



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

August 5, 2019

Program

Lion Randy Kraft introduced our program speaker, Ms. Debra Laslie, owner of Deb's Bookstore. Lion Randy and Debra were 1975 classmates of Cullman High School. When I heard that our speaker would be the owner of a bookstore, the images that first came to my mind were the librarians that were in charge of the public and school libraries of my childhood -- and in my mind, at least at that time, they were a stodgy and boring group. However, I found that I was totally wrong in assuming that our speaker tonight might be of the same ilk. From the moment Debra picked up the microphone, she showed herself to be a delightful and entertaining speaker on the subject of books, and why they are, and should be, important to us all.



Lion President Andrew Manning presenting a token of appreciation to our speaker, Ms. Debra Laslie.

Firstly, her bookstore has over 75,000 books, and before talking about them Debra told a good "mother-in-law" joke. She then proceeded to talk about

"generational book-selling." For her, this includes the fact that her Mom ran a bookstore throughout Deb's childhood, and where she learned to be polite to customers, and learned to read & love books, herself. All of this, she believes, has translated into great customer service. Ms. Laslie noted that just a couple of generations ago, before the internet, that books were more cherished and could be found everywhere. However, she is confident that hardbound books will continue to be cherished as they are passed down.

Debra related how frequent book-readers regard the opportunity with eager anticipation to sit down at the end of the day with a book by their favorite author and be transported by the author's imagination to another place and time. She also talked about how often a customer mentions, with fond remembrance their childhood, when a parent or grandparent would read a book with them at bedtime. Deb feels that she has become very astute at "sizing up" customers and is able to successfully offer a book that will please them -- even to those who may claim that they "don't read books." She also told about several encounters with customers who were a bit strange.

In an attempt to entice us to read, Ms. Laslie gave us the first line of several interesting books, as well as the story lines and passages from several of her favorite books; in doing so we all wished that she could continue much longer. One of these books was really written for children about



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a rabbit, titled, "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane;" however, this story has a life-message for both children and adults. Another book was "Sacred Duty", by U.S. Senator Tom Cotton. This book is a glimpse into what makes our country great, telling the story of "The Old Guard" – the 3rd Infantry Regiment, which is now the Honor Guard for the President, participates in funerals at Arlington National Cemetery and watches 24-7 over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers, interred there. A foreign military dignitary who toured Arlington Cemetery noted, "Now I understand why your soldiers fight so hard – you take better care of your dead than we do our living." Debra said, "I am a better person, a more humble person, for having read this book."

Deb's Bookstore is at 207 3rd St SW with hours from 9:00AM to 6:00PM Mon-Fri and 9:00 till 2:00 on Sat. She hopes to retire in the near future, so shop while you can, and let her suggest some books that will be very likely tailored for you.

Other Business

No meeting will be held September 2, due to Labor Day.

Club Board of Directors will consider applications for 4 new members next week. They are Mr. Wade Smith, Mr. Samuel Tucker, Mr. Michael Corbin, and Mr. Ron Gil.

We had thank-you notes for funding support from 'Cullman Caring for Kids,' from "Distinguished Young Women," from

"Boson Buddies Foundation," and from "Victims Services of Cullman."

Lion Steve Singleton was able to join us tonight following his recent surgery.

The Lion Lummie Speakman made an appeal for a volunteer to assume his duties in reporting Lion Information. Lion Lummie is hampered by continuing physical ailments, resulting from a fall he suffered several month ago.

Upcoming Programs and Events



Mr. Dan Stevens

August 12: Mr. Dan Stevens, whose topic will be the Veterans Day Celebration.



State Senator Garlan Gudger Jr.

August 19: Alabama State Senator Garlan Gudger.



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City of Good Hope Mayor Jerry Bartlett

August 26: Mayor of Good Hope, Mr. Jerry Bartlett.

September 2, 2019: No meeting. Labor Day.



Ms. Susan Eller

September 16: Ms. Susan Eller, Project Coordinator for Cullman County Economic Development.

.Tale Twister Input

If you need something special or to report a correction in the *Tale Twister*, see Lions Carey Thompson or Don Smith at the meetings. Lion Carey can be reached at 256-739-0580 (H) or 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).



Phyllis Little

Photo: Fox6 News

September 9: Ms. Phyllis Little, Executive Director of Cullman County EMA.