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THE CARROT

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT BOOKSHOP & GUEST HOUSE NEWSLETTER

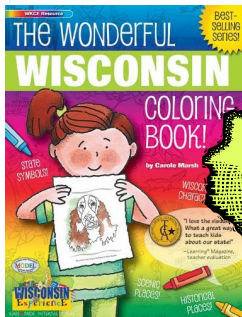


VOLUME 50

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BOOKSHOP NEWS:

♥ **LOVE WISCONSIN!** We've stocked up on some amazing books for kids about our state! Check out Wisconsin Jeopardy, stickers, coloring books, pocket guides and more. These are great books to bring on a last-minute summer road trip or for teaching your kids a bit more about the history of this great state!



♥ Couldn't make our **Local Author Extravaganza** on Saturday, July 31? Looking for extra signed copies? We have a limited supply of these books--get them while they last!

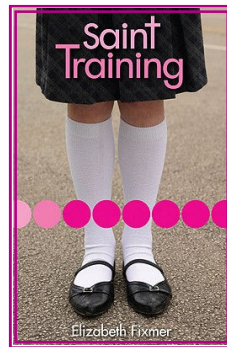
- ◆ **Angel's Land** by Vicky Daniels Bardell
- ◆ **Queen Anne Fox** by Jerol Anderson
- ◆ **Gone Missing in the Underground** by Jerol Anderson
- ◆ **Emma's Garden** by Jerol Anderson
- ◆ **Nutterville** by Faye Ellen Kufahl

Elizabeth Fixmer Author Signing

**Saturday, September 18
10am-Noon**

Fort Atkinson author Elizabeth Fixmer will be signing her debut novel, *Saint Training*!

10 a.m.: A book reading and Q&A session!



Hardcover, 16.99

Mary Clare O'Brian thinks that her bargain with God - to become a saint if He'll make her family happy - will result in a miracle. But with a war in Vietnam, race riots in the city, the Catholic Church turning cartwheels, and too much responsibility at home, miracles seem to be in short supply. Even on a good hair day.

A brief conversation with Elizabeth Fixmer...

What made you choose the setting of small-town Wisconsin in the 1960's?
I chose a small town setting because I grew up in Fort Atkinson and after spending twenty of my adult years in Denver, I've reaffirmed my love for small town living.

What inspired *Saint Training*?

Though *Saint Training* is a novel, I drew from personal experiences to write the book. The issues Mary Clare grappled with--wanting to become a nun, the war in Vietnam, civil rights, and feminism, were close to home for me. I actually did want to become a nun and was told by my favorite nun that I'd never make it in a convent. One of my older brothers became a conscientious objector [to the Vietnam War] while another brother couldn't wait to join the military. My father's job brought him into schools all across the country where the threat of violence was ever-present because of the tensions over integrating schools. And my mother was influenced by Betty Friedan and was practically a pioneer in launching a career when she still had children at home.

Who do you envision as your audience for "Saint Training"?

This is a book that should appeal to a wide audience--middle-grade through adult. Anyone who grew up in the 1960's, or have parents who were raised during that period, will enjoy this book. People who like humorous novels, historical fiction, or coming-of-age novels will like *Saint Training*. And anyone raised in the Catholic Church will relate to this book.

Any plans for Mary Clare--or any other books?

Yes! I'm currently working on two novels. The first is a sequel to *Saint Training*. The second novel is about a 15-year-old girl who has grown up in a religious cult and begins to question what she's been taught.

Even if you can't attend the signing, we can reserve signed--even personalized--copies for you! Just call the store or visit us online for more information.

MOCKINGJAY COUNTDOWN!



Our staff can *not* stop talking about the upcoming release of **MOCKINGJAY**, Suzanne Collin's final installment in the *Hunger Games* Trilogy! If you're not familiar with the series, it is a pulse-pounding trilogy that follows the life of teenager Katniss Everdeen in a dystopian, kill-or-be-killed world. *Mockingjay* is released August 24, and we can't wait!

How to prepare for the release?

- ◆ Check out staff member Grace F.'s blog review on *Catching Fire*, the second book in the series, at our Bunny Books Blog:
<http://velveteenrabbitbookshop.blogspot.com/2009/09/catching-fire-by-suzanne-collins.html>
- ◆ Preorder the book, see how many days until the release, and track news articles we've posted about *Mockingjay*--all online at [velveteenrabbitbookshop.com!](http://velveteenrabbitbookshop.com)

AUGUST 24

What next? Check out September's newsletter for our staff's thoughts on *Mockingjay* and more wonderful recommendations!

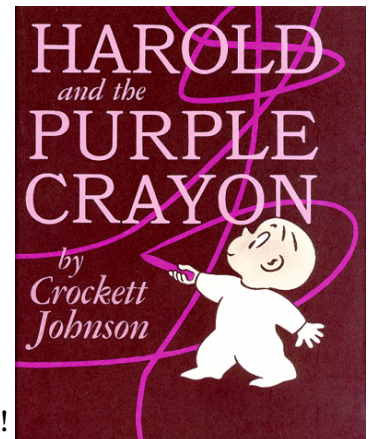
STORYTIME

Saturday, August 14 10:30-11am
Thursday, August 19 2-2:30pm

The theme for August Storytime is
IMAGINATION!

Where will your imagination take you? Join Mrs. Smith as she reads imaginative stories like *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson!

Storytime is always the second Saturday and third Thursday of each month--mark your calendars!



Proud to be



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