*, illustrated by Michael Sommers, was chosen as this past year's Winter Book by the Minnesota Center for Book Arts, the 21st in the center's annual series, which celebrates the artistry of handmade books.

Gifts from the Gods: Ancient Words and Wisdom from Greek and Roman Mythology, by folklorist, storyteller, and children's book author **Lise Lunge-Larsen**, our featured guest at the 2006 Lucia Luncheon, has been published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.



A Celebration of Minnesota Poetry in Honor of Poet Laureate Joyce Sutphen

The Gustavus Department of English and the Book Mark cordially invite you a celebratory reading in honor of Minnesota's poet laureate, Joyce Sutphen, on Tuesday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall on the Gustavus campus. Sutphen, professor of English at Gustavus, along with several distinguished Minnesota poet guests, will read from their works. Sutphen's breadth of work includes *Coming Back to the Body* (2000), *Naming the Stars* (2004), *Fourteen Sonnets* (2005), and *First Words* (2010).

Tom Hegg, two-time speaker at Lucia Luncheons (1994 and 2000), borrows several characters from the works of Charles Dickens for his rhyming story, *Little Dickens: A Droll and Most Extraordinary History*, published last November by Nodin Press.

Minnesota Book Awards finalists (four in each of eight categories) were announced on January 28, and some authors familiar to GLA Author Day attendees were on the list: Fall 2010 Author Day guest **William Kent Krueger** is a finalist in the Genre Fiction category for his latest book, *Northwest Angle*. Spring 2005 Author Day guest **Pete Hautman** is a finalist in the Young People's Literature category for *The Big Crunch*. Also in the running, in the poetry category, are two 1983 Gustavus graduates, **Athena Owen Kildegaard**, an adjunct faculty member at Minnesota-Morris, for *Bodies of Light*, and **Su Smallen**, an adjunct faculty member at Hamline and the U of M, for *Buddha, Proof*. Winners will be announced April 14 at the 24th annual Minnesota Book Awards gala event at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in St. Paul.



A sellout crowd celebrated the Festival of St. Lucia at Gustavus Library Associates' Swedish Smorgåsbord in Alumni Hall on December 8, 2011. Jen Werness '14, the newly-crowned St. Lucia, and her court joined in the festivities as luncheon guests listened to songs and music of Scandinavia performed by musicians Ross Sutter, Cheryl Paschke, and Marya Hart.

This time, Author Day Is Author Night, and the Writer Is . . . You!

MIM SPONBERG KAGOL, Author Day Chair

Gustavus Library Associates' traditional Author Day event—brunch with a well-known author at Edina Country Club—will have a different formula this time around, but we are happy to assure you it will still be "tried and true." This time, you get to try your hand at writing your own true story.

We invite you to join us on the evening of Thursday, May 10, in the nurturing environs of the Melva Lind Interpretive Center at Linnaeus Arboretum. Nourished by light snacks and wine, and in the company of the usual congenial group of GLA members and friends, you will learn from a gifted guide who will teach, encourage, and inspire you to tell a story from your own life.

GLA is proud to feature one of Gustavus's own: Associate Professor Rebecca Fremo, chair of the English Department (and known on staff as "The Writing Person"), who is not only a very fine teacher but is herself a writer of poetry, creative nonfiction, and essays. Fremo claims that her real passion is "teaching all kinds of writing to all kinds of students."

Libraries and bookstores these days, Fremo notes, are filled with well-written literary nonfiction: personal essays, travel narratives, memoirs, and lyric essays. And we do love reading them. But, she adds, many of us don't want to just read these wonderful stories—we want to write them ourselves. To answer the question "Why share your story?" Fremo says that our own personal stories can serve a rich variety of purposes. They can help us make sense of our lives, understand our own or others' actions a little better, create a legacy for our children, preserve priceless moments, or heal from painful ones. "Writing our stories," she says, "gives our lives new meaning."

Fremo promises that you will leave this evening workshop with the beginning of a personal narrative—not yet a book, of course, but a story that could be a start to one. She will use a map-making exercise designed to generate snapshots of important places in our lives and then allow the concrete details that emerge to spark memories and ignite the telling of the story. People who have done personal and memoir writing know the thrill of

discovering how one thought or detail leads to another and pulls out of deep memory things long forgotten or ignored. Don't worry that you won't have anything to say; the stories are there, and they will appear!



Author Night with Becky Fremo

Thursday, May 10, 2012 | 7–9 p.m.
Melva Lind Interpretive Center
Linnaeus Arboretum

In the company of the usual congenial group of GLA members and friends, you will learn from Associate Professor Rebecca Fremo, writer and writing teacher, who will teach, encourage, and inspire you to tell a story from your own life.